

THE STUDENT

EXPERIENCE

Vol. 2, Spring 2017

at RUSVM

RUSVM GIVES BACK

**IMPROVEMENTS
TO CAMPUS LIVING**

NEW CLINICAL AFFILIATES

**STUDENT
SATISFACTION
SURVEY
MARCH 6-26**

**NEW WEDNESDAY
MARKET VENDORS**

JASMINE GIBBS
SEVENTH SEMESTER
SPOTLIGHT

ONE HEALTH DAY

APPLE

**LEADERSHIP
AND EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

**WEST INDIES
VETERINARY
CONFERENCE
HIGHLIGHTS**

PEACE POLES

NEW ULTRASOUND MACHINE

NEW GYM EQUIPMENT



ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

©2017 Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. All rights reserved.

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program can be found at <http://veterinary.rossu.edu/gainful-employment.html>

A Message from the Dean of Students

Dr. Sean Callanan

I'm pleased to share the second issue of The Student Experience newsletter with you. As your new dean, I am passionate about supporting our RUSVM Culture of Care, which includes care for you, our students.

We are continuing to improve your experience as a Rossie, as you move through your program. In this issue, you will find a number of initiatives, programs and people dedicated to making your educational experience a positive one.

I especially want to acknowledge and thank Mr. Hazarie Ramoutar, who has been a part of our campus family since 2008. Mr. Ramoutar is moving on to an exciting new role as Senior Administrator for Campus Operations at our sister institution, American University of the Caribbean (AUC) in St. Maarten. In his role as Director of the Student Experience, Mr. Ramoutar has made significant and numerous contributions to the campus community, most recently in his role working directly with students and managing the student-facing departments of Student Services, Financial Aid, Counselling



Services, Student Success Center, Student Engagement, Professional Standards, Health Services and Housing. We wish him all the best in his new role, and he will be missed.

As you know, we gather feedback from you in many different ways, including the Lunch with Leadership meetings, SCAVMA and the Student Satisfaction Surveys to name just a few. All of these methods continue to be important tools for us to know how we are doing, and understand in what areas we can make improvements. And, we are always looking for ways to make your experience even better so please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or the Student Experience Team.

During 2017, we also wish to have our alumni share in and contribute to your journey to becoming a veterinarian. Many of them already work with student clubs and chapters of professional associations on campus. The next few months will see the re-establishment of the Alumni Advisory Council with opportunities for student involvement. We are also pleased to launch the Alumni Legacy Scholarship as well as an enhanced range of scholarships available through the DeVry Education Group Scholarship Fund.

I wish you the best for your Spring Semester.

CONTENTS

7th Semester Spotlight: J. Glbbs	Page 2
Featured Colleagues	Page 3
New Gym Equipment	Page 3
Leadership and Excellence Awards.....	Page 4
New Ultrasound Machine	Page 4
RUSVM Gives Back	Page 5
Improvements to Campus Living	Page 5
Clubs Making a Difference	Page 6
Diversity Committee	Page 7
Attire to Inspire	Page 7
Student Success Center	Page 8
Peace Poles	Page 8
New Clinical Affiliates	Page 8
Thanksgiving Dinner	Page 9
New Vendors at Wednesday Market	Page 9
Spice Shack helps celebrate Divali	Page 9
One Health Day	Page 9
PASS Certificate Programs	Page 10
Alumni Corner	Page 10
Alumni Panel Discussion	Page 11
WIVC Speed Networking	Page 11
AAVMC Wellness Conference	Page 11

Student Wellness Committee

The Student Wellness Committee is committed to providing the student body with events that promote wellness. Their goal is to have a "Wellness Event" every week of the month. They started with a small gesture, "Tea Tuesday," by providing tea and coffee the second Tuesday of each month. Last semester they added to their goal with a complementary yoga class taught by one of our Prep School teachers, Cara Diskin.

7th Semester Spotlight: Jasmine Gibbs

1. Where are you from? Where's home?
I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia.

2. Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
I earned my B.S in Biology from the University of West Georgia.

3. What made you choose RUSVM?
I learned about Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine at a meet and greet event in Atlanta. From that day, I knew that RUSVM was the place for me. It was a new start, with new people, a chance to explore a new country, and, of course, the start my veterinarian education.

4. What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?

The amazing scenery! Not many students are able to take a study break, walk outside, and see the beauty of a neighboring island and the stunning ocean sunsets.

5. What advice do you have for students coming to RUSVM and St. Kitts?

Form your own opinion about the island. Don't let others deter you from the adventures that are waiting. You may only have 2.5 years to live on an island. Make them the most memorable years that you can!

6. After being at RUSVM 6+ semesters, what fact about yourself would your colleagues be surprised to learn?

I'm a violinist and have been playing since I was 11. I was a part of concert orchestra for 7 years.

7. Where are you going for clinicals?
University of Florida

8. What is your ultimate career goal?

I want to work at a hospital that focuses on small animal medicine and exotics. Eventually I want to open my own mobile spay and neuter clinic, catering to clients that are not able to come to a hospital. Another dream is to collaborate with a non-profit organization like 4 Paws for Ability, providing service to the animals that help the children with autism.

9. Who is your professional role model?
Dr. Sherri Bradley from my hometown. Dr. Bradley hired me when I was only 16 and has witnessed my transformation into a 25-year-old woman who will soon be earning her DVM. Like me, Dr. Bradley started off working at that same hospital when she was 15. She has recently purchased that hospital! She inspires my dream of becoming a Veterinarian and Business owner.

10. What has been your favorite course?
Small Animal Surgery—it reiterates past subjects such as physiology and anatomy combined with new hands on techniques that I will need to know in the future.

11. What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at RUSVM?
I've been involved in the Pathology Club, Small Ruminant Club, ZEW club, VBMA, VOICE and the Diversity Committee. I've been the president of VOICE for the past year.

12. If you could thank one person for all you have achieved so far, who would that be and why?

I have so many people that I could thank for getting me this far; however, it would definitely be my mom. My mom has been my number one supporter. She has never doubted my dream or questioned my decisions.



JASMINE GIBBS

APPLE

GYM STAFF

Featured Colleagues



VERNON 'MIKE' FRANCIS



WAYNE CLARKE



LAVASCA DREW

1. How do the gym assistants serve the students? We ensure that the gym is clean and that students use the gym correctly.

2. Why is utilizing the gym important for the students? There are physical, mental, and physiological benefits to exercising.

3. What advice do you have for new students in regards to using the gym? Always make sure you

are wearing proper gear.

4. What job tasks do you do behind the scenes? We deep clean and paint the gym; fix and repair machines; keep inventory of equipment and supplies; and we also stock the vending machine and help in the student service storeroom.

5. Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your

job easier? Yes, walk with a towel, please sign in, rerack weights when done, clean yoga mats after use, and properly dispose of trash. Lastly, share equipment when the gym is full.

6. What is the most common question you are asked? We are often asked about workout classes, personal training, special equipment, and who is allowed to access the gym.

New Gym Equipment

NEW BICEP CURL MACHINE!

AMAN KANWAR
FIFTH SEMESTER

RUSVM LEADERSHIP & EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

Student Awardees

Ann Marie Picone
 Alfred Tam
 Kimberlee Ward

Lindsay Binkow
 Jennifer Askin
 Karla "Kawi" Gonzalez-Rodriguez

Colleague Awardees

Dr. Aspinas Chapwanya
 Dr. Sean Callanan
 Dr. Michelle Dennis

Club Awardees

RUSVM Wishmakers: *Contribution to the Kittitian Community*
 VOICE: *Diversity and Inclusion*
 VBMA: *Student Enrichment & Innovation*



The RUSVM Leadership and Excellence Awards hosted by SCAVMA were held on Saturday, November 12 in collaboration with the Student Experience Committee, the evening celebrates the achievements of individuals, clubs and organizations that have made an impact in the RUSVM and/or the St.Kitts community. Congratulations to all of our awardees!

Students purchase new ultrasound



BRIAN HUBER
 FIFTH SEMESTER

KIRK HUBBARD
 FIFTH SEMESTER

With financial assistance from SCAVMA, three clubs (American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, American Association Swine Practitioners, and American Association of Bovine Practitioners) shared resources to purchase a Chison ECO 3 Ultrasound. The three clubs have a contract to maintain the unit.

RUSVM Gives Back

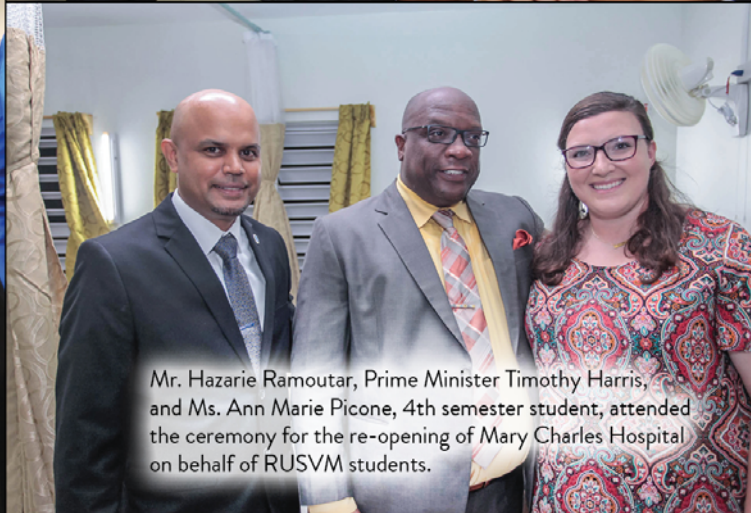
At RUSVM, we take time to give back to St. Kitts and Nevis. Whether through student outreach, private-public partnerships or donations of time, colleagues and students take pride in giving back to our communities. Pictured are just some of the initiatives and projects we were involved in last semester.



Mr. Hazarie Ramoutar participated in the handing-over ceremony of cardiac defibrillators to JNF Hospital.

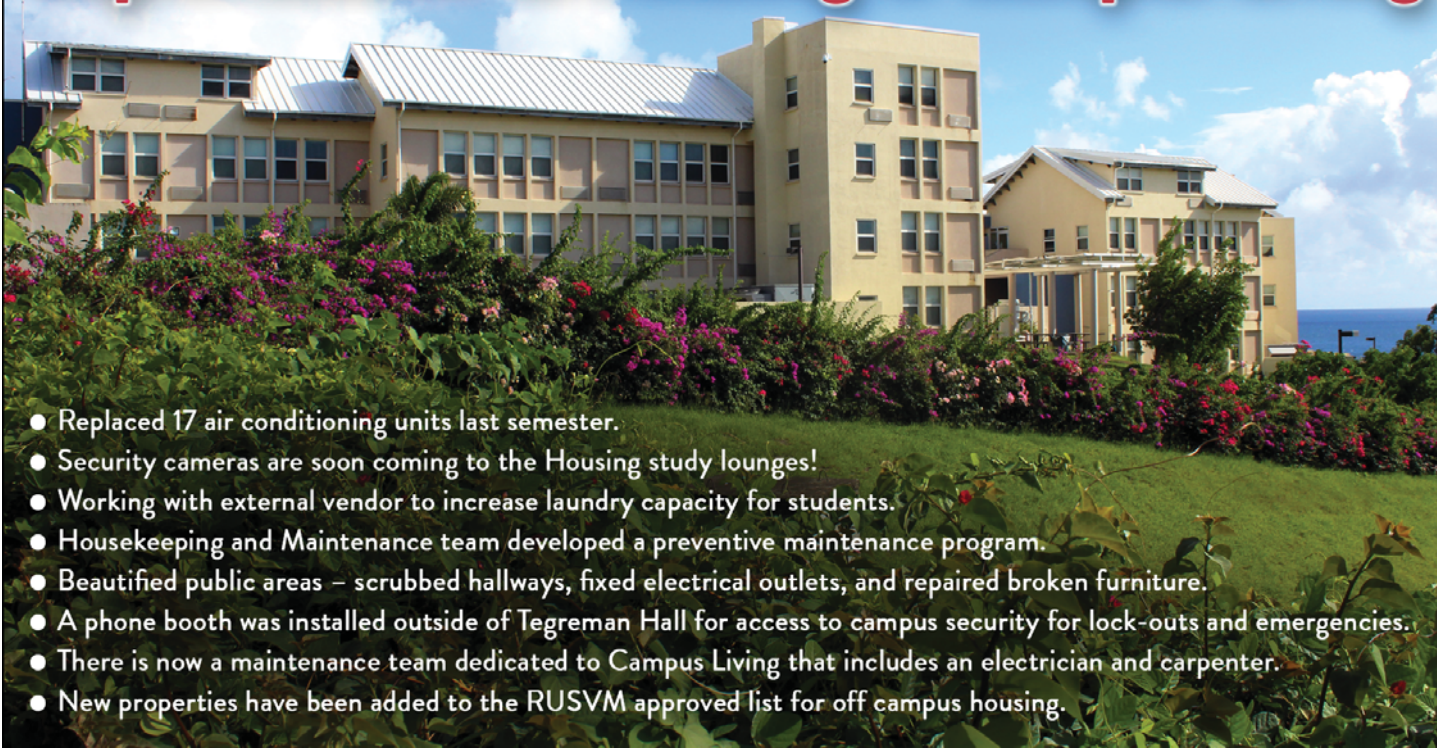


Dr. Mathias Afortu-Ofre spoke about science to students and handed over 38 scientific laboratory tables to five local schools on behalf of RUSVM.



Mr. Hazarie Ramoutar, Prime Minister Timothy Harris, and Ms. Ann Marie Picone, 4th semester student, attended the ceremony for the re-opening of Mary Charles Hospital on behalf of RUSVM students.

Improvements to Housing & Campus Living



- Replaced 17 air conditioning units last semester.
- Security cameras are soon coming to the Housing study lounges!
- Working with external vendor to increase laundry capacity for students.
- Housekeeping and Maintenance team developed a preventive maintenance program.
- Beautified public areas – scrubbed hallways, fixed electrical outlets, and repaired broken furniture.
- A phone booth was installed outside of Tegreman Hall for access to campus security for lock-outs and emergencies.
- There is now a maintenance team dedicated to Campus Living that includes an electrician and carpenter.
- New properties have been added to the RUSVM approved list for off campus housing.

Clubs Making a Difference in St. Kitts



Christian Veterinarian Fellowship (CVF), along with UMHS-AMSA club, and a local church (Caribbean Christian Fellowship), host the Health Fair/Clothing and Food Giveaway every semester. CVF requests donations each semester from the RUSVM community. Once the local parishioners go through the UMHS Health Fair portion of the event, they are welcome to go through the CVF donations—taking as much as one trash bag can hold.

Green Initiatives, American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), and One Health Club hosted a road-side litter clean-up along Kim Collins Highway on November 12, 2016.

Green Initiatives established campus discounts for bringing in your own food containers.

\$1 EC off Rituals Coffee
\$1 EC off Spice Shack
\$1 EC off Farmer's Market
\$3 EC off Ital Creations



RUSVM Wishmakers visit Challengers Youth for Christ, a local community group that gives children of all ages a safe place to socialize on Friday evenings. Twice per month our members attend and spend time making one-on-one connections with the children through games and craft projects. As the RUSVM Wishmakers movement grows, we hope other schools on St. Kitts will join our effort to improve the bond between students and the community.

RUSVM's Josh Project is the charitable arm of the Student Chapter of the AVMA, here at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. During their frequent visits to the local Joseph N. France General Hospital, they donate "Josh Kits" to the children receiving care there.

Josh Project stems from the main organization, Josh and Friends (www.joshandfriends.com).





Breast Cancer Awareness - October 26, 2016



RUSVM Diversity Committee brings awareness

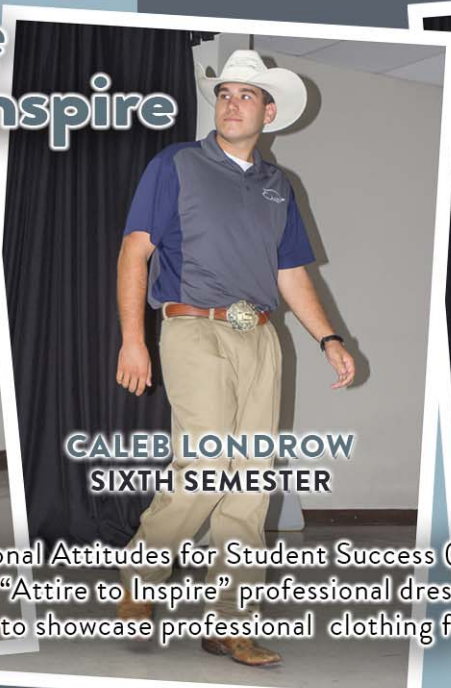


Suicide Prevention Awareness - September 7, 2016





LEEZA HARGREAVES
SEVENTH SEMESTER



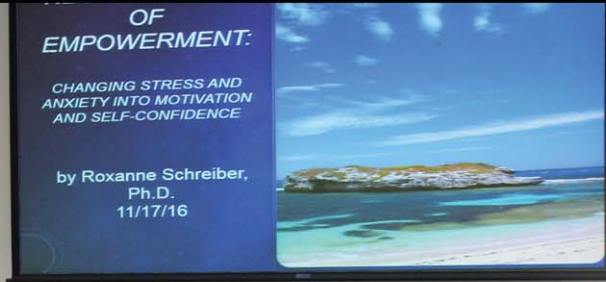
CALEB LONDROW
SIXTH SEMESTER



JORDAN ARANA
FIRST SEMESTER

The Professional Attitudes for Student Success (PASS) committee hosted their second "Attire to Inspire" professional dress fashion show on Wednesday, November 9 to showcase professional clothing for various venues.





Student Success Center Well-being Empowerment Seminars

Resilience is the ability to bounce back after adversity; to handle ongoing stress in a positive and efficient way; and to feel a sense of control over the environment after a stressful event. For a schedule of upcoming talks, stop by the SSC or call: x401-1255



Last semester the Student Success Center offered these seminars:

How to Create Ongoing Resilience and Motivation

I'm a Vet... Now What? The highs and Lows of Veterinary Medicine

Mid-Semester Boost: You can do it!

The Neuroscience of Empowerment: Changing your Anxiety into Empowerment and Self-Confidence

RUSVM unveils Peace Poles

On September 21, 2016, World Peace Day, RUSVM unveiled Peace Poles as a tangible reminder and symbol of peace for our students, colleagues, and visitors.



"May Peace Prevail on Earth" appears on the side of our Peace Poles, displayed in 8 different languages. The Peace Poles were hand-crafted by the RUSVM Facilities department.

QUE LA PAZ PREVALEZCA EN LA TIERRA

لعل السلام يعم أرجاء الارض

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

愿和平遍及全球

धरती पर शांतकियम हो

Пусть мир преобладает на Земле

QUE LA PAIX RÈGNE SUR LA TERRE

MÖGE FRIEDEN AUF ERDEN HERRSCHEN



New Clinical Affiliates

During Fall 2016, RUSVM contracted with four new clinical sights:

- The University of Edinburgh, in Scotland
- The University of Georgia, in the United States
- Virginia Tech in the United States
- The University of Montreal in Canada

RUSVM celebrates Thanksgiving

SCAVMA provided Thanksgiving Dinner for the campus on Thursday, Nov. 24.



New vendors added to Wednesday Farmers' market

Ti Amo Gelato Café is offering gelato and pastries.
The Dreamy Décor Bar sells fresh flowers and decorations for events



Spice Shack helps celebrate Divali

Diversity Committee and Spice Shack collaborated to provide free samples of traditional foods to celebrate Divali on Oct. 28.



One Health Day, every day at RUSVM



One Health is the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines to achieve optimal health for people, animals and the environment. The approach recognizes that the health of all three are interconnected, with efforts focused locally, nationally, and globally. The term One Health is fairly new, but the concept has been recognized by scientists since the 1800s according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



On Nov. 3, RUSVM students and faculty introduced the first One Health Day on campus to raise awareness of how much we depend on our environment for food, water, shelter and overall health. The events on campus were held in conjunction with 130 One Health Day events that took place across 37 countries.

ALUMNI CORNER

Alumni revisit RUSVM at annual West Indies Veterinary Conference

Not only was Dr. Mickey Axelband in the first graduating class at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (Ross), because his last name begins in “A” he was the first graduate ever to receive a diploma in 1985.

November’s West Indies Veterinary Conference (WIVC) was another first for Dr. Axelband as well; he had not been back to St. Kitts since 1984. In its 12th year, the annual conference has welcomed hundreds of Ross alumni back to the island to earn continuing education credits, reunite with classmates and meet fellow Rossies from other years.

For Dr. Axelband, the experience of returning to his alma mater has been a bit surreal. Of St. Kitts, he remembers sugarcane and undeveloped land, and how welcoming Kittitians were to the small coterie of veterinary students and a campus that had arrived on the island, quite literally, by boat to

St. Kitts in the early 80’s. The decision to separate the Ross campus from Ross University School of Medicine meant that the entire campus was moved from Dominica, in order to mitigate the potential for storm damage to both schools. Although much has changed, a few things were familiar to him such as the roads near Basseterre, the island town center.

His path after graduation has been equally adventurous. After finishing his clinical year, he took his boards, worked in a variety of veterinary jobs and then opened up a practice in Florida and purchased two additional clinics.

“Once you’ve got that degree, it just opens up so much opportunity that you never know what’s around the next corner.”

—Dr. Mickey Axelband

He’s worked as a pharmaceutical consultant, and has even appeared in an “ask the vet” TV segment for two years and served as a regular on-air veterinary consultant for ABC News. Most recently, he is the founder of American Veterinary Group, a company that specializes in the purchase and modernization of veterinary practices.

He advises new graduates to keep an open mind about career prospects that might present themselves. When he graduated from Ross, he thought he would enter small animal medicine. Even a few years ago, he said he would have never considered that today he would be starting his own company.

Although this was Dr. Axelband’s first WIVC, it will not be his last.

“I will be back every year,” he said. The next WIVC conference will be November 4-11, 2017.

The PASS certificate program saw a 295% increase in participation during the second semester it was offered! There was a corresponding 225% increase in the number of students that completed the entire program.

The program consists of six sessions, each encompassing forty-five minutes during the lunch hour and presented by different faculty and administrators.

The program is open to all RUSVM students.



Program #	Semester	# Participated	# Completed all 6 Sessions	# Completed 5 Sessions	# Completed 3-4 Sessions	# Completed 1-2 Sessions	# Completed 0 Sessions
Program 1	Summer 2016	60	24	7	12	15	2
Program 2	Fall 2016	177	54	29	32	53	5

Veterinary Medicine: The First Years

West Indies Veterinary Conference Alumni Panel

As part of the West Indies Veterinary Conference, a panel of RUSVM alumni spoke to current students as part of a “Veterinary Medicine: The First Years” panel. The panel was offered as an opportunity for current students to begin thinking about their own career paths, the opportunities and challenges after graduation.



The discussion brought alumni and students together to discuss the process of landing their first job and starting salary, what it’s like to pursue advanced training, and how to maintain a work-life balance. They also talked about their own experience on the island, their time in the clinical year and life beyond their DVM training. The panel was made up of 5 alums of varying graduation years, including Dr. Chad Davis ’08, Dr. Ed Ortiz ’06, Dr. Sara Bliss ’11, Dr. Mickey Axelband, ’85 and Dr. Stephanie Davis, ’08.

Reaching New Heights in Veterinary Wellbeing AAVMC Summit Nov. 2016 Colorado State University

Drs. Juan Samper, N’Jeri Mitchell, Elpida Artemiou, Nathalie Mather-L’Huillier and Trish Scaife attended the Summit at CSU which addressed the topic of wellness in veterinary medicine. Takeaways include:

Wellness Research

- The first five years in veterinary practice, are the most emotionally taxing on veterinary medicine professionals.

Wellness in Academia

- Schools are becoming more cognizant of the impact that perfectionism and the imposter syndrome is having on students, which has led to a greater emphasis on resiliency.
- An argument can be made for specific services for LGBTQ vet med students. They face the same wellness issues as other veterinarians, plus a history of oppression and discrimination.

Wellness in the Workplace

- Accept the inevitability of mistakes and poor clinical outcomes.
- There is a ‘no blame’ culture with regard to mistakes; errors are seen as ‘opportunities to learn.’
- Traumatic incidents are openly discussed in a supportive team environment.

Veterinary Wellness Online Resources

- Not One More Vet (NOMV) secret closed FB group for veterinarians.
- Vet Confessionals <https://www.facebook.com/VetConfessionals>
- Compassion Fatigue in Animal Shelter/Rescue Workers (public FB group)
- Compassion Fatigue Corner (closed FB group)
- Compassion Fatigue Awareness Project www.compassionfatigue.org

Speed Networking at WIVC



The popular Speed Networking event was offered at November’s West Indies Veterinary Conference.



The event provided current RUSVM students with the opportunity to sit down with alumni to mingle, network and discuss their specialties and life beyond DVM training.



The students alternated tables every ten minutes, offering the chance for students to talk to each alumni guest.

