

THE STUDENT

EXPERIENCE

Vol. 5, Spring 2018

at RUSVM

ONE HEALTH WEEK

A VERY ROSSIE
CHRISTMAS

TIGGA

ROBERT 'WILL' GOUINLOCK
SEVENTH SEMESTER
SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI CORNER:
DRS. LISCHIN
& HUMPHREYS

WEST INDIES
VETERINARY
CONFERENCE

CAMPUS LIVING
ACCEPTING PETS

PASS PROFESSIONAL
PROUD CONTEST

THE ROSSCARS:
MR. ROSS

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES



ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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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 Interim Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning

Dr. Robert O. Gilbert, FRCVS

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring 2018 issue of The Student Experience newsletter. I currently serve in two roles: Professor of Theriogenology and Head of the Department of Clinical Sciences as well as Interim Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning. While these may seem to encompass divergent responsibilities, the unifying feature is a focus throughout RUSVM on enhancing the student experience in every way. This includes designing, modifying, updating and delivering an academic program that prepares our graduates for careers in every branch of the veterinary profession, supporting a wide range of extracurricular activities, and helping make the entirety of your veterinary education an enjoyable and fruitful part of your life experience.

A component of my responsibilities that I find especially satisfying is my interaction with veterinary students, both inside the classroom and out of it. I am constantly impressed by the talent and dedication students bring to their studies and to enhancing and broadening their veterinary knowledge and skills by participation in numerous clubs. Beyond that, they give generously of their time



to causes and activities that give back to our island community in tangible ways: from beach cleanup, to distributing surplus clothing to people who need it, to building playgrounds for children, and many others. (See the report on the RUSVM Wishmakers on page 10 and the first RUSVM Day of Service on page 11.) I am also impressed by the unselfish contributions of student leaders, who devote a great deal of effort to improving the overall student experience, and who participate in time consuming, but important discussions with the school

leadership on a range of important topics. This semester I plan to involve class reps and SAVMA leadership in meaningful discussions of our academic program and ways in which it could be enhanced.

Given the talent and dedication of our student group, it is not a surprise that Rossies, in general, flourish after graduation. I have met many happy and successful veterinarians whose course was set here. They have excelled in all branches of private practice, in specialty practice, in academia, research and industry. They are leaders of state and local veterinary associations. I believe that their experiences on St. Kitts, inside the classroom and beyond it, have provided a framework for that success. One successful couple (Moses Humphreys and Eliza Lischin) is profiled in this issue.

In this issue, you will also find a profile of our financial aid colleagues, a report on the West Indies Veterinary Conference, some reminders of the resilience of our community in confronting two major hurricanes last semester (the visit of the US Ambassador and the Campus Gathering of Support) and much more. Happy reading, and have a great semester.

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One Health Week

Research is ongoing at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, but one week a year, One Health research gets a special campus spotlight. One Health Week Oct. 30–Nov. 3 brought together students, faculty and staff to share publications, findings and ideas in celebration of the second One Health Day on Nov. 2. Hosted by the Research and Postgraduate office and organized by a student-faculty committee, One Health Week, was an opportunity for RUSVM scientists and students to share ongoing and completed work under one thematic umbrella

The week concluded with an Ocean Health Student Fair. RUSVM Student clubs such as the Aquatic Veterinary Medicine club, The Green Initiative, and Wishmakers shared their campaigns and mission alongside key external partners including local nonprofits such as One Love Pets, tackling parasite prevention and increasing public awareness as to the importance of preventative medicine. Representatives from the St. Kitts and Nevis Department of the Environment and the Department of Marine Resources were on hand to promote awareness of their activities across campus.



RUSVM and RUSM hosted U.S. Ambassador Linda S. Tagliatela



Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) collaborated with its sister institution, Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM), to host U.S. Ambassador Linda S. Tagliatela from the U.S. Embassy to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), on Friday, Nov.17, 2017. Ambassador Tagliatela was accompanied by Deputy Political Economic Counselor, Steve Simpson. The visit featured conversations with leadership of both RUSVM and RUSM on hurricane preparedness, and a tour of RUSM's temporary campus on the cruise ship GNV Excellent, currently docked off St. Kitts until January.

Vet Research: Get Involved!

Interested in getting involved in Research? Please contact the Research and Postgraduate Program office to inquire more about opportunities such as Research Assistant, Research Volunteer, DVM/MSc Program and the Special Topics in Research Course.

Please send us your inquiries to research@rossvet.edu.kn or stop by our office in the Research and Student Administration building (behind the Dean's office) Office number 08-111 and Juanna Berry, Administrative Assistant, would be happy to assist you.

Open Mic Night to benefit the Joseph Wilder Memorial scholarship



On Saturday, November 4, Red semester hosted approximately 175 attendees, and just over a dozen talented students and colleagues, with some performing multiple acts.

The event raised over \$1,900 USD, with all funds going toward the Dr. Joseph Wilder Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a 7th semester RUSVM student with exceptional surgery skills.

Best Professionally Dressed Photo Contest!

On Wednesday, November 29, PASS hosted its semesterly Best Professionally Dressed photo contest.

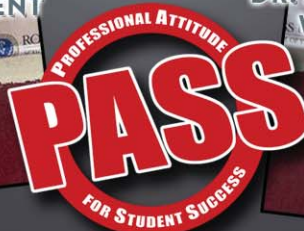


CARTER WONG MINGHAO
WINNER – STUDENT

DR. ALINE BOMFIM VIEIRA
WINNER – FACULTY

CAITLYN CRAWFORD
RUNNER-UP – STUDENT

DR. LUIS CRUZ-MARTINEZ
RUNNER-UP – FACULTY



7th Semester Spotlight: Robert 'Will' Gouinlock



1. Where are you from? Where's home?
I am from the great white north of Canada! I live in the amazing urban congestion that is Toronto.

2. Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
I went to undergrad at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. I double majored in Biology and Physical Geography

3. What made you choose RUSYM?
The accelerated program and the many opportunities given to their students was a big draw to the lovely community of RUSYM.

4. What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?
My favourite part about St. Kitts are the friends that I have made and the many crazy adventures that we have gone on!

5. What advice do you have for students coming to RUSYM and St. Kitts?
DO THINGS! Take advantage of being in a different country with activities that you wouldn't find in your hometown. Play volleyball, go swimming, do that hike people talk about, catamaran trips to Nevis, and go to semester events. Make sure you stay on top of your studies during the week so your weekends can be for exploring and having fun. Later, in upper semesters your time becomes more focused with school so use your free time to explore this lovely country of St Kitts while you have it!

6. After being at RUSYM 6+ semesters, what fact about yourself would your colleagues be surprised to learn?
That I used to hate trying anything that was not in my comfort bubble.

7. Where are you headed for your clinical studies?
Michigan State University.

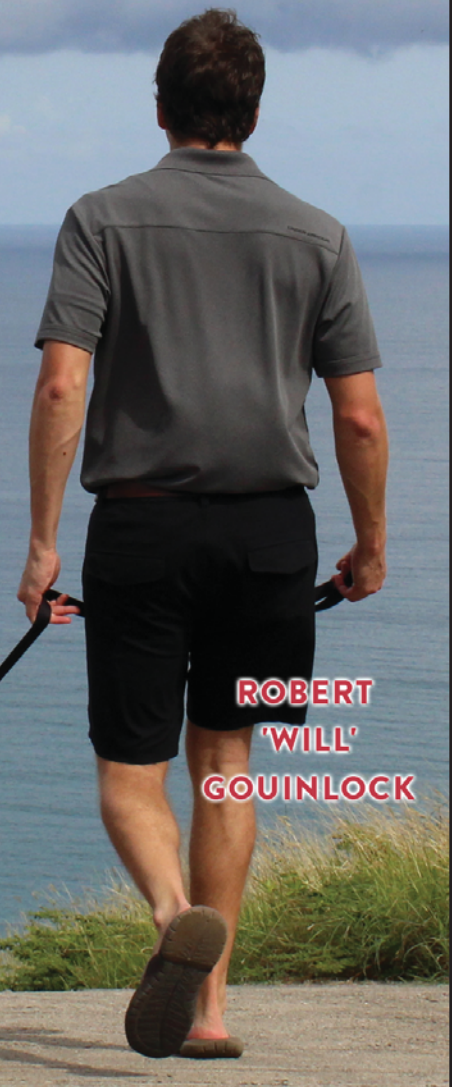
8. What is your ultimate career goal with your DVM?
My ultimate goal as a DVM is to own multiple small animal clinics and be a mentor for up and coming veterinarians. Passing down knowledge is a corner stone of what I want to do.

9. Who is your professional role model and why?
I have two professional role models, both of which were my bosses at my local clinic where I took my Dog and worked. Dr. Mike Cormier and Dr. Mark Teeger are the epitome of what I want to be as a veterinarian. They are world class in their proficiency of veterinary skills and knowledge and they back that up with incomparable compassion and care towards their patients and clients.

10. What has been your favorite course at RUSYM and why?
My favourite class at RUSYM has been Clinical Pathology. After working for so long in a clinic it was amazing to finally understand how veterinarians are able to deduce what might be happening in an animal from the biological concentrations of enzymes in the body.

11. What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at RUSYM?
I have been a Mr. RUSYM contestant twice (VP for Green and in 4th), I have been the Treasurer of Purple Semester since 1st. I was vice president of Ross Talk for 3 semesters, and a club member in Surgery and VBMA. I played volleyball for 2 semesters. I also led the data analysis for a One Health research project.

12. If you could thank one person for all you have achieved so far, who would that be and why?
I would have to choose my Mum and Dad. Their constant motivation and endless support have helped me continue my drive towards being a veterinarian.



**ROBERT
'WILL'
GOUINLOCK**

TIGGA

Wishmakers Club continues to make a difference



Wishmakers held a Donation Drive on December 9, 2017. They sold some of the donated clothes, and with the proceeds they purchased a stove for a family in need.

West Indies Veterinary Conference 2017

RUSVM West Indies Veterinary Conference draws largest attendance to date



Over 200 veterinary professionals from all specialties gathered at the annual West Indies Veterinary Conference hosted by Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine from Nov. 5-10, 2017, in St. Kitts. The 11th annual conference provided an opportunity for attendees to earn up to 30 hours of continuing education credits and served as a platform for attendees to network with fellow veterinary professionals, participate in a series of career building courses and discuss new findings surrounding veterinary practice.

WIVC 2017 offered attendees lectures within seven program areas. Experts from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, RUSVM, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, amongst others, lectured on topics ranging from exotics, equine, bovine, and small animal medicine to business management and wellness in the veterinary profession.

ALUMNI CORNER

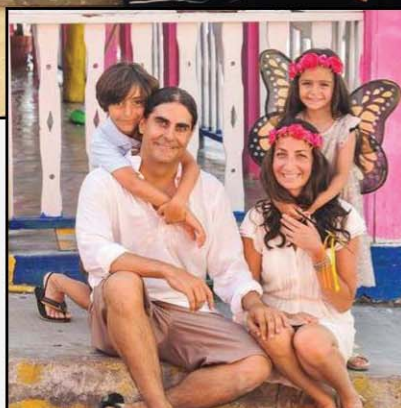
Drs. Lischin and Humphreys Clinical romance leads to One Love

Dr. Eliza Lischin graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. She completed her clinical year at Washington State University where, by serendipity, she met her future husband, Moses Humphreys. Dr. Lischin began her veterinary career in New York City in a small animal private practice. She later worked for 2 years on her family's thoroughbred horse farm in upstate New York. Since her passions remained with feline medicine and surgery she returned to the city to work with small animals. Dr. Humphreys received his veterinary degree from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2005, after completing his clinical rotations at Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation, he completed a rotating small animal internship at a busy emergency and referral center in Brooklyn, New York.

In 2010, Dr. Lischin and her husband Dr. Humphreys, also a Ross graduate, opened the doors of their first practice One Love Animal Hospital in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn. In 2013, they would open another One Love Animal Hospital in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. A year later they acquired Yorkville Animal Hospital on the Upper East side of Manhattan. Dr. Humphreys served on the AVMA Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) Committee for six years. He also was a founding member of the RUSVM Alumni Association and became acting president of the association in 2017. In a quest for a simpler life, they have now decided to come "home" to St. Kitts to spend more time with their children Marlin 9, Leilani 6 and "live de life." They are becoming well known faces on the island so be sure to say hello when you see them!



Dr. Lischin and her daughter, Leilani, outside of One Love Animal Hospital.



A photo of the entire Lischin-Humphreys family.



Moses Humphreys gives the keynote address at the Fall 2017 RUSVM White Coat Ceremony.

**Eliza
Lischin**

**Moses
Humphreys**

Campus Living is Accepting Some Pets

**KENDELL
BLACKMON
SECOND
SEMESTER**



RUSVM aims to contribute to the educational experience of our students by offering a diversity of housing options and related services to our students. In keeping with this mission, we introduced the RUSVM Pet-Friendly Housing pilot program in September 2017. This pilot will run through to the May 2018 semester. The program caters only to enrolled first and/or Vet Prep new incoming students* traveling with an eligible pet to St. Kitts. Pet-Friendly Housing is limited to designated rooms only in Cleghorn Hall. The full implementation of the program will depend upon the success of this pilot.

**Kendell Blackmon was a first semester student in Fall 2017 when the pilot was first introduced. She was one of two students that participated.*

Featured Colleagues

FINANCIAL AID



LESLEY BROADBELT
Financial Aid Manager

AVONELLE FAHIE
Financial Aid Officer

1. What services do you provide to the students? We provide a two-hour financial literacy workshop in the Veterinary Professional Foundations Course for 1st semester students, and a 1-hour financial aid presentation for Vet Prep students. We provide individual and group consultations in budgeting and understanding loan repayment.

In addition to workshops, we also assist students in the three-phase

financial aid process.

2. What job tasks do you do behind the scenes? We help improve the new student orientation program, and often provide fresh eyes to help arrive at practical solutions for other departments.

3. Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your job easier? One thing that students can do to make our jobs easier is to

direct questions to the Financial Aid team instead of making financial aid decisions based on what they heard through the grapevine. Most times, they eventually seek our services to undo those decisions.

4. What is the most common question you are asked? We spend a significant amount of time teaching and helping students prepare budgets, and understand the jargon regarding borrowing and repaying loans.

RUSVM Musical Theater Club's sells out first show!

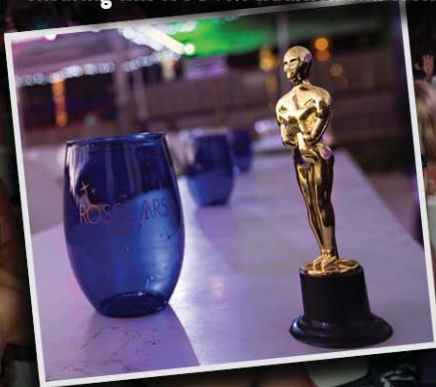
On Friday, December 1, 2017, the RUSVM Musical Theater Club's presented their inaugural performance, 'A Very Rossie Christmas'.

The show was a 100% original musical production written, directed, and performed by RUSVM community members.



Purple Semester Presents Mr. Ross: The Rosscars

On Saturday, November 25, 2017, purple semester hosted Mr. Ross at Spice Mill. Typically Mr. Ross is held on the first Saturday of the semester; however, the double hit from hurricanes Irma and Maria altered more than the class schedules for the semester. The students did an amazing job in ensuring this RUSVM tradition still took place.



SAYMA Thanksgiving Dinner



Mikalyna Sell, Blue Semester Class Representative; Fransia Markou, SAYMA Activities Director; and Victoria Vaughan helped serve Thanksgiving dinner.



The PASS program had 47 students complete their certificates during the fall semester of 2017.

Celebrate and Honor with the Diversity Committee

The RUSVM Diversity Committee recognizes various special dates and moments. The committee is dedicated to sharing information with students so they become well-rounded, culturally-aware professionals.



World AIDS Day



Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



Hurricane Aftermath: Healing through Origami



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



St. Kitts Independence Day

Campus Gathering of Support



The RUSVM community came together on Wednesday, September 27 in front of the Student Union to support one another in the aftermath of recent natural disasters. The campus community joined for a few words, a moment of silence, and campus photo in support of solidarity.



Deane Glasford Primary School mural completed



On Saturday, November 28, the RUSVM Wishmakers returned to the Deane Glasford Primary School to finish the mural that was started in September during inaugural the RUSVM Day of Service (see back page).

RUSVM Day of Service



"I wanted to create a large event that would bring together the RUSVM community and St. Kitts community to work toward a common goal – to give back to St. Kitts and make a lasting impact." –Elizabeth Muller



Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) students, faculty and staff joined together for the first RUSVM Day of Service on Saturday September 23 with community projects at Deane Glasford Primary School, La Guerite Street and the peninsula.



The RUSVM Day of Service was intended to serve as a platform for community collaboration and cooperation on high impact service projects around the island of St. Kitts. The day included three service projects to take place simultaneously around the island from 8 am to noon. Participation was open to the public.

The project was envisioned and spearhead by Elizabeth Muller, 7th semester DVM student, who partnered with fellow students and RUSVM administration to organize and lead the project.



PROJECT #1

PROJECT #2

PROJECT #3



PENINSULA CLEAN UP



LA GUERITE STREET



DEANE GLASFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heart of St Kitts, Christophe Harbour, World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, and SCUBA Club planned this project. Pollution is a threat to our wildlife and ecosystem, and the recent weather washed up debris along the beach. The volunteer groups cleaned beaches and highways along the peninsula and collected around 130 bags of trash.

Ital Farm, neighborhood Baháí Youths group, One Health Club, Small Ruminant Club and Green Initiative lead this project. Volunteers and members of the village cleared trash where the garbage trucks do not have easy access. They removed enough debris to fill a 30 cubic yard dumpster.

The primary school partnered with RUSVM clubs Wishmakers, Wildlife Disease Association and Association of Avian Veterinarians and Christian Veterinary Fellowship to paint the classrooms and exterior wall. The primary school students also engaged in the painting and clean up.