THE STUDENT

EXPERIENCE

at RUSVM Vol. 8, Spring 2019 WEST INDIES MOBILD VETERINARY AQUATIC CONFERENCE YEARINETE MEDICAL Varacia! FINDING CONFERENCE LOVE AT RUSVM JAZMEEN SULEMAN SEVENTH SEMESTER SPOTLIGHT **ROSS** RUNNERS DIVERSITY INITIATIVES **PEACHES** ALUMNI CORNER: ONE HEALTH DR. BETHANY BRADFORD



A Message from the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professional Opportunities

Dr. Fortune Sithole BVSc, MSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVPM

Welcome! I am the Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Professional Opportunities. I have the privilege of overseeing the clinical program that is undertaken at affiliate veterinary schools during semesters 8, 9 and 10.

Strength of a Rossie

One common theme that I realize when I visit affiliate schools is the resilience, hunger to succeed and innovative nature of our students. This is no surprise to me considering the unique

stories of our students who come from different backgrounds. We have former law enforcement officers, military personnel, veterinary technicians, school teachers, to name just a few and each of you leave your homes and countries to pursue your dream here. While you adapt to the lifestyle on island and pursue a challenging accelerated program, you develop resilience, grit and strength that works to your advantage as you move into your clin-



ical year and into practice.

Rossie Pride and Professionalism

I encourage you to feel proud of your inner strength and of your achievements and capabilities. You are in one of the most prestigious professional programs and you should feel proud that you have made it this far. That pride should also translate to taking pride in your unique school. A school whose significance in the veterinary world is ratified by its strong 5000

plus alumni working in different specialties of veterinary medicine. Very soon, you will be part of that alumni network.

One of the major differentiators of our alumni is their professionalism. Professionalism is cemented by discipline, lack of which compromises not only your success but the credibility of the profession; so I remind you that as you walk the streets of the world, even as a student, know that you are not representing just yourself and RUSVM, but the profession as a whole. You can develop your professional behaviors and skills from your first day of classes.

As you begin another new semester I encourage you to work hard and never give up. Yes there will be challenges but I implore you never to lose focus, remember your "why" and reach out to us when you have difficulties.

I wish you all a successful and prosperous 2019. We all have a collective responsibility in making our great school even greater. Aluta Continua!

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RUSVM IN THE COMMUNITY

The RUSVM community is defined by a spirit of giving. Every semester the University partners with stakeholders throughout St. Kitts to further develop the health and education sectors as well as the youth of the island.

Most recently, the University, with support from its parent company Adtalem Global Education, partnered with the Ministry of Education to fully refurbish the space, and upgrade the lab's materials and equipment. The project began as an idea by two students from RUSVM who saw a need to give back to the local community, and support the development of young scientists in the making.

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West Indies Veterinary Conference 2018

WIVC2018 opened on Sunday, November 4, with a welcome reception that ended with a mix and mingle. Monday was a busy day with the usual mix of main stage talks, social events and tours and learning sessions. Our experts unpacked topics such as oncology, dermatology (large and small animal), veterinary rehabilitation, ophthalmology, and equine care, medicine and surgery.

Monday's conference favorites included our keynote lecture with

Dr. Paul Lunn who addressed questions on how we can better protect our equine friends who play a critical role in supporting livelihood in many countries. His presentation revealed that we can begin protecting our equine friends by supporting one health solutions and raising awareness for better equine care. RUSVM alum, Dr. Matt Brunke's presentation was also a crowd favorite as he provided an inside look at veterinary rehabilitation. Also, an intimate group of Vets enjoyed Professor Sarah Freeman's session as she shared insights on the best treatment practices for animal wounds. Other expert sessions included



Dr. Andreas Pahl's presentation where he explained service and product structures that would benefit every veterinarian. Our very own, Dr. Elizabeth Settle broke down the past, present and future of telemedicine and Senior Veterinary Technician Ed Durham Jr discussed the therapeutic options for abnormal blood pressure in his lively presentation, "Blood Pressure Measurement and Abnormal Blood Pressure".

Another favorite was RUSVM alum Dr. Matthew Brunke's presentation where he shared the power of Hydrotherapy as an effective solution in the healing process for animals in his presentation: "Hydrotherapy: Is Water the Universal Solution". Attendees also enjoyed two wet labs that allowed them to gain hands-on experience on the fundamentals of dental extractions and oral surgery in small animals and they were also able to enhance their ultrasound imaging knowledge and skills.

Conference attendees ended the conference at the closing event at Reggae Beach Bar and Grill where they enjoyed a Caribbean-inspired dinner and entertainment. Through

all the social events, attendees were able to network and reconnect with colleagues, new friends, speakers, sponsors and fellow classmates!

KEY SOCIAL EVENTS

Outside of the conference presentations, attendees joined early morning 2k/5k runs led by RUSVM alumni. Monday included campus visits expertly led by 10 of our students and an Alumni Reception at Spratnet restaurant. They also cultivated their calm during meditation sessions that were led by mindfulness experts, Drs. Bradtke and Artemiou and in an afternoon of painting!

Ambassadors make a difference for future Rossies



The Ross Vet Student Ambassadors are a hand-selected group of high achieving students, who are chosen to work with RUSVM admissions operations to share with prospective students what it's like to be a "Rossie." They work closely with our teams in the U.S. to talk to all newly accepted students and interested prospects. Any given week you will

find our ambassadors touring prospective students around campus, participating in national admissions webinars, and fielding any incoming questions from prospective Rossies.

Know someone interested becoming a DVM or interested in connecting with our student ambassadors? They can be reached at askarossie@rossu.edu

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Dr. Bradly Little has been honored with the Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award for 2018. This award is given to a faculty member in the US and Caribbean who has demonstrated leadership, character, and teaching ability through high-caliber instruction and responsiveness to the needs of students. Dr. Little's nomination was made by students at RUSVM.

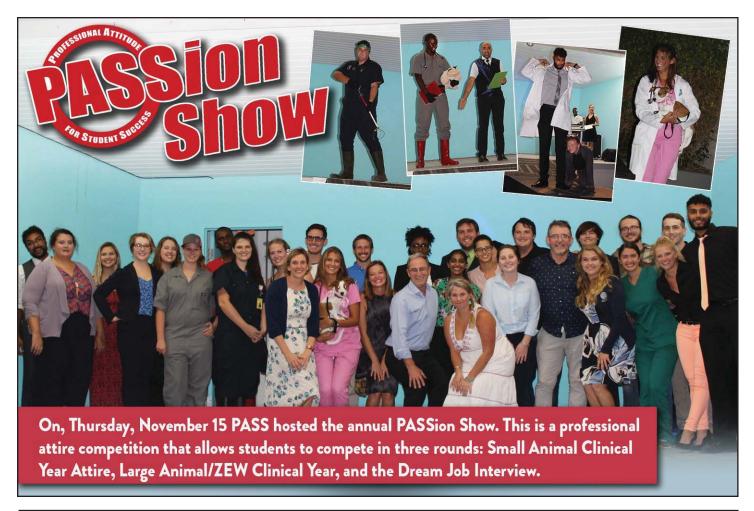
gram, IVALA™



Dr. Bradly Little

This award comes on the heels of Dr. Little's research study success where he showed that students who used IVALA 3D content performed better on anatomy exams than those who did not. Dr. Little and team supplemented the traditional first semester veterinary gross anatomy course curriculum with a web based virtual anatomy pro-

Read more here: www.mdpi.com/2306-7381/5/2/58

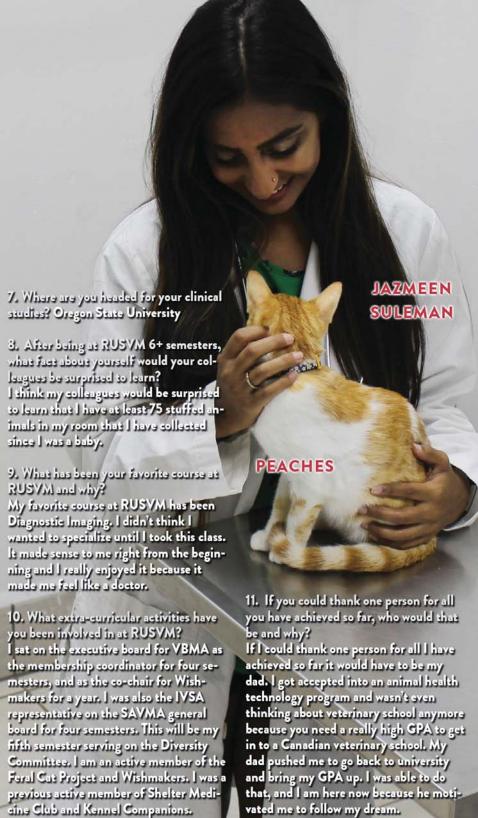


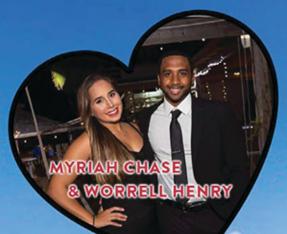


7th Semester Spotlight: Jazmeen Suleman



- Where are you from? Where's home?
 I am from Calgary, AB in Canada.
- 2. Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
 I went to the University of Lethbridge. I was in the process of completing a B.Se in Biological Sciences and a B.Mgt in General Management, but I got accepted to Ross before I graduated.
- 3. What made you choose RUSVM? It is very difficult to get into veterinary school in Canada so I only applied to Ross. I chose Ross because someone I had worked with in elinie had started here a year before I did and highly recommended it.
- 4. What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?
 I'm not sure if I can pick just one thing that's my favorite about St. Kitts. I love the food, the weather, the beautiful view I see every day, and so many more things. It's amazing having such easy access to the ocean and the beach.
- 5. What advice do you have for students coming to RUSYM and St. Kitts?
 My advice would be to not bring too much with you first semester. You can buy a lot from upper semesters and the stores here.
- 6. What is your ultimate career goal with your DVM? I have so many different goals in mind and every semester my outlook for the future changes. I am not 100% sure what my ultimate career goal is, but I cannot wait to find out where life is going to take me.





Finding

seeing Kaitlyn at white coat

pretty, I want to know her". So

attention with the oh so suave line,

Myriah Chase & Worrell Henry: We first started talking about a month before coming to RUSVM over Instagram about moving to St. Kitts and why we loved vet med.

We both did not really think anything would come of it, or that we would meet in person once we got here. Fortunately, we were both in Vet Prep and got to know each other more as the semester went on and we have been officially together since the start of our 2nd semester here. Our favorite things to do together, when we have free time, are check out new food places around the island, be lazy at the beach, and watch any and every super hero movie that comes out.



Several of the current 7th semester students have found more than a terrific veterinary education in St. Kitts-they also found love! Here are a few stories. BRIAN HUBER & CHEYENNE HOLDER



Covered in the aroma of sheep lanolin & boar taint, Brian & I first met ultra-sounding at the abattoir. We quickly found ourselves signing-up for hours in the smoldering Caribbean humidity just to see each other. Upon our first date at Salt Plage, it's indecipherable if it was the sunset or the Jumbies but the rest was history. We quickly found similarity in our love for adventure. Brian led me through the brick castles of NYC to my first Broadway play & I was able to drag him 16 hours cross country to my hometown county fair. We have found so much happiness through each other and our time spent at Ross, we are excited to see where our future endeavors take us as RUSVM Sweethearts!

Joseph Bassano & Breanna Callejas I have never been the type to ascribe anything to a magical deterministic force like fate, however, I have long ago given up on trying to reason out the complexities of the universe like the ones that have led me to her. She and I both lived in New York our whole lives but it took a plane ride to a little rock in the middle of the sea to bring us together, two ships in the night and all that jazz. Now if you ask me, our first date was to the island burger king, a delicacy which I remember vividly. Two bacon kings with large fries and a side of nuggets. In hindsight, I never did confirm it to be a date and apparently she didn't think it was but it was all part of the plan. Our first official date that she was knowledgeable about was to the museum of natural history. I took her to the planetarium and told her to pick out her favorite star and had bought a bracelet with a star on it before we had gone so she could take it home. If I had the time I could tell you the full story but I'll leave it with "The rest is history and, not only that, it's also the future as every day I find new ways to love her."



KAITLYN JONK & ETHAN WILSON Ethan Wilson: I first remember

and thinking, "wow, that girl is really thats what I did. Eventually I caught her "You know I like you right?"

Kaitlyn Jonk: I first saw Ethan in anatomy when we got chatting about horses. What started our relationship was when he decided to sit beside me in class after a couple weeks. I sat down in my normal spot and watched the decision process flash across his face and bam... lecture seat pals. Then at the end of 1st semester I told him we were dating. 2 years later we are still together, still love equines and planning on practicing in that field.

Emma Briceland & Andi Landgraf: We met at the

January 2017; it was pouring that night and we physically ran into one another trying to find cover. A couple weeks later, since neither one of us had a car in 1st semester, Andi took the Ross shuttle out to Frigate Bay where we went on our first date together – a hike up Timothy Hill! To conclude the evening, a centipede crawled on Andi, and Emma screamed louder! We are often confused for one another, and mistaken for twins, but we are indeed a couple and have been together for 2 years. We like to think we are Kittitians at heart and adventuring around the island is one of our favorite things to do together.

EMMA BRICELAND

& ANDI LANDGRAF

COUNSELING CENTER



1. What services do you provide to the students? The Counseling Center seeks to improve wellness on campus and to help students optimize their growth at RUSVM, not just academically and professionally but as well-rounded individuals. We have a number of services we provide to students such as individual and group counseling, psychoeducational workshops, consultation crisis intervents

consultation, crisis intervention, outreach presentations, and passive outreach such as psychoeducational flyers. We also work on co-sponsoring events with SAVMA and other wellness affiliates in our community.

2. What advice do you have for students in regards to working with your department?

Reach out sooner than later. It is easier to intervene earlier than waiting for things to get really bad. Also be aware that appointment times can fill up quickly. Coming in at the first sign that you need assistance might also prevent the need to wait to be seen. Take advantage of the services we offer. We are here to provide support and assist students. Also, if you don't feel comfortable to come to our office to schedule an appointment, it is very easy to send an email to the counseling center to schedule that way.

3. What job tasks do you do behind the scenes? There is a lot that goes on behind

the scenes at the counseling center of which students and colleagues likely are not aware. In addition to the over 2300 hours of individual and group appointments delivered during the last year and assisting with the growing number of student transitions to the island, we delivered suicide prevention training (QPR and eCPR) to the RUSVM Community, provide training to the Residential Advisors in the Residence Halls, assist with developing policy and protocols, assist with campus wide Diversity initiatives, and deliver pop-up creative therapy workshops to help relieve stress. We are involved in research on campus and in the greater vet med community. For instance, Dr. Bradtke is on the Research Committee for AAVMC's Veterinary Mental Health Professionals group and is the Co-Chair for the International Association of Counseling Services' International Committee. In addition, something that we are excited about and to share, is that we gained accreditation by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). Currently, we are also looking at expanding our integrative wellness services through art and movement therapies. We are always looking for ways to further our professional development to ensure we are providing the most current evidence-based practices.

4. Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your job easier? It is of great benefit when we are made aware of concerns sooner rather than later. The sooner students and colleagues

reach out for support, the sooner we can take action to assist you and hopefully prevent further harm. Otherwise, do your best to be positive, more compassionate, and kind to one another. It will help make your workplace and academic space a place you and others enjoy being.

5. What is the most common question you are asked? After students have been here for a semester or more, we often hear students say that they feel like they are the only one's struggling and that they don't want to talk to their friends about their concerns for fear that they will interfere with their friends' studies. And yet, each time we ask a student how they would feel if their friend came to them with a concern, they always say they would want to help their friend. The response is regularly, "no, I would want them to come to me." Don't hesitate to reach out for support and remember there are people all around you that are willing to help if you just ask.

A problem we see most often or common reason students seek our support is due to symptoms of anxiety. RUSVM students are high-achieving and eager individuals; pair this with a competitive accelerated professional program, and the environment is a breeding ground for heightened anxiety and the need for additional support. The initial response is the same. Don't hesitate to reach out for support and remember there are people all around you that are willing to help if you just ask.

ALUMNI CORNER

Dr. Bethany Bradford

Alumna enjoys Caribbean career

Bethany Bradford grew up on the coast of Maine with her family and a cat, a dog and a horse and first started working for a veterinarian at age twelve. She attended the University of Vermont and graduated in 1987 with a BS in Animal Science and a year of dairy farm experience.

After graduation, she took the position of Herd Assistant to a milking herd of 300 dairy goats in upper state New York. After a year. Bethany left the farm and drifted back to Maine spending an inspiring summer working with a small artisanal cheesemaker and dairy goat farmer. As winter closed in, she and a close friend began discussing going far south, the Caribbean, for the winter.

Bethany and friend left on a frozen Columbus Day in 1988 crewing a 32 ft sailboat running into a nor'easter first night out. Three weeks later they arrived in St. Croix US Virgin Islands. In St. Croix, Bethany found a temporary position with the Agriculture Experiment Station and then with the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Division of Veterinary Services as Veterinary Assistant. It was exciting and a perfect fit for her working with livestock, farmers and the local government. After 3 years, she decided to pursue veterinary school and was accepted to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts, 90 miles from St. Croix, in September 1993.

She left St. Kitts in 1995 and completed her clinical studies in Oklahoma graduating in 1996. She took the National Boards and the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certification as

soon as possible. In July 1997 Bethany was offered the new Staff Veterinarian position at the VI Department of Agriculture in St Thomas/ St. John district which she held for 10 years. Within that time she coordinated a donation of a planeload of sheep and goats to Heifer Project in Haiti. In 2001, she volunteered for Winrock International working with sheep and goat farmers in Nigeria.

In 2007, she took the position of Director of Veterinary Services and moved back to St. Croix. She is now the only government veterinarian and manages a staff of 3 providing veterinary care, animal health regulatory services and disease surveillance pro-

grams for all three islands.

Having raised goats on various farms in St. Thomas and St. Croix for many years, she bought her own piece of paradise in and now manages 20 dairy goats and makes cheese for sale at local farmers markets.

Drawing on her personal experience, Dr. Bradford shared an important message to the incoming class of Rossies. "My career path always intended to include farmers, agriculture and livestock. I did not grow up on a farm but I was drawn in that direction. To set the record straight, farm background is not required to pursue large animal medicine. During my clinical year, some of the Oklahoma students who were raised on farms were a bit intimidating. But remember that all skills can be learned. No matter what your background or experience is, go after your interests and seek guidance whenever possible. Watch and learn from those around you who

know what they are doing no matter what their paygrade is."

Bethany Bradford

SAVMA Thanksgiving Dinner



On Thursday, November 22, 2018, SAVMA provided campus with their annual Thanksgiving dinner. This photo features just a few of those that volunteered to help serve: Thalita Leite, SAVMA president; Merna Abdo, SAVMA activities director; Anne Callanan, VIP; Terry-Ann Mahon-Fazio, VIP; Sean Callanan, campus dean; and Mikalyna Sell, class representative.

A look back at the 2018 WAVMA Conference

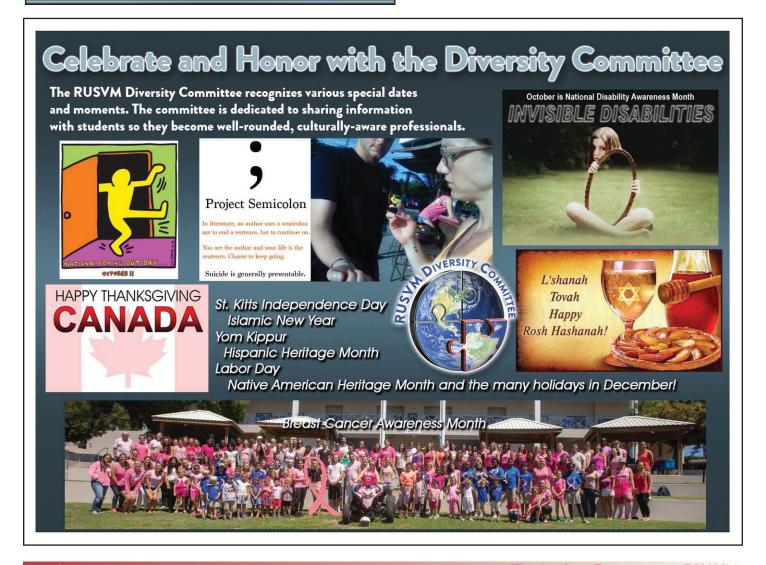
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) co-hosted the 3rd World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA) Conference and Biosecurity Workshop on the island of St. Kitts during November 8 – 12, 2018.

Held in the Caribbean region for the first time, the conference attracted aquatic professionals and researchers from around the region, particularly the islands of Puerto Rico, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago and globe (USA, Europe, Australia) as well as alumni, and post-graduate, and veterinary students from RUSVM.

"The organizing committee could not have chosen a better geographic location to learn and engage with some of the best leaders in aquatic veterinary medicine. The Caribbean, especially the island of St. Kitts offers a wide variety of aquatic animals to study and work with. It is the perfect space for anyone who is interested in aquatic health." Dr. Sean Callanan, dean of RUSVM.

For those who could not attend the WAVMA conference on-is-

WAVMA continues on Page 10



One Health, Going Viral

With the theme of "One Health, Going Viral!," Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine hosted One Health Week Oct. 29 to Nov. 3, 2018 to bring people together to talk, learn and workshop on all aspects of viral diseases from the One Health perspective.

For the first time, as part of Research Day 2018, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) hosted the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The international competition 3MT was founded by the University of Queensland, with over 600 schools participating. This year, RUSVM was

the first school in the Caribbean region to participate.

The competition brought together 10 competitors from the University spanning DVM students, postgraduate students and an RUSVM colleague, to deliver passionate presentations in three minutes. Nicole Atherley was declared the first student from RUSVM to win the 2018 3MT competition.

Nicole hails from the neighboring Caribbean island of Barbados, and as part of a collaboration led by Dr.

Mark Freeman of

RUSVM and Dr. Frank Cézilly of the Caribaea Initiative, she is now in the second year of her PhD, investigating the biology, ecology and diseases of the Caribbean spiny lobster.

RESEARCH POSTER AWARDS

During RUSVM 2018 Research Day, an impressive 40 posters were on display, showcasing the incredible diversity and depth of research that research students are producing. Lead by Dean Callanan, the following poster presenters received awards:

First Place Winner: Ysabel Wright

Second Place Winner: Tatiana Corey

Third Place Winners: Kathrin O'Donovan Nicole Atherley

Research Showcase: Controlling rabies outbreaks with Dr. Darryn Knobel



Dr. Darryn Knobel

While rabies is a vaccine-preventable disease, and outbreaks are rare in the United States, this is not the case in many parts of the world. According to the World Health Organization, an average of 60,000 people worldwide die every year from rabies, most of these in Africa and Asia. In addition, 15 million people receive post-exposure, life-saving treatment every year. Dogs are the

primary source of transmission.

Troubled by the high incidence of canine rabies in areas within South Africa, RUSVM Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health, Dr. Knobel conducted research to create a rabies vaccination program and strategy that protected impoverished communities from outbreaks. Dr. Knobel presented his findings at the 2014 World Small Animal Vet-

erinary Association congress in Cape Town, South Africa and has brought his study to the island of St. Kitts where he is leading a rabies vaccine study on the island with the volunteer assistance of 5th semester Rossies.

Dr. Knobel hopes to continue his studies in collaboration with veterinary immunologists and infectious disease specialists, to study this effect further in dogs.

WAVMA

Continued from Page 9

land, remote access with live broadcast was provided throughout the conference. Supported by RUSVM IT, this was another first that greatly expanded the conference's reach, which allowed professionals and students regionally and globally to experience the various sessions.

"As co-host of this first-time event, we believe the 2018 WAVMA Conference

was a great success. Through a team effort, we aimed at providing attendees with a broad scope of information from geopolitical, regional, and local perspectives on the concept of One Health in the context of aquatic veterinary medicine, research, and biosecurity. Based on the feedback from attendees, "...when is the next one..." we're confident we delivered a quality program that was informative and inspirational for professionals and students alike." Drs. Don Bergfelt and Mark Freeman, RUSVM professors and conference organizers.

COMMUNITY

Continued from Page 1

Elroy Williams, a past student of the Basseterre High School and a current clinical year Rossie along with Alfred Tam who is also in his clinical year spearheaded the efforts to address the school's challenges.

During the holiday break, members of the Cardin Home, the Federations primary elderly care provider received fresh bedding supplies from the University, thanks to the efforts of a several members throughout the RUSVM community.







Ross Runners also supported the inaugural One Love Pets Virtual 5K with a run near the RUSVM campus.

To learn more about One Love Pets, visit their Web site here: www.onelovepets.com/about