

THE STUDENT

EXPERIENCE

Vol. 3, Summer 2017

at RUSVM

**NEW SAYMA
ANNOUNCED**

#VETMEDUNITED

**LEADERSHIP
AND EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

RESEARCH DAY

**EXPANDED
SHUTTLE HOURS**

ANDREW SEAMON
SEVENTH SEMESTER
SPOTLIGHT

**NEW RN IN
HEALTH CENTER**

ZEUS

**SAFETY AND
SECURITY APP**

**ARTIFICIAL
INSEMINATION
CERTIFICATION**

CLUBS CLEAN-UP ST. KITTS

PASS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

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 Executive Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning

Dr. Carmen Fuentealba

Welcome to the third issue of The Student Experience newsletter. As the Executive Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, your academic experience is important to me, and all of our faculty and staff at Ross. Over the past few years in particular, we've seen



exciting innovations to our DVM curriculum and implemented strategies to make you successful not only during your time in St. Kitts, but in clinics and beyond.

Technology is just one of the ways we have been actively improving your educational experience. The Ross iPads (Paw Pads) is one example of the developments we've been working on with input from your faculty members. We plan to continue to

offer inventive optional learning resources in the future. We've recently rolled out a course in 7th semester to help you prepare for the NAVLE, provide you with opportunities to practice test-taking skills and enhance your confidence necessary to take computer-based veterinary

licensing exams.

Part of my role as Executive Associate Dean is internationalization, and I'm pleased to continue to help create educational pathways for international students. Specifically, we are providing opportunities for students from Singapore and Vietnam to enroll in our DVM program. Over the past three years, we have been fortunate to host research interns from

two institutions in Singapore; Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic. International students make a significant and important contribution to the diversity of the entire RUSVM community.

Over the past few semesters, I've watched student involvement in diversity initiatives increase; from the initial formation of Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE), Broad Spectrum (LGBTQA) to the creation of the SCAVMA Diversity Committee and the range of exciting student activities that have grown from these groups.

Each one of you is an ambassador for the Rossie educational experience, and I hope that you bring the knowledge, capability and experience that you learn here to your clinics and beyond.

I wish you all the best for your summer semester.

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Wishmakers: Diving in and Giving Back

Wishmakers, one of RUSVM's newest clubs strives to give back to St. Kitts by direct service and cultural immersion.

Ann Marie Picone and Kawi Gonzalez-Rodriguez, both 6th semester students saw an opportunity to engage directly with the Kittitian community and provide a way to give back to those in need. Now, both co-chairs for the club, they've brought on board over 30 students.

One of their larger projects has been volunteering with the youth group at Challenger's Youth for Christ, located about a mile to the west of RUSVM. The youth group serves toddlers to teenagers and offers a safe place to socialize on Friday nights. Wishmakers members visit the group twice a month and engage in various activities from helping with homework to assisting with their annual Christmas pageant. Last semester, they organized a relay

race competition with the children and more activities are in the works for the future.

One of the club's aims has been to narrow the gap between RUSVM students and the wider community. "I think it's really important to remember that even though we are here as visitors, we have an impact on everybody's lives, and it's important to give people a chance to get to know us," said Kawi Gonzalez-Rodriguez. They say their visits with the children have served as an opportunity for cultural exchange and mutual learning.

As their name implies, one of the club's goals is to grant "wishes" to those in need, and they have been raising money for that purpose. If you are interested in getting involved in the club, contact KarlaGonzalezRodriguez@students.rossu.edu or AnnMariePicone@students.rossu.edu.

7th Semester Spotlight: Andrew Seamon

1. Where are you from? Where's home?
I am from the Midwest, a city in Michigan called Saginaw.

2. Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
I began at Delta College, in Bay City, Michigan where I completed my pre-requisites. From there, I went on to Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan and achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science in May 2014.

3. What made you choose RUSYM?
Ross is highly rated and respected as a vet school. The counselors/student mentors have been great. After being enrolled in the program for 2+ years I know that I made the right decision. Also, who wouldn't want to live in the Caribbean?

4. What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?
The lifestyle. The location. The Kittitians.

5. What advice do you have for students coming to RUSYM and St. Kitts?
Stay focused. Be open-minded. Face challenges head on. Network.

6. After being at RUSYM 6+ semesters, what fact about yourself would your colleagues be surprised to learn?
That sometimes I can be a rock star in vet's clothing.

7. Where are you going for clinicals?
Michigan State University

8. What is your ultimate career goal?
To become a mixed animal practitioner and business owner. I'd also like to work the regulatory angle part-time, overseeing the avian food medicine industry in the state where I reside.

9. Who is your professional role model and why?
Dr. Don Sheets, veterinarian whom I worked with from my home town. Top notch vet, goal oriented, and extremely successful.

10. What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at RUSYM?

Coed volleyball, snorkeling, various Caribbean adventures, but mainly music. Playing guitar is a passion of mine. I've been involved in seven "Open-Mic" nights, with proceeds going toward scholarships benefitting Ross students. I've also enjoyed multiple performances for the infamous 'Mr. Ross' events, where one candidate is selected by his peers to represent the class. One of the highlights of my time in St. Kitts was being recognized as Mr. Ross.

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

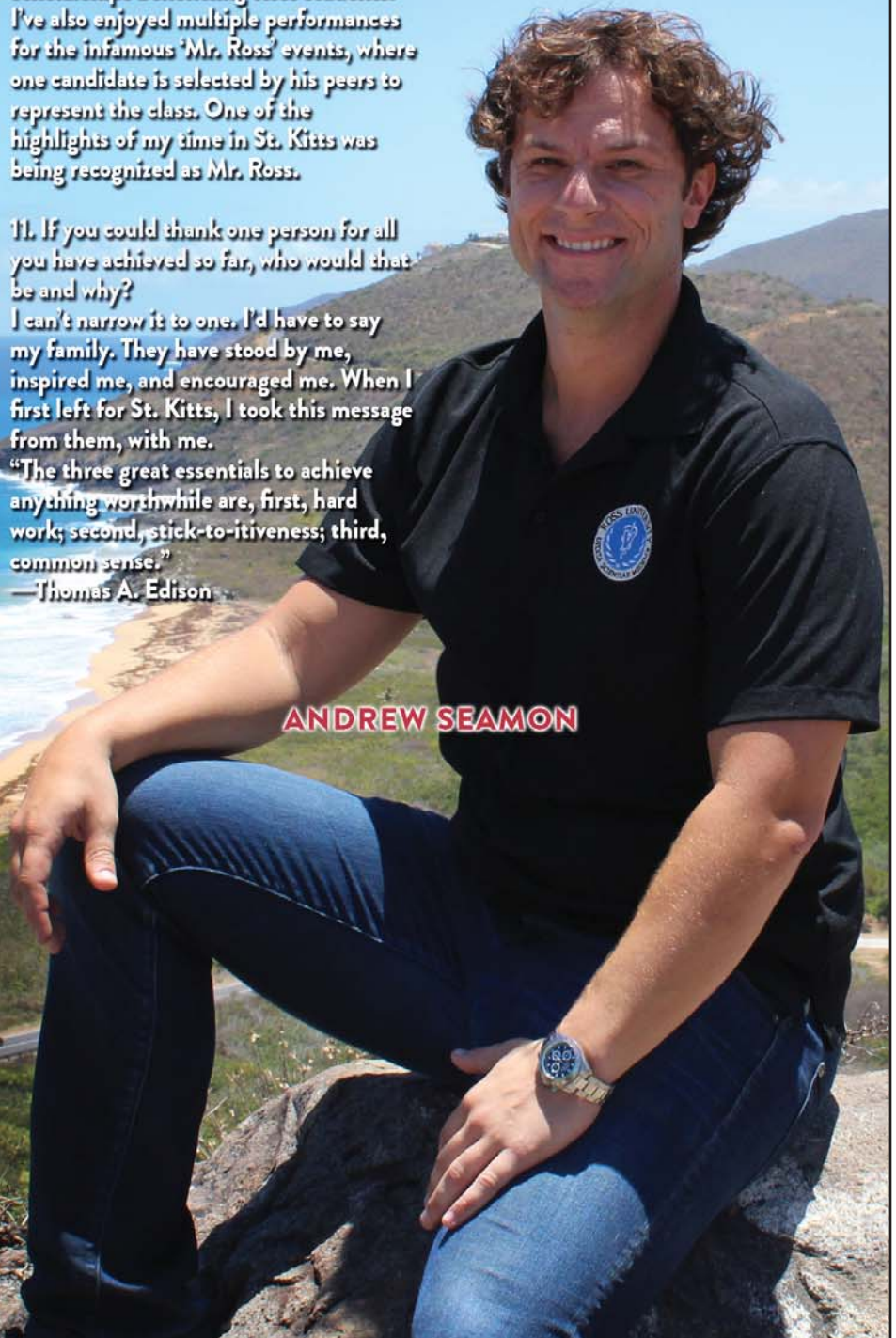
I can't narrow it to one. I'd have to say my family. They have stood by me, inspired me, and encouraged me. When I first left for St. Kitts, I took this message from them, with me.

"The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense."

—Thomas A. Edison

12. What has been your favorite course at RUSYM and why?

I'd have to say small animal medicine. This course is where I began to put all of the pieces together. Superb instructors—highly engaging.



ANDREW SEAMON

RUSVM clubs help “clean-up” St. Kitts

Saturday, Mar. 11, 2017
beach clean-up
with the Scuba Club.



Saturday, March 4, 2017 roadside clean-up
with the Green Initiatives, One Health,
and Small Ruminants clubs.



The PASS program had 44 more students earn their certificates during the spring semester of 2017.

Safety and Security introduces new app

The Department of Safety and Security is introducing a new initiative to advance safety and security within our organization. We've converted the procedures in our Emergency Response Flipbook to an app called CrisisManager which is a cloud-based mobile safety platform that converts paper-based plans into an easy to use mobile app. Emergency plans are now available 24/7/365 with or without internet.

3 ways to download CrisisManager

1. Scan the QR Code with your smartphone
2. Search "CrisisManager" on the app store
3. Go to tinyurl.com/crisismanager



To access our plan:

- Open the **CrisisManager** App
- Tap the + sign and select "Client Plans"
- Find **DeVry Education Group** in the list to download
- Our plan will appear, select on homepage to view

What does CrisisManager do for us?

Get safety plans on your mobile device... now



Plans are always up-to-date, no reprinting needed



You can access plans immediately in an emergency

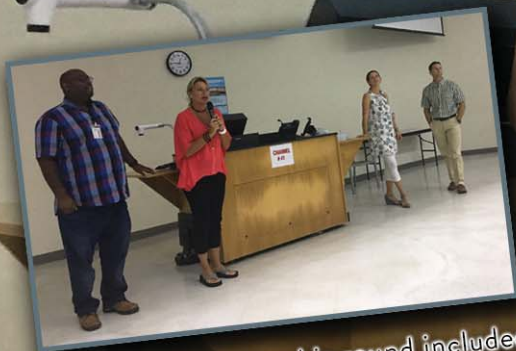


As students, colleagues and faculty, you have the tools you need to stay safe



"One Thing I Know For Sure"

The Student Wellness Committee (SWC) and the Student Success Center hosted the second annual "One Thing I Know For Sure" lecture in April. The talks focused on sharing a bit of lifetime wisdom in 7 minutes. It was chance for faculty and staff to speak to what they are passionate about in life, including words of wisdom and stories that allow students to see their mentors in a different, more approachable light.



The guest speakers this round included Drs. Fortune Sithole, Brady Little, Nathalie Mather-L'Huillier, and Melissa Bucknoff.

RUSVM LEADERSHIP & EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

Student Awardees

Kara Colwell
Lauren McTeirnan
Verenisse Marron
Kristen LaCroix
Leeza Hargreaves

Club Awardees

Student Wellness Committee
American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV)
People for Animal Welfare on St. Kitts (P.A.W.S.)

Colleague Awardees

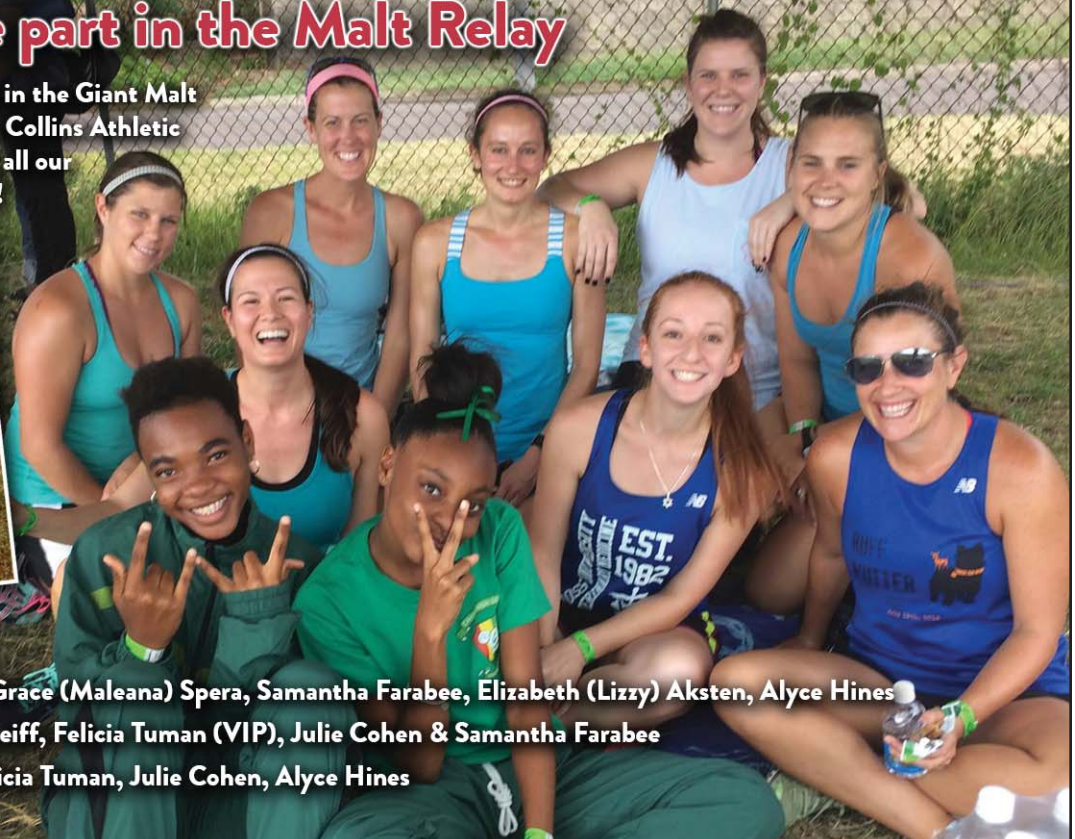
Andrea Peda
Melissa Bucknoff
Kathy Goucher
Cleon Bradshaw
Isha Webster
Security Team



The RUSVM Leadership and Excellence Awards hosted by SCAVMA were held on Saturday, March 11 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 take part in the Malt Relay

RUSVM students participated in the Giant Malt Relay Festival 2017 at the Kim Collins Athletic Stadium in January. Thanks to all our students represented RUSVM!



DISTANCE MEDLEY: Mary Grace (Maleana) Spera, Samantha Farabee, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Aksten, Alyce Hines

4X200M: Diane (Deedee) Streiff, Felicia Tuman (VIP), Julie Cohen & Samantha Farabee

4X100M: Jamie Walkush, Felicia Tuman, Julie Cohen, Alyce Hines

DANA DOBBS' STORY: How to have five careers in one



There are so many career options in veterinary medicine, it's hard to pick just one. Small animal or large? Private or public? Tiger surgery or acupuncture? If you're having a hard time trying to commit to one subset, take heart. Ross grads like Dana Dobbs, DVM '06 prove that it's possible to follow your dream—and then another dream—and another.

We chatted with Dr. Dobbs about her many lives—from field veterinarian to the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps—and how they all came together for her. (And that's not even counting her days as a virologist, police officer and detective before she went to Ross!)

After graduating from Washington State University with degrees in microbiology and animal science, Dr. Dobbs researched admission requirements at several veterinary schools. She'd already been denied once when applying as an undergraduate, but wasn't giving up. Yet admissions committees asked the same question: "Why don't you have a 4.0 GPA?"

Dr. Dobbs' response? She had worked three jobs during college to finance her education. And while she sacrificed some A's the first couple years because of it, her grades had steadily improved as time went on. Her latest scores were exemplary, demonstrat-

ing mastery of not only the course material, but also self-discipline and time management.

None of the schools budged, and after feeling completely discouraged, Dr. Dobbs set her sights on other ventures. Over the next decade, she took on a slew of interesting and diverse positions: virologist, medical technologist, police officer and detective—as well as being an Officer in the Washington Army National Guard.

But Dr. Dobbs still had a place in her heart for veterinary medicine. Thinking she'd like to be a veterinary technologist (LVT), she visited a local clinic to see if she could get some volunteer experience.

"Within two minutes, the veterinarian I spoke with—a Ross grad—told me I wouldn't be happy as a vet tech. I needed to be a vet," said Dr. Dobbs. "When I told her I'd already applied in the past, she asked if I'd considered going to the Caribbean. That's when I first heard about Ross."

While Dr. Dobbs wasn't sure if she would get in, she gave it a shot and submitted her application. Good thing she did. "Ross was willing to look at the whole person and what they brought to the table," she said. "They knew I was more than just my GPA."

Dr. Dobbs took a two-year leave from the National Guard to attend Ross. As soon as she graduated in 2006, she branch transferred to the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, and almost immediately got deployed to Kosovo for nine months as a Reservist.

"Veterinarians are in high demand for many humanitarian missions," Dr. Dobbs said. "Not only did I take care of military working dogs and do food inspections, I went to remote villages giving rabies vaccines, deworming cattle and sheep, and provided basic preventive care for animals that might never receive care from a vet." Local vets accompanied Dr. Dobbs to learn from her, with the goal of sustaining veterinary services after she left.

Her advice to current Ross students? "Keep your mind open," she said. "There's so many different things you can do. Some people are dead-set on doing one type of veterinary medicine and don't see all the possibilities there are. I didn't plan any of this, but it's worked out great for me."



Featured Colleagues

AMAL WILKIN
Customer Service
Representative

SEBASTIAN HENRY
Customer Service
Supervisor

JUDITH SMITHEN
Customer Service
Representative

1. What services do you provide to the students?

- Laminating
- Faxing and Copying
- Envelopes, Postage & Stamps
- Receive Fed Ex, UPS, DHL and packaging slips for students and staff
- Lost and Found
- Printing Top-Ups
- Phone Top-Ups (Flow/Digicel)
- Room Scheduling

2. What job tasks do you do behind the scenes?

- Tagging of white coats for the White Coat Ceremony
- Vending machine stocking and purchasing of products
- Provide emotional and moral support
- Collect donations

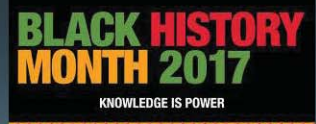
- Assist 7th in leaving supplies to give to the new semester.

3. Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your job easier? Have a more professional approach to the day to day services we provide.

4. What is the most common question you are asked? What do you do? Our answer "Everything!"

The RUSVM Diversity Committee Spreads Awareness

Various dates or months of significance were recognized by the Diversity Committee throughout the spring 2017 semester. For Black History Month a poster series was created that featured Black individuals and/or accomplishments in the field of veterinarian medicine and also important figures from Kittitian History. For Women's History Month there were featured female speakers about their experience in veterinarian research. Lastly, for Alcohol Awareness Month, the committee handed out free root beer floats to emphasize the ability to have a good time without alcohol.



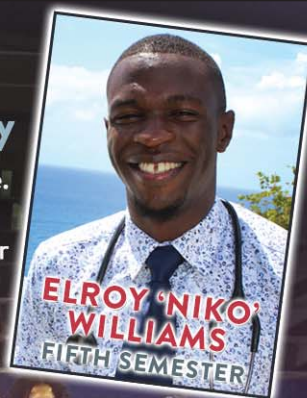
Female Vets in Research
Celebrating Women's History Month



ONE STUDENT MAKING A HUGE IMPACT:

Building bridges between RUSVM and the St. Kitts community

Fifth-semester student Elroy 'Niko' Williams is a native Kittitian and a dedicated Rossie. Since his second semester, Niko has been intentionally developing opportunities to connect RUSVM and St. Kitts. He has motivated others on both sides to come together for the greater good and has enjoyed a lot of success with his various initiatives.



Niko's Community Bridging Projects:

2nd semester: Motivational talks with Youth at the Annual National Youth Camp. Niko and 10 other RUSVM students, inspired young Kittitians by sharing how we persevered to reach our goals of becoming doctors.

3rd semester: Worked with fellow Rossie, Alfred Tam, in collaborating with the St Kitts Nevis Government in order to raise funds to provide a new Science lab to the Basseterre High School—Niko's alma mater (in progress).

4th semesters: Hosted a basketball game between the RUSVM basketball players and the St Kitts Under 25 Basketball team. This provided an opportunity for students to interact with locals and show school spirit.

5th semester: Niko is looking to host a football (soccer) game between RUSVM students and the St. Kitts Under 24 male National team. It is anticipated to be another successful event (in progress).

2017-18 RUSVM SAVMA

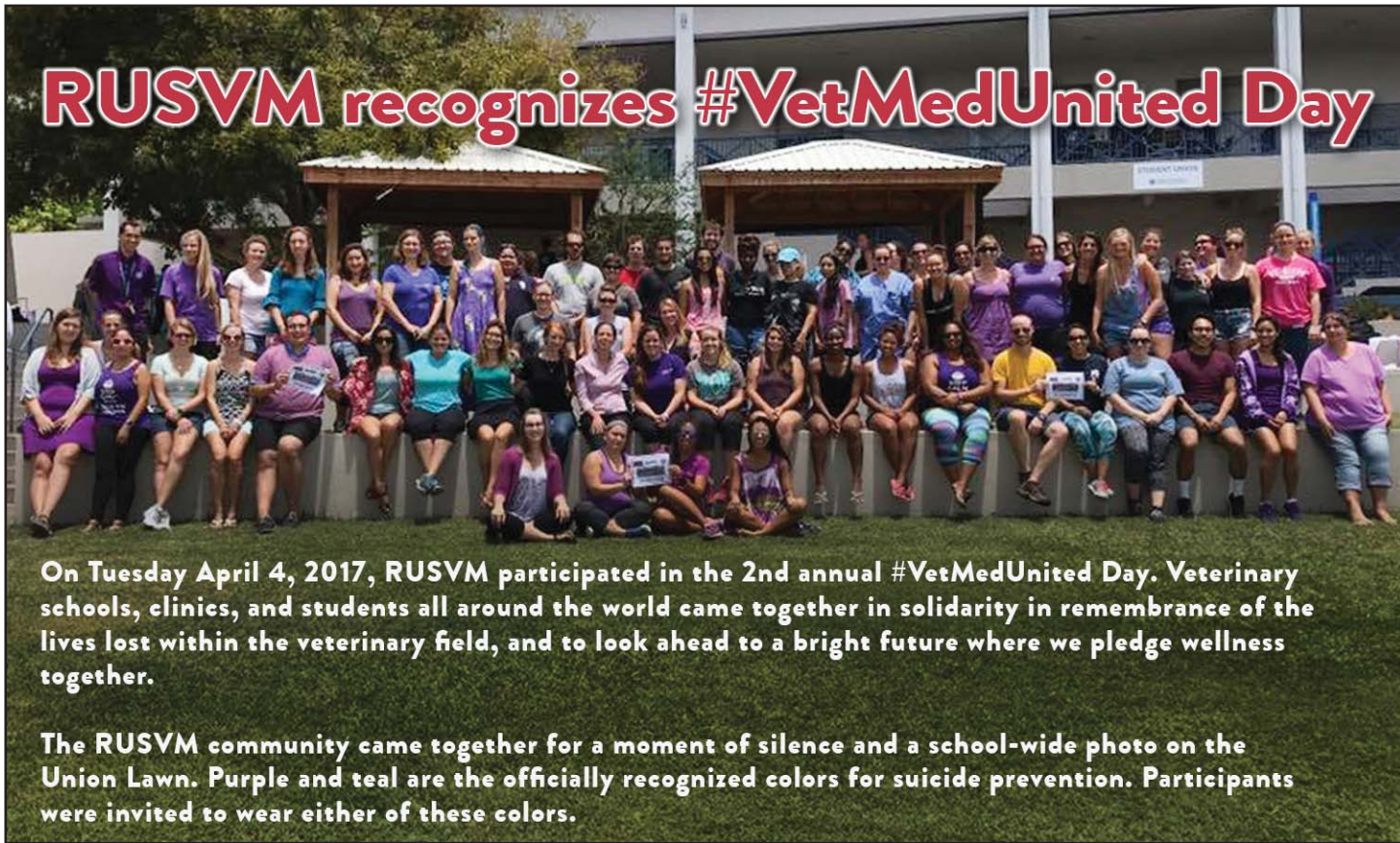
Election results of the new SAVMA board were announced in February.



SAVMA EB: President, Julia "Jules" Drube; Vice President, Jean Fournier; Treasurer, Amie Vandorn; Activities Directors, Michael Dulude & Fransia Markou; Sr. Delegate, Kayla Caturay; Jr. Delegate, - Katelyn Behm; Parliamentarian, Kaitlynn Ban, Webmaster, Jazmyne White; Student Wellness Committee Liaison, Nikita Ahuja; Cultural Outreach Officer, Susana Villela

CIASS REPS: VP, Thalita Leite; 1st, Patrick Dunleavy & Angelica Glee Anderson; 2nd, Jordan Arana & Mikalya Sell; 3rd, Eric Sirabian & Shaylan Meyer; 4th, Pablo Arturo Leano & Chelsea Tabor; 5th, Courtney Ann Pearce & Laura Kenzie, 6th, Kawi (Karla) Gonzalez-Rodriguez & Kalah St. Pierre; 7th, Bailey Pitts & Samantha Thompson





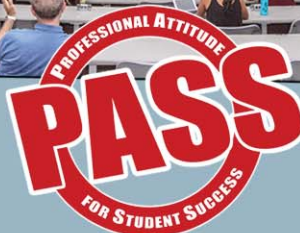
Students Complete Certification Course



In May, 16 members of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) club successfully completed an Artificial Insemination Certification course

Family Feud-Style Game Show

On Wednesday, March 22, the Professional Attitude for Student Success (PASS) committee hosted a Family Feud-style game show. The game show questions addressed topics of St. Kitts, professionalism, and veterinary medicine. It was a fun, interactive way to get students talking about some of these topics. The game was hosted by Dr. Saundra Sample. Random students were assigned to be part of the 4 different faculty families that included Dr. Erika Little, Dr. Brady Little, Dr. Fortune Sithole and Dr. Mary Pereira.



RUSVM Hosts Fourth-Annual Research Day

On Thursday April 6, RUSVM hosted its 4th Phi Zeta Student Research Day. From 8:00–11:00 a.m. there was poster judging and viewing. That was followed by a keynote address by Dr. Jennifer Pradel, Coordinator of the Caribbean Animal Health Network CaribVET.



LUSAN DELLAGROTTE
FIFTH SEMESTER



SYDNEY DAVIS
MASTERS STUDENT

DR. JENNIFER PRADELS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RACHAEL AMBROSIA
MASTERS STUDENT



DR. WILLINGHAM

AMANDA MURTI
FIFTH SEMESTER



DR. RAJEEV

KELSEY JOHNSON
SECOND SEMESTER