

THE STUDENT

EXPERIENCE

Vol. 6, Summer 2018

at RUSVM



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JOUVERT

**LEADERSHIP &
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EXECUTIVE BOARD**

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES



ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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A Message from the Biomedical Sciences Department Head

Dr. Don R. Bergfelt

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Summer 2018 issue of The Student Experience Newsletter. As Professor and Head of Biomedical Sciences at RUSVM, I help to support day-to-day operations to enhance the student learning environment. However, a most rewarding responsibility is to support faculty and staff of the department so they can bring you the best of their knowledge and experience to the classroom and laboratory in accord with our T.E.A.C.H. (Teamwork, Energy, Accountability, Community, Heart) values. Ultimately, I believe the highest reward for our efforts is to watch each of you cross the stage during graduation to receive your diploma with smiles and tears of joy to know you achieved your goal of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

As a researcher in Veterinary Science, RUSVM has provided me the opportunity to indulge and expand my interest in comparative reproductive physiology. Whether it's the clinical or basic sciences, I believe a fundamental understanding of the



Scientific Method guides an individual to be observant of our environment, critical with questions, objective with information, and open-minded with conclusions. The RUSVM Master of Science (MSc) by research degree program is an opportunity for veterinary students to connect with a faculty member who will guide them through a topic of interest that will complement their DVM degree program and add a bigger smile and a few more tears of joy on graduation day with a DVM, MSc!

While you are advancing through your educational program, get to know your colleagues as student leaders (see the update on your newly elected SAVMA Executive board on page 5). They devote time and effort to enhance your experience on and off campus and serve as a conduit to bring your concerns to campus administrators. If ever you need additional support to get you through the day, take a moment to learn of the valuable resources provided by the Student Success Center, Counseling Center, and Health Services (meet the Health Services team on page 6). Faster than you can learn or recall the skeleton of the dog in first semester, you will be a RUSVM alumni. As an alumnus, it is the perfect opportunity to keep in touch with friends and colleagues to network, reminisce about campus and island life, and be part of the West Indies Veterinary Conference held annually in St. Kitts and hosted by RUSVM.

Best wishes to you all—Have a great semester,
Dr. Don Bergfelt

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The new RUSVM Academic Hub

Phase I of the new Ross Vet academic hub is currently under construction on the west side of campus. The first phase of the project is in full swing, with foundation and steel work underway.

7th Semester Spotlight: Julia Drube



1. Where are you from? Where's home?
I'm from Cincinnati, OH, but home is Louisville, KY.

2. Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
The Ohio State University, Bachelor's in Animal Biosciences—Pre-vet.

3. What made you choose RUSVM?
They wanted me as soon as I was ready to take a leap of faith and board the plane.

4. What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?
My island family. I don't think any other vet school can say their colleagues turned into family.

5. What advice do you have for students coming to RUSVM and St. Kitts?
Find a good balance between studying and your personal life. It may take a bit to get a hang of but don't forget to take care of yourself.

6. After being at RUSVM 6+ semesters, what fact about yourself would your colleagues be surprised to learn?
I'm obsessed with zebras.

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

8. What is your ultimate career goal with your DVM?
A mixed animal practitioner including cats and dogs, pocket pets, and other exotic animals.

9. Who is your professional role model and why?

Any woman who is killing it in her career because there is no force more powerful than a woman determined to rise.

10. What has been your favorite course at RUSVM and why?

I absolutely loved anatomy, especially Gross Anatomy II. I enjoyed studying for practicals and being able to help my friends grasp the concept just as well.

11. What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at RUSVM?

My biggest extra-curricular was serving as SAYMA President, but I have also been Red semester's fundraising chair and member of AABP and VIDA.

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

My mom, she has been there for me every step of the way and she always pushes me to challenge myself and to never settle for anything less.



**JULIA
DRUBE**

RUSVM LEADERSHIP & EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

Student Awardees

Katie Behm
Samantha Clay
Julia Drube
Jessie Herman
Adrien Izquierdo
Kelsey Johnson
Laura Kenzie
Diane Lewis
Johnny Weiss
Nancy Hoeker
Joe Richichi
Kelsey Serment
Felicia Smaltz
Taylor Tvede
Susanna Villela

Colleague Awardees

Christine Barron
Ed Durham
Matthew Haga
Nathalie Mather L'Huillier
Fidel O'Flaherty
Angelia Williams

Club Awardees

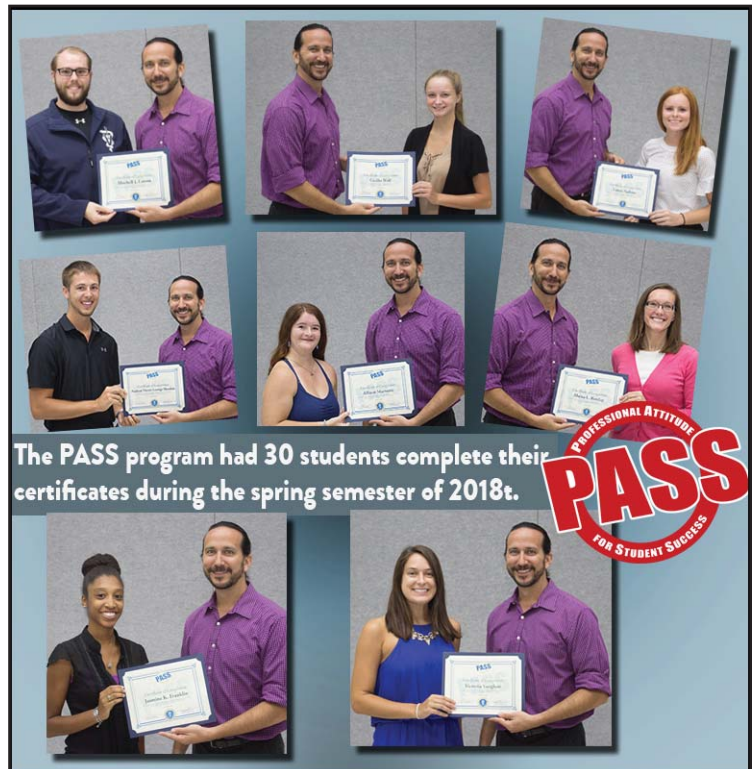
Wishmakers



The RUSVM Leadership and Excellence Awards hosted by SAVMA were held on Saturday, March 10 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!

RUSVM Adds Study Space

In January of 2018, RUSVM opened two new study rooms outside of the multipurpose lab.



The PASS program had 30 students complete their certificates during the spring semester of 2018.

Dr. Jonathan Fogle Spurring On the Immune System



Dr. Fogle earned his veterinary degree from Ross University in 2000. He completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. In 2005, he completed a small animal internal medicine residency at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine and he is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. In 2009, he earned his PhD in immunology from NC State.

Dr. Fogle is currently an Assistant Professor of Immunology at the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine where he is also the director of the Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Core Facility. Additionally, he is the faculty advisor for Clinical Immunology at North Carolina State University where he has the opportunity to interact with RUSVM's clinical year students.



Dr. Fogle assisted with presenting the white coats to the first semester students.

His Comparative Immunology Research Laboratory is focused upon T cell immunity, T cell immune dysfunction, and the interaction of T cells with each other and with cells of the innate immune system. As such, the primary research focus areas in his group are 1) Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) as a model for HIV T cell immune dysfunction and 2) bolstering T cell immune responses to neoplasia.

An active collaborator in comparative oncology at the Duke Cancer Institute, his research on osteosarcoma is showing promising progress applicable to both people and pets affected by this devastating disease. Mostly, he is looking into the role of inflammation in “waking up” the immune system reportedly suppressed by osteosarcoma cells. Supported by a Duke/NC State Translational Research Grant, Dr. Fogle and his colleagues are working to improve the odds for osteosarcoma patients by capitalizing on aspects of the disease that are unique to canines, notably its high prevalence.

Dr. Fogle is well known to RUSVM's Dean Dr. Sean Callanan as they share an interest in FIV research. Specifically, Dr. Fogle is working on identifying the mechanisms of CD8+ T cell suppression and how to rescue virus-specific CD8+ proliferation using the FIV model for HIV as well as on the examination of a novel compound LM11A-31 for neuro-protective effects using the FIV model.

Interestingly, Dr. Fogle's interest in immunology started during his time at RUSVM and he fondly remembers the knowledge he received from former faculty Dr. Gyimah who retired 2 years ago from RUSVM.

**Jonathan
Fogle**

2018-2019 SAVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD



The Spring semester concluded with the swearing in of a new SAVMA Executive Board (in order photographed, from left): Meghan O'Sullivan, Cultural Outreach Officer; Amber White, Secretary; Holly Bates, Treasurer; Thalita Leite, President; Brina Baker, Webmaster; Kaitlyn Schei-Childs, Student Wellness Officer; Victoria Villafane, Parliamentarian; Bronwyn Turner, SAVMA Junior Delegate; Kaitlyn Scholl, Vice President; and the Activities Directors: Merna Abdo & Lisa Phelps (not picture: Katelyn Behm; SAVMA Senior delegate).

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.



Black History Month with the cast of The Vet Life

Sexual Assault Awareness
Month Presentation



Women's History
Month Featuring
Pioneer Female
Vetrinarians



Kittitian Good Friday Meal



Jewish Passover
Seder Meal



Easter Egg Hunt

Featured Colleagues



JULIET BATTICE
Registered Nurse

MARSHALETTE SMITH-ANTHONY
Registered Nurse

DONNA BARRY
Health Services Manager

What services do you provide to the students? Health Services provides medical care for both colleagues and students. We can diagnose and treat most illnesses and injuries common within our community including women's health concerns. We also work closely with some of the island physicians for referral when additional care is warranted. Preventive health services are provided as well including vaccines.

What job tasks do you do behind the scenes that students and colleagues might not be aware of? We actively monitor communicable diseases or infections that may occur in our community, on island, and throughout the world to reduce the spread of illness and work closely with St. Kitts Ministry of Health in tracking illnesses.

Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your job easier?

We encourage students to visit Health Services at the first sign of illness. It is our strategy to reduce the expense to students from local health care services by providing as much care as possible at Health Services which is at no cost.

What is the most common question you are asked? Our most frequent question asked is how to renew or ship existing prescriptions when students arrive to campus.

DR. S. CAVANAUGH HOSTS AUSCULTATION LAB



On March 3, Zoetis student representative, Brittany Middlebrooks and the RUSVM chapter of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, led by Eric Sirabian, sponsored a cardiac auscultation lab for RUSVM students. Students brought in their personal dog/cat, and each student was able to practice auscultation on 10-15 different animals. Dr. Sarah Cavanaugh taught and guided the students through auscultation.





FAMILY FEUD-STYLE GAME SHOW



On, Wednesday, April 4 PASS hosted a Family Feud-style gameshow that featured questions from Vetrinarian Medicine, Professionalism, and life in St. Kitts.



PASSion SHOW

PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

On, Thursday, January 25 PASS hosted the annual PASSion Show. This is a professional attire competition that allows students to compete in three rounds: Small Animal Clinical Year Attire, Large Animal Clinical Year, and TheDream Job Interview.

