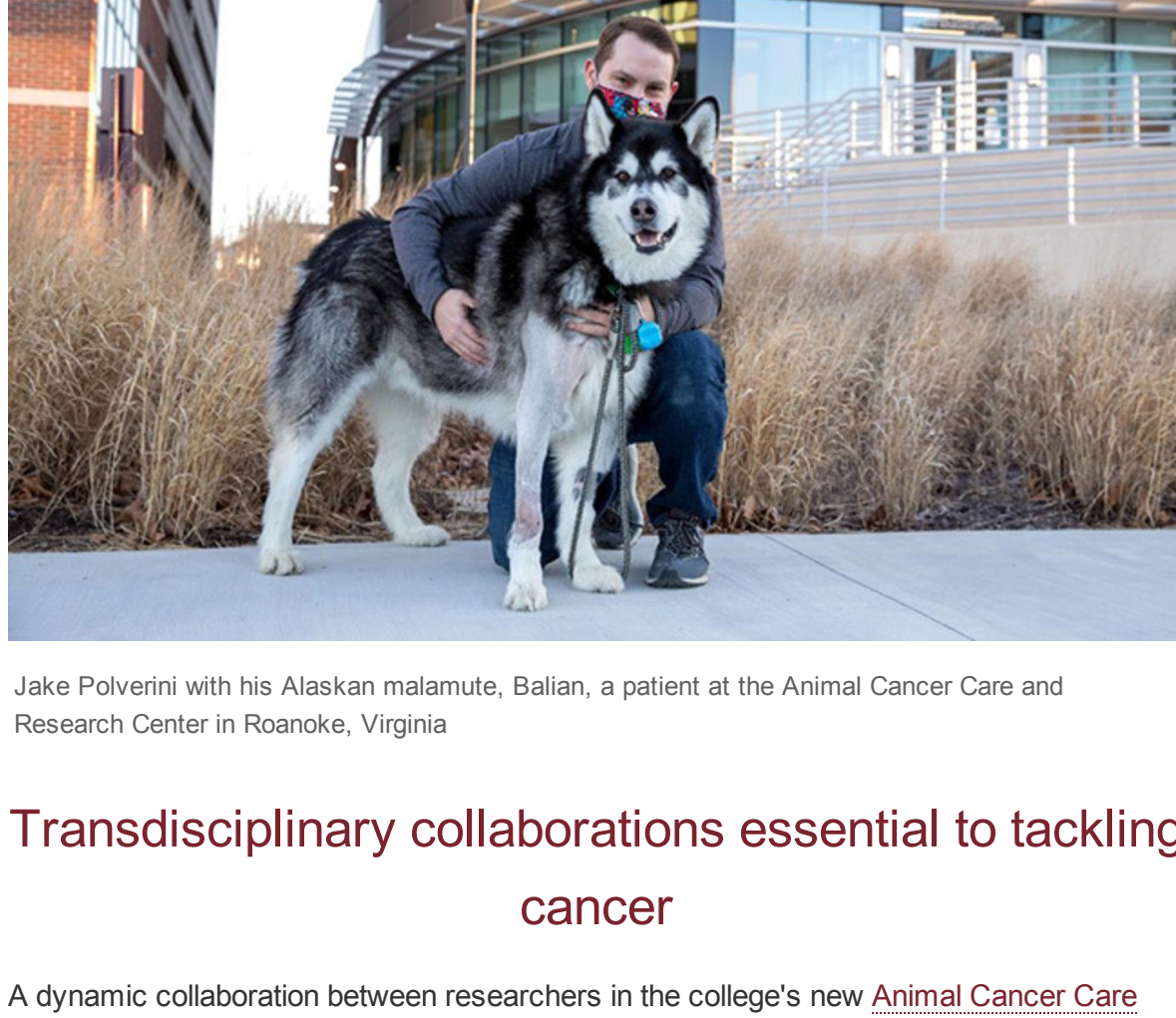


Vet Med News

JUNE 2021

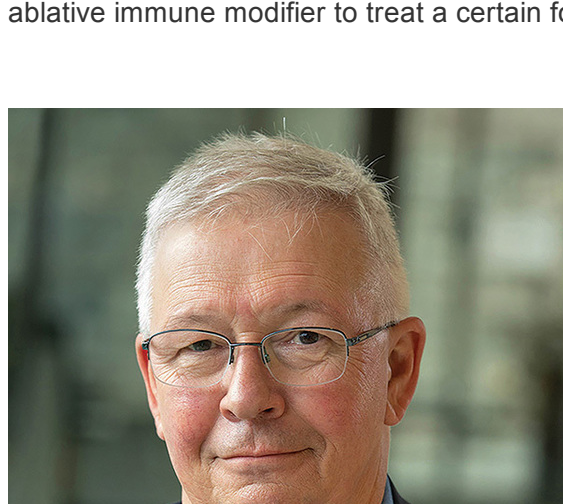


Jake Polverini with his Alaskan malamute, Balian, a patient at the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia

Transdisciplinary collaborations essential to tackling cancer

A dynamic collaboration between researchers in the college's new [Animal Cancer Care and Research Center](#) and Virginia Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics has attracted substantial funding for a unique approach to treating osteosarcoma, a notoriously painful and aggressive bone cancer that primarily afflicts large-breed dogs, children, and adolescents.

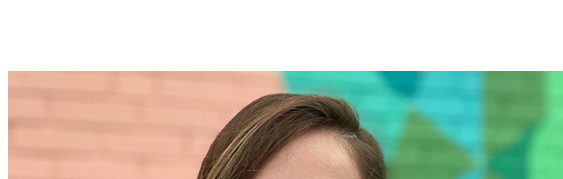
Around the College



Klahn named to iTHRIV Scholars Program cohort

[Shawna Klahn](#), associate professor of medical oncology at the college's Animal Cancer Care and Research Center, was named to the 2021–2023 cohort of iTHRIV Scholars. The seven researchers from Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia will participate in a structured, two-year research, training, and mentorship program sponsored by the Integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV).

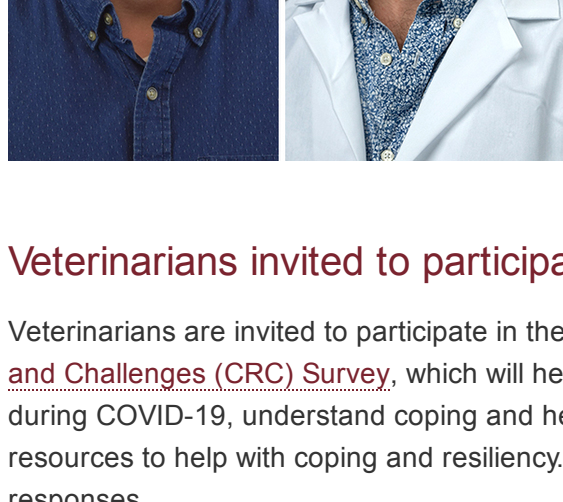
Mentored by Nicola Mason, professor and oncology researcher at Penn Vet, Klahn will study the use of nano-pulse stimulation as an ablative immune modifier to treat a certain form of lymphoma in dogs.



Wilcke honored with emeritus status

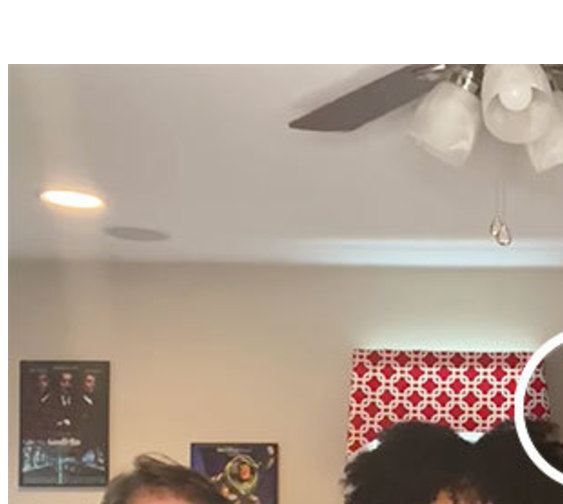
Congratulations to [Jeff Wilcke](#), Metcalf Professor of Veterinary Medical Informatics in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, who was conferred the title of professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors in recognition of exemplary service to the university.

A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology and a member of the Virginia Tech community since 1982, Wilcke received the 2020 Allen W. Hahn Lifetime Achievement Award in Veterinary Informatics. Thank you for your service, Dr. Wilcke!



MPH students help clear up pandemic communication

After a group of Master of Public Health (MPH) students in the college's [Public Health Program](#) worked with a graduate engineering student to create a clear, fog-resistant face mask to allow for better communication with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community during the pandemic, TransparenSee has overseen the design, manufacture, and distribution of more than 1,400 free masks to schools and families.



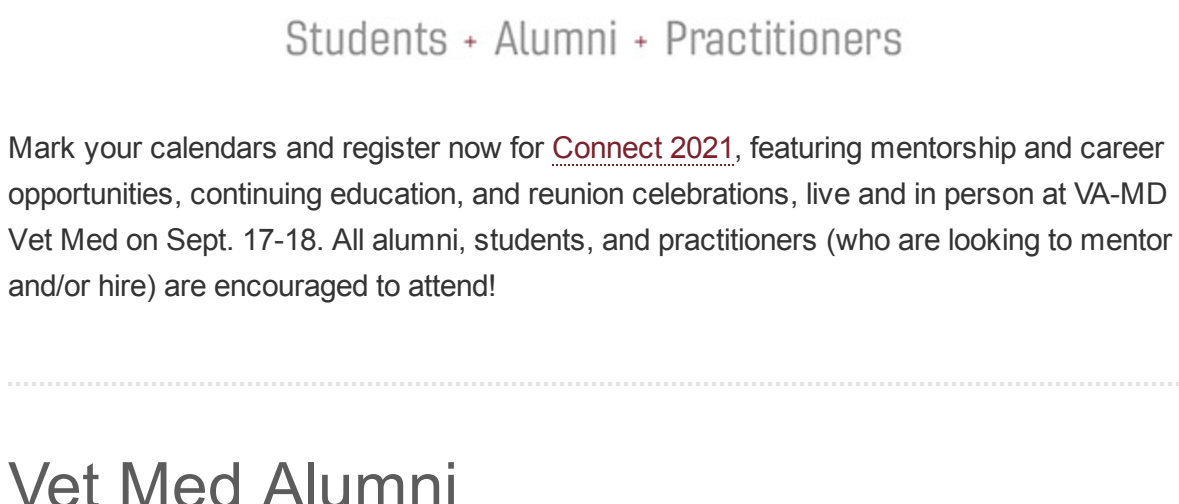
Two DVM students among AKC scholarship recipients

Congratulations to DVM Class of 2023 student Stephen Oliphant and DVM Class of 2024 student Samuel Johnson, who were each awarded an American Kennel Club (AKC) Veterinary Outreach Scholarship, designed to support individuals with a background in AKC events and programs who seek to promote animal health and medicine.

Veterinarians invited to participate in CRC Survey

Veterinarians are invited to participate in the [Potomac Regional Veterinary Coping, Resilience and Challenges \(CRC\) Survey](#), which will help assess stressors experienced by veterinarians during COVID-19, understand coping and help-seeking behaviors, and disseminate resources to help with coping and resiliency. Only survey personnel will see your anonymous responses.

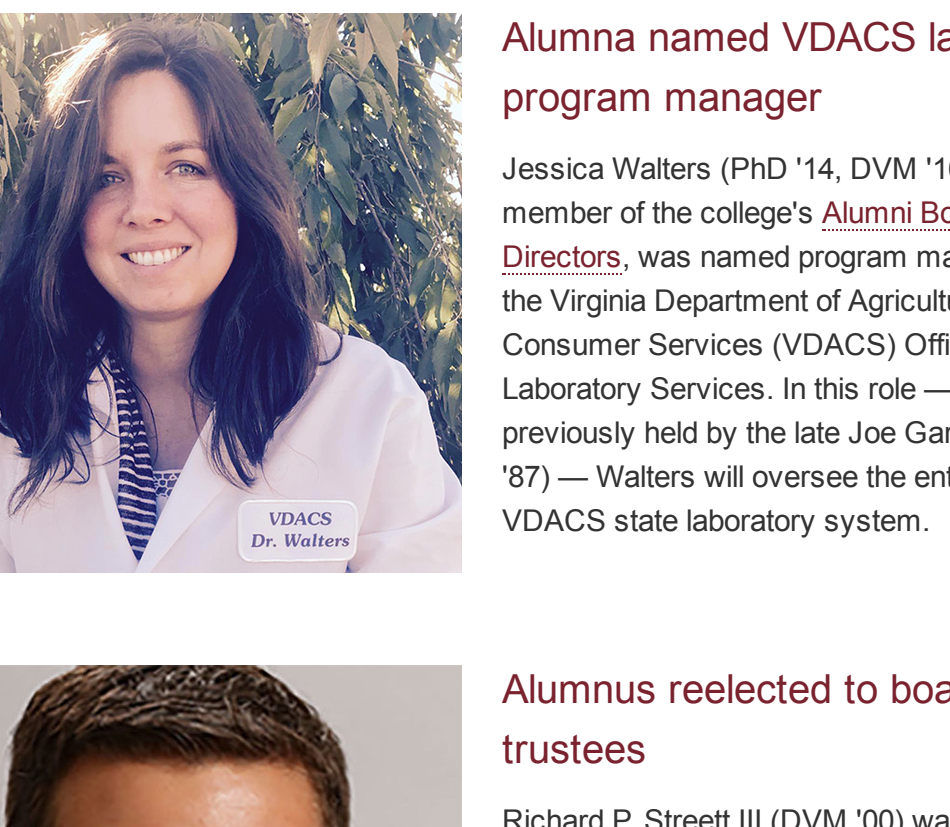
The survey is a collaboration among representatives from VA-MD Vet Med, the Virginia Department of Health, D.C. Health, the D.C. Veterinary Medical Association, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Virginia Tech's Department of Human Development and Family Science.



Congratulations to Natasha Welch, a 2019 graduate of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who thoroughly surprised her family with some fantastic news: her acceptance into VA-MD Vet Med's DVM program!

Registration now open!

[Mentor Program](#) • [Career Mixer & Match](#) • [Reunion](#) • [Continuing Education](#)

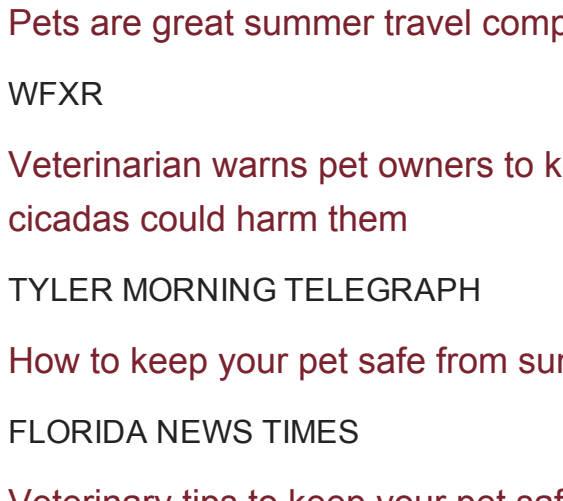


Students + Alumni + Practitioners

Mark your calendars and register now for [Connect 2021](#), featuring mentorship and career opportunities, continuing education, and reunion celebrations, live and in person at VA-MD Vet Med on Sept. 17-18. All alumni, students, and practitioners (who are looking to mentor and/or hire) are encouraged to attend!

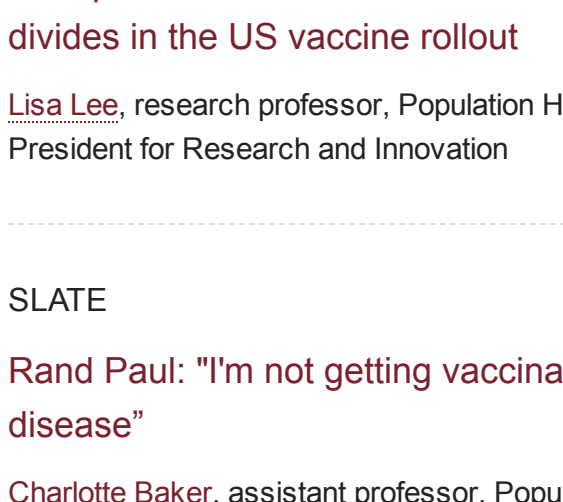
Vet Med Alumni

[VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online](#)→



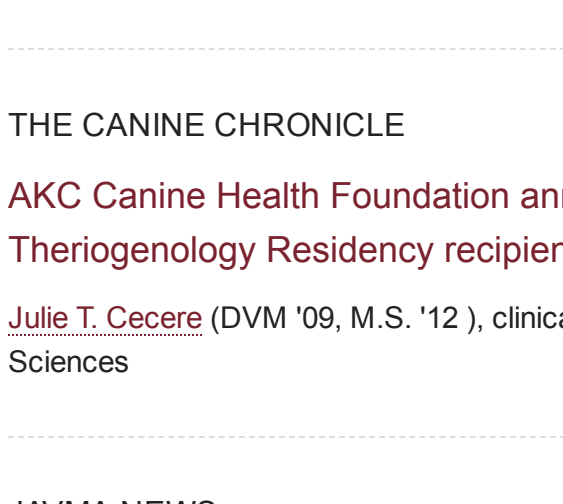
Alumna joins Audubon as vice president

Melinda Cep (DVM '09), president-elect of the college's [Alumni Board of Directors](#), was named vice president for natural solutions and working lands at the National Audubon Society. In this new role for the organization, Cep will work across Audubon's network to advance climate and conservation goals on working lands.



Alumna named VDACS labs program manager

Jessica Walters (PhD '14, DVM '16), a member of the college's [Alumni Board of Directors](#), was named program manager of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Office of Laboratory Services. In this role — previously held by the late Joe Garvin (DVM '87) — Walters will oversee the entire VDACS state laboratory system.



Alumnus reelected to board of trustees

Richard P. Street III (DVM '00) was reelected as vice chair of the Harford Community College Board of Trustees for 2021-22. First appointed to the board in 2015, Street is the managing partner for Churchville, Greenbrier, and Swan Creek Veterinary Clinics in Harford County, Maryland. He is a past president and current board member of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association.

Vet Med in the News

THE WASHINGTON POST / THE SEATTLE TIMES

[Cicadas, plants and too much sun: How to keep your pet safe from summer hazards](#)

PHYS.ORG / AUGUSTA FREE PRESS

[Family pets and cicadas don't always mix: Veterinarian's tips to keep pets safe](#)

NEWSDAY

[Pets are great summer travel companions, but keep them safe](#)

WFXR

[Veterinarian warns pet owners to keep an eye on pets as emerging cicadas could harm them](#)

TYLER MORNING TELEGRAPH

[How to keep your pet safe from summer hazards](#)

FLORIDA NEWS TIMES

[Veterinary tips to keep your pet safe](#)

[Mark Freeman](#), clinical assistant professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

BUSINESS INSIDER

[A map of each state's most and least vaccinated counties shows stark divides in the US vaccine rollout](#)

[Lisa Lee](#), research professor, Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation

SLATE

[Rand Paul: "I'm not getting vaccinated because I've already had the disease"](#)

[Charlotte Baker](#), assistant professor, Population Health Sciences

UVA TODAY

[iTHRIV announces incoming 2021 Scholars Program cohort](#)

[Shawna Klahn](#), associate professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

THE CANINE CHRONICLE

[AKC Canine Health Foundation announces 2021 Small Animal Theriogenology Residency recipients](#)

[Julie T. Cecere](#) (DVM '09, M.S. '12), clinical associate professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

JAVMA NEWS

[Thinking of a career transition? Assess yourself first](#)

[Valerie Ragan](#), director, Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine; associate professor of practice, Population Health Sciences

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

[The vaccines and the variants: Four keys to ending the pandemic](#)

KIPLINGER

[7 of the best places to retire](#)

[Virginia Tech Animal Cancer Care and Research Center](#)

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40 YEARS OF RUNNING TOGETHER

We're celebrating 40 years!

VA-MD Vet Med's first class matriculated in 1980.

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