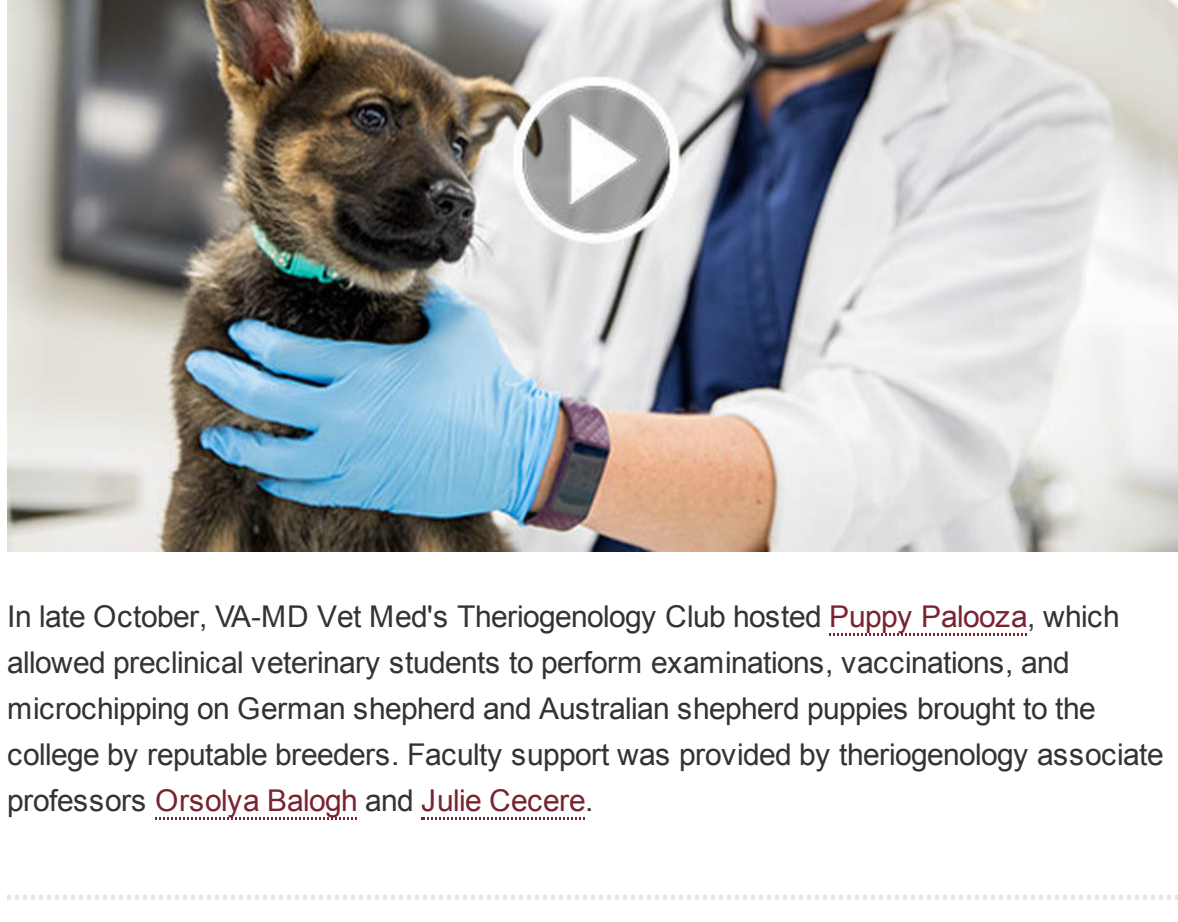


Vet Med News

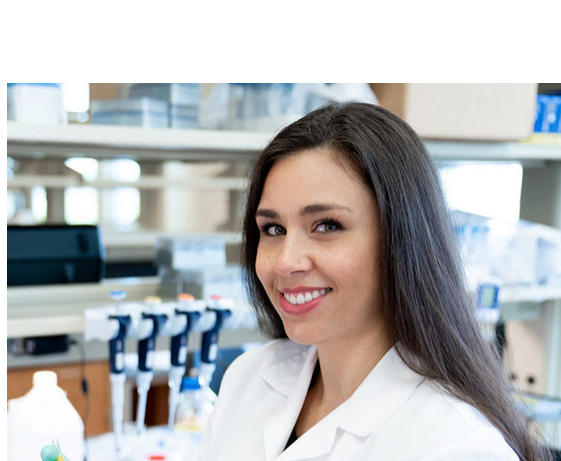
NOVEMBER 2021

Puppy Palooza 2021



In late October, VA-MD Vet Med's Theriogenology Club hosted **Puppy Palooza**, which allowed preclinical veterinary students to perform examinations, vaccinations, and microchipping on German shepherd and Australian shepherd puppies brought to the college by reputable breeders. Faculty support was provided by theriogenology associate professors [Orsolya Balogh](#) and [Julie Cecere](#).

Around the College



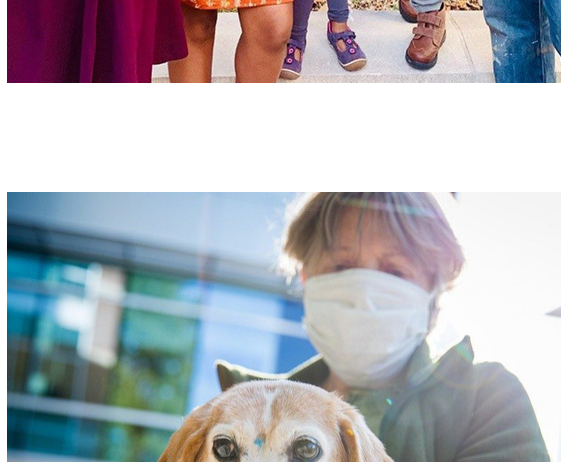
Meng named interim executive director of Fralin Life Sciences Institute

University Distinguished Professor of Molecular Virology [X.J. Meng](#) has been named interim executive director of the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, effective Dec. 6. Matt Hulver, the institute's current executive director, has accepted the position of vice president for research at Arizona State University. Meng has been an affiliated faculty member of the institute since its inception.



Neuroscientist awarded five-year, \$2-million National Institutes of Health grant

[Shannon Farris](#), assistant professor of neuroscience in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology and at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, is studying the bioenergetics, molecular cues, and distinct cell types that encode social memories in the brain's hippocampus.



Public health professor helps students thrive

[Natalie Cook](#), assistant professor of public health in the Department of Population Health Sciences, is the newest of Virginia Tech's faculty principals and now serves the Honors Residential Commons in East Ambler Johnston Hall, where she and her family live among the students. "I hope to challenge students to care about something beyond themselves and their majors ... to help make positive changes in the Hokie spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve)," Cook said.



Supporting pets with cancer

Petco Love's support of the [Virginia Tech Animal Cancer Care and Research Center](#) in Roanoke — one of VA-MD Vet Med's three hospitals — helps clients who cannot afford their pet's cancer care, thus enabling these pets to receive life-enhancing therapies and treatments. In partnership with Blue Buffalo, Petco Love invests in organizations that fight animal cancer.



Faculty clinician elected to ACVS board

American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) diplomate [Chris Byron](#), associate professor of large animal surgery in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, has been elected as Large Animal Regent to the 2021–2022 ACVS Board of Regents. Congratulations, Dr. Byron!



DBSP professor curates images for USPS stamp collection

[Phillip Sponenberg](#), professor of pathology and genetics in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), selected images featured on Heritage Breed Forever Stamps released this past May by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in collaboration with the Livestock Conservancy. Since 1978, Sponenberg has served as a technical advisor to the conservancy, which is dedicated to the preservation of rare livestock breeds.



BMVS student among graduate student ambassadors

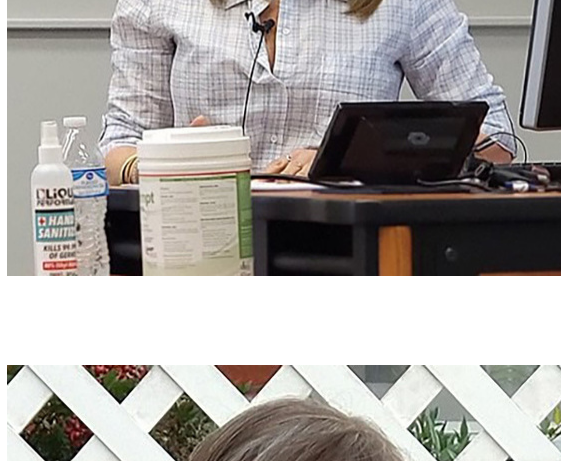
Tosin Ogunmayowa, a Ph.D. student in [Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences](#) (BMVS), is among 23 Virginia Tech graduate students comprising the latest cohort of the Graduate School's ambassadors. Graduate student ambassadors assist with Graduate School-sponsored events, mentor new graduate students, promote the graduate student community, and assist graduate students and applicants interested in their programs or in interdisciplinary research.

Vet Med Alumni

VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online→



VA-MD Vet Med alumni and Dean Dan Givens gathered at the **West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association Annual Meeting** held in early November at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs.



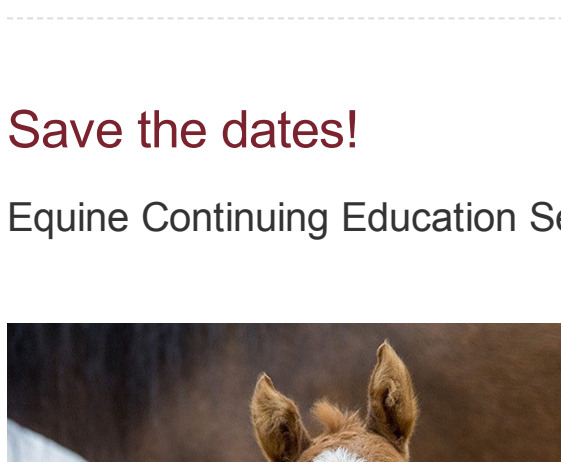
Alumna credits college with preparing her for military service

Haley Davis (DVM '20), a captain in the [U.S. Army Veterinary Corps](#), provides around-the-clock emergency and routine care to military working dogs in Charleston, South Carolina. Responsible for public health awareness and food safety oversight of Department of Defense-acquired products, she also provides routine outpatient care to service members' pets.



Alumna presents guest lecture

Nina Prill (DVM '91) presented a well-received guest lecture – "The Business of Rehabilitation Medicine" – to Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences neurology/neurosurgery clinical instructor [Avril Arendse's](#) Rehab Elective class on Nov. 10.

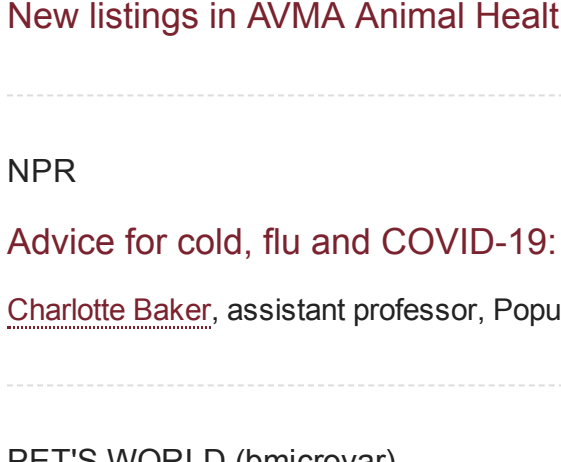


In memoriam

Valerie Weiss (DVM '03), a resident of Waynesboro, Va., died Nov. 17 at the University of Virginia Hospital. Weiss, who worked at the Animal Hospital of Waynesboro, was widely known for her love of animals and her compassionate treatment and care of her patients and all she met. » [Information about college alumni who have died is added to the *VMCVM Memorial Website*, where your personal messages and contributions are welcomed. All contributions support wellness initiatives at the college.](#)

Save the dates!

Equine Continuing Education Series: January 2022



Lectures (1.5 CE hours each) will be held 6:30-8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022
- Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022
- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022
- Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022

Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Vet Med in the News

JAVMA NEWS

New listings in [AVMA Animal Health Studies Database](#)

NPR

Advice for cold, flu and COVID-19: Wear a mask and wash your hands

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

PET'S WORLD (bmicrovar)

COVID vaccinations for pets, still not recommended according to Virginia Tech veterinarian

VIRGINIA TECH NEWS

COVID vaccinations for pets still not recommended, according to Virginia Tech veterinarian

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

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

How COVID might sow chaos in the brain

Doctoral student Jonathan Joyce, lab of [Andrea Bertke](#), associate professor, Population Health Sciences

THE ROANOKE TIMES

Names and changes: Business recognitions and promotions for the week of Nov. 21, 2021

[X.J. Meng](#), University Distinguished Professor of Molecular Virology, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

VETERINARY INFORMATION NETWORK

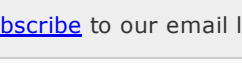
Veterinary nutrition specialists join ACVIM

[Harold McKenzie](#), professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

GIVE to VA-MD VET MED

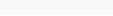
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