

Vet Med News

SEPTEMBER 2021

Connect 2021: A great success!



On Sept. 17-18, the college hosted more than 350 attendees for its Connect 2021 events, featuring a record number of new mentors and attendance for Mentor Day.

Students, alumni, and veterinarians from multiple states gathered for mentorship, focused career conversation, continuing education, and the celebration of individual accomplishments and a renewed sense of community as visitors reconnected again — in person!

[Photos of Connect 2021 events→](#)

Around the College



Veterinary students explore research careers

An intensive 11-week program highlighting biomedical research in veterinary medicine, VA-MD Vet Med's [Summer Veterinary Student Research Program](#) provided training to students from both the college and other veterinary schools. During the program, students learned about research careers, developed professional skills, and conducted mentor-supported research projects that were presented virtually at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium.



College welcomes first director of diversity, equity, and inclusion

In alignment with [InclusiveVT](#), Virginia Tech's [Principles of Community](#), and VA-MD Vet Med's 2020-2021 Diversity Action Plan, [Garry Morgan](#) has been named the college's first director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. As director, Morgan will serve on the college's Executive Board and will oversee efforts to recruit and support students and faculty from underrepresented minority groups, as well as provide educational opportunities and expand awareness within the college community.



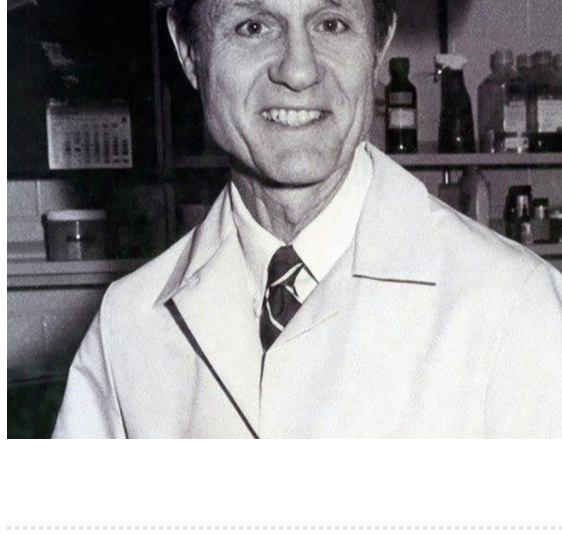
Scholarship fund honors college's first Black graduates

Named after VA-MD Vet Med's first Black female graduates and first Black male graduate, the newly created Hoban, Lee, and Dance Endowed Scholarship Fund will support students from underrepresented groups. The scholarship, said [Dean M. Daniel Givens](#), will "ensure that the college has the important opportunity to learn from the viewpoints of underrepresented students who might not otherwise apply or attend."



Dynamic new graduate course examines pandemic

This fall, [Kylene Kehn-Hall](#), professor of virology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, is leading a new special studies course, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), offered virtually through the [Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens](#). Using an interdisciplinary approach, a different instructor from a diverse range of faculty members actively involved in COVID research delivers a lecture each week.



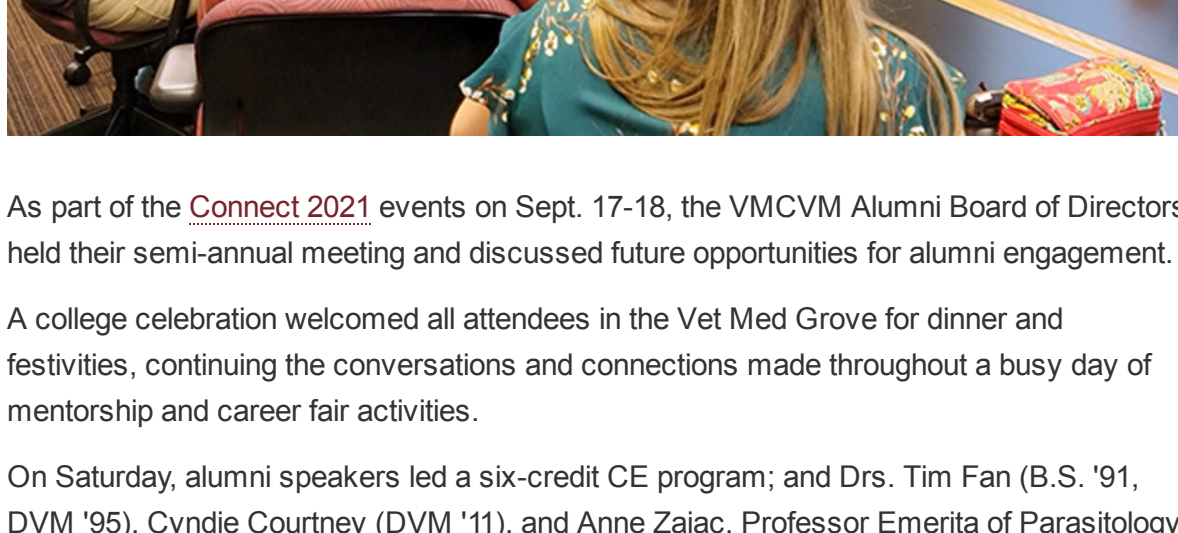
In memoriam: Professor Emeritus Kent C. Roberts

VA-MD Vet Med Professor Emeritus [Kent C. Roberts](#) died on Aug. 24, 2021, at age 95. One of the first faculty members to join the new veterinary college in 1980, Roberts originally served as director of Extension and went on to hold many important roles at the college, including interim director of the [Veterinary Teaching Hospital](#). In 2009, he was presented with the John N. Dalton Award, the college's most prestigious honor.

Vet Med Alumni

[VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online→](#)

Recap: Connect 2021

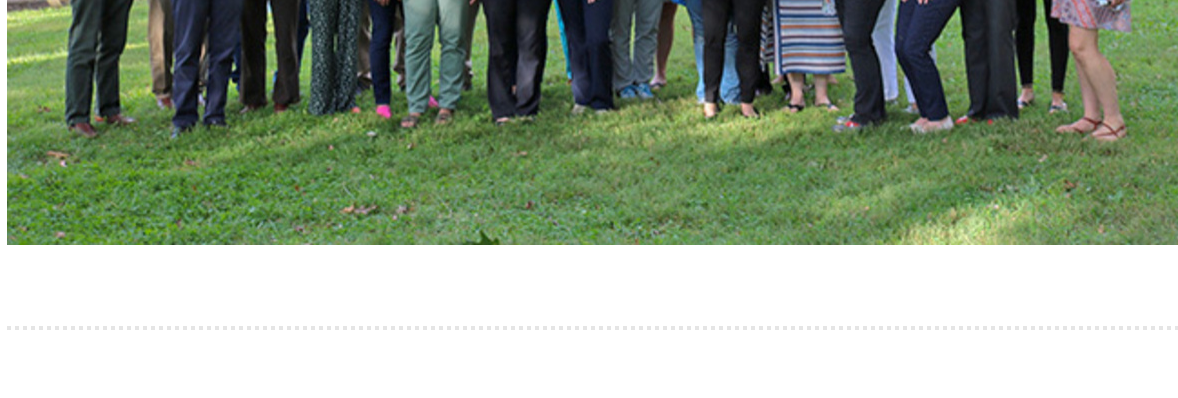


As part of the [Connect 2021](#) events on Sept. 17-18, the VMCVM Alumni Board of Directors held their semi-annual meeting and discussed future opportunities for alumni engagement.

A college celebration welcomed all attendees in the Vet Med Grove for dinner and festivities, continuing the conversations and connections made throughout a busy day of mentorship and career fair activities.

On Saturday, alumni speakers led a six-credit CE program; and Drs. Tim Fan (B.S. '91, DVM '95), Cyndie Courtney (DVM '11), and Anne Zajac, Professor Emerita of Parasitology, were presented with their distinguished awards during the Alumni Awards ceremony. [Learn more about the Alumni Awards recipients→](#)

Thank you to the VMCVM alumni, students, and current and retired faculty and staff, as well as our state veterinary medical associations and sponsors, who made this event possible!



Vet Med in the News

JAVMA NEWS

[Education council schedules site visits](#)

VETERINARIAN DAILY NEWS

[In memoriam: Kent C. Roberts, professor emeritus and founding member of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

VETERINARY INFORMATION NETWORK

[How COVID meshed my roles as a mom and a veterinarian](#)

[Rachael Carpenter](#), clinical instructor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

DVM360

[Student debt: What's the problem?](#)

[Peter Eyre](#), Professor Emeritus, Dean Emeritus

THE JOURNAL OF BLACKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

[Four African Americans who have been appointed to diversity posts in higher education](#)

THE ROANOKE TIMES

[Names and changes: Business recognitions and promotions for the week of Sept. 19, 2021](#)

[Garry Morgan](#), director of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Office of the Dean

AUGUSTA FREE PRESS

[Veterinary college receives competitive grant for small animal reproduction residency](#)

[Orsolya Balogh](#), associate professor, JoAnne S. O'Brien Professor of Theriogenology, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

[Julie Cecere](#), clinical associate professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

[Additional mental health counselors now on board at Virginia Tech](#)

VIRGINIA TECH NEWS

[Analyzing Virginia Tech's research output and impact](#)

Kiri DeBose, veterinary medicine librarian, VA-MD Vet Med

Dan Givens, dean, VA-MD Vet Med

[Moving safely through Labor Day weekend](#)

Fernanda Gutierrez (MPH '21), COVID Crushers founding member

[Virginia Cooperative Extension agents to be trusted messengers for COVID-19 vaccine information](#)

[Natalie Cook](#), assistant professor, Population Health Sciences

[Kathy Hosig](#), associate professor, Population Health Sciences

[Sophie Wenzel](#), assistant professor of practice, Population Health Sciences

GIVE to VA-MD VET MED

Your support helps us advance knowledge, improve health, and save lives.

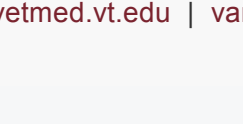


YEARS OF RUNNING TOGETHER

We're celebrating 40 years!

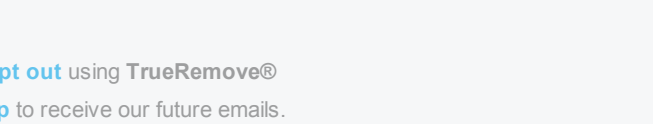
VA-MD Vet Med's first class matriculated in 1980.

STAY CONNECTED



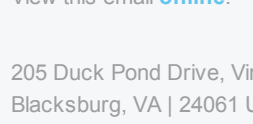
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