

LSU

School of
Veterinary Medicine

Pulse



LSU SVM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

STEPHENSON PET CLINIC CONSTRUCTION MOVES FORWARD THROUGH 2021

Construction of the Stephenson Pet Clinic at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has begun! The state-of-the-art medical and teaching facility will be the preeminent veterinary medical center in Louisiana, featuring over 40,000 square feet of new clinical space. The Stephenson Pet Clinic will provide a much-needed expansion of our current clinical and academic programs and enhance our mission to train future veterinarians.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE

FALL 2021 / SPRING 2022



DEAN'S MESSAGE

JOEL BAINES

DEAN, LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



One of the highlights of being dean of your LSU School of Veterinary Medicine these past seven years has been getting to know you at reunions, events, conferences, and, more recently, Zoom meetings. With your loyal support, we continue to accomplish much at the LSU SVM,

including expanding research, treating more patients (nearly 30,000 annually), building the new Stephenson Pet Clinic, creating more scholarship funding, and increasing enrollment and diversity in service to our mission to teach, heal, discover, and protect. As you may know, I will step down as dean this summer and remain on faculty as a professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. I have been fortunate to have the benefit of associating with outstanding faculty, staff, students, and alumni, who are all generous, interesting, and caring people.

As I write this letter, we are about to step into the White Coat Ceremony celebrating the LSU SVM Class of 2022 as they enter into Phase II of the veterinary medical curriculum in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Students will undergo a rite of passage, receiving their White Coats, symbolizing their entrance into this important phase of their veterinary training. Many of you wrote notes of advice and encouragement for students, and we have slipped your words of wisdom into their white coats. Your simple messages contain strength, humor, and hard-earned practical knowledge that our alumni are known for and that bode well for our future veterinarians.

I am forever grateful for your support of the LSU SVM. Thank you for helping to secure its bright future.

OFF THE ROAD

GRETCHEN MORGAN

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI & DONOR RELATIONS



Hi all! I reviewed my letter to you from Spring 2020's email newsletter to prepare for this one and saw that I had written about my hopes to see you at events in the summer/fall (2020). And here we are, winter 2021 and so many things still being tentative!

We certainly have learned a lot about different ways to communicate! While remote meetings are not a new thing, it was for many of us, with many different platforms: Zoom, Teams, Web Ex, etc., being used for class meetings, celebrations, virtual receptions, and CE. Utilizing the virtual tools, so many of you all over the country were able to participate in activities that previously had to be in person- graduation, white coat ceremony, folder reviews, and interviews to name a few. I imagine that we will continue to utilize these platforms in the future, even when we are able to get back to more in person activities. I WAS actually able to get out on the road in October to make some in-person visits (TN, VA, NC) and was glad to see that many were doing so well. I hope to make some more road trips in the near future, as cases drop and more people get vaccinated.

In this newsletter, you will see much to celebrate! Our 2020 Distinguished Alumnus, alumni giving being at an all-time high, new construction updates, reunion information (we hope to celebrate 16 classes this fall, since we postponed last year's reunions) and more.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for any of your needs, whether it is a job, an associate, referral help or consults, or anything else for that matter. You will always be a member of the LSU SVM family, and we are here to help.

I WILL see you on the road!

STEPHENSON PET CLINIC BRICK AND PAVER CAMPAIGN



USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO ACCESS THE SITE HERE



Here's your chance to support our new clinic. A purchase of a brick or paver will be a lasting legacy to your SVM graduating class, a classmate, mentor, or beloved pet.

lsu.edu/vetmed/spcgift



GEAUX LSU SVM CLASSES OF 1990 AND 2010: MOST BRICKS PURCHASED SO FAR!

DISTINGUISHED

ALUMNUS 2020

DR. STEPHEN GAUNT

The Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine announces the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus, Stephen Gaunt, DVM. The LSU SVM will present the award to Dr. Gaunt, graduate of the Class of 1977, at the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA) Alumni and Friends Reception hosted as part of the LVMA's meeting in Baton Rouge, La., on April 30, 2021.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was established to recognize LSU SVM alumni for outstanding professional accomplishments, personal achievements, contributions to the community through public service, and support of the LSU SVM.

Gaunt is professor emeritus of veterinary clinical pathology in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the LSU SVM. He graduated from the LSU SVM as a member of the inaugural class. He began his teaching career at LSU in 1983, teaching for 34 continuous years and demonstrating commitment to his alma mater. Gaunt served as section chief of clinical pathology at the LSU SVM for almost his entire career.

Throughout his career, he has taken pride in providing excellent diagnostic service to all clinicians that depend on the Clinical Pathology Laboratory at LSU. The laboratory serves LSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, as well as the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, receiving pathology specimens from practitioners throughout Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region.

Gaunt has a unique ability to motivate and instruct those beginning their career in veterinary medicine, as well as career specialists.

Of his numerous awards, his Outstanding Teaching Award was the most meaningful for him, especially since it was by

vote of students.

"I can honestly say that if it wasn't for his passion for veterinary clinical pathology, I would not have found my calling," said Kaikhushroo Banajee, DVM (LSU SVM 2008), Ph.D., DACVP, of Antech Diagnostics.

His favorite part of his time at the LSU SVM was working with residents trained to specialize in clinical pathology, teaching them how to make clinical diagnoses and write case reports.

One such former resident is Shannon Dehghanpir, DVM (LSU SVM 2013), DACVP, who said, "He challenges his residents to excel, pushing for diagnostic competence and confidence."

Despite a full caseload, Gaunt was never too busy to answer questions from students, interns, residents, or fellow professors. He upheld a commitment to outstanding pathology and was willing to go to great lengths to provide an accurate diagnosis and evaluate several specimens from repeated sampling while maximizing the teaching value of each case.

Gaunt is the recipient of the LSU SVM Service Award, 1999; LSU SVM Dean's Teacher Merit Honor Roll, Year 2 students: 2011-17, Year 4 students: 2015-17; LSU SVM Outstanding Teacher, Class of 2016; and the LSU Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teaching Award, 2016.

**TO READ THE FULL STORY ON
2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
WINNER DR. STEPHEN GAUNT,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**

**[lsu.edu/vetmed/vet_news/
distinguished_alumnus_gaunt.php](https://lsu.edu/vetmed/vet_news/distinguished_alumnus_gaunt.php)**



ALUMNI GIVING

ANOTHER BANNER YEAR OF GIVING

Fiscal year 2020 is now the largest fundraising year for alumni giving in the history of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, in spite of the global pandemic.

Your generosity has helped to bring our new Stephenson Pet Clinic to a reality, with anticipated completion date of December 2021. We were also able to give out well over \$200,000 in scholarships, provide medical care for over 2000 wildlife cases plus many good Samaritan cases, and support many clinical and research initiatives due to gifts from our friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 1977

CLASS AGENT: BOB SIMMONS

Highest percentage of the class participating at 29%

CLASS OF 1993

Highest amount of dollars given at over \$161,000

CLASS GIVING

\$544K+

MORE THAN **DOUBLE** LAST YEAR'S TOTAL!

THANKS TO OUR ALUMNI!

ANNUAL GIVING: Make a Difference!

Please consider making an annual fund gift today to support YOUR school.

With your help, we are taking aim on the future. Along with helping us in our mission of teaching, healing, discovering and protecting, your gift will help to strengthen our national standing among accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

Your gift, in any amount is most welcomed!

If everyone who did NOT give a gift last year just gave \$25 annually, the SVM would be able to create one new endowed scholarship EVERY YEAR! Think about what that would mean to our future veterinarians.

There are many funds to support and many ways to give!

To make a gift online, go here:

lsufoundation.org/VMalumni

and select a fund that is meaningful to you.

You can also send a check, made payable to the LSU Foundation to:

LSU Foundation
3796 Nicholson Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Make sure to designate which fund you would like your gift to support.



SUPPORT YOUR PASSION: OPTIONS FOR GIVING

ALUMNI GIFTS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT

We have developed several creative ways for alumni to help fuel our growth. We have a multitude of giving options that help match you with your unique passion. Here are just a few of the options available to our alumni:



ESTATE GIFTS

A LEGACY GIFT THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

An estate gift to the LSU SVM provides a multitude of options to help young veterinarians, create a positive impact on the profession, and develop new breakthroughs in animal and human health in Louisiana, nationally, and around the world.

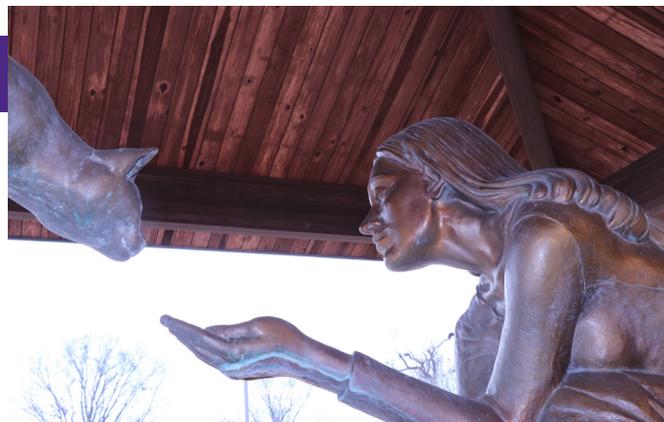
Richard Cambre (left), LSU SVM Class of 1978, has established an estate gift that is designated for the Philanthropic Partners fund, which supports mission-based projects.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A GIFT OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMPASSION

Pet memorial gifts offer one of the most heartfelt ways that you, as a veterinary clinic or individual, can express sympathy to a grieving family, friend, or client in their time of loss.

Pet memorials include a beautiful personalized card from the LSU SVM dean acknowledging the generosity of your gift and the memory of the pet.



DEAN'S CIRCLE GIFTS

IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE MISSION OF THE SVM AND ITS FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Dean's Circle members make annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more to provide outstanding patient care, serve the community, discover new cures, fuel growth of scholarships, and train the next generation of veterinarians.

Natasha Prentiss, SVM Class of 2023, Dean's Circle Scholar

“

“I selected a 'Legacy' or 'Estate' gift as a means of contributing to the SVM when I leave this life for my next adventure. I could never repay the school in full for the opportunities it gave me in life. The Legacy gift is one easy and painless way to express my gratitude.”

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Richard Cambre, LSU SVM Class of 1978

VETMAIL EMAIL SERVER UPDATE

You may have heard that LSU must shut down the vetmail email server due to security issues. We have been working with the LSU Alumni Association to offer an alumni email address that is @alumni.lsu.edu if you want to keep an LSU email address.

The vetmail server will be going away effective May 31, 2021, so you will need to change your email address by that time. If you would like an alumni.lsu.edu address, email Tracy Jones at tracyj@lsualumni.org with three choices of how you want your email address to read (ex. Gretchen1@alumni.lsu.edu). Once the email address is created, Tracy will send the link, password, and new email address to you.

The final and really important final step: notify Gretchen Morgan of your new email. Update us with your new email address here: lsu.edu/vetmed/alumni/keep_in_touch.php or email directly to gmorgan@lsu.edu.

EXTERNSHIPS? JOB OPENINGS? ADVICE? **WE CAN HELP!**

Looking for a job? Need an associate? Specialty consultant? The faculty and staff of the LSU SVM can help you.

Contact Gretchen Morgan by email at gmorgan@lsu.edu or call **225-578-9565** with your request. Gretchen can connect you with resources that can help you best.

To offer externships: lsu.edu/vetmed/employment_opportunities/externships.php#offer_externship

To post employment opportunities: lsu.edu/vetmed/employment_opportunities/submit_job_opening

MEET THE LSU SVM DEVELOPMENT TEAM

In 2020, the LSU SVM and LSU Ag Center Development teams merged under the leadership of Tracy Evans, senior director of development. Meet the whole team!



Tracy Nye Evans

Senior Director of Development
225-578-9870
tracy@lsu.edu



Clayton Forbes

Director of Development
225-578-9826
claytonf@lsu.edu



Andy Schade

Director of Development
225-578-5162
aschade@lsu.edu



Katherine D'Aquila

Director of Development
225-578-6270
kdaquila@agcenter.lsu.edu



Gretchen Morgan, CFRE

Director of Alumni &
Donor Relations
225-578-9565
gmorgan@lsu.edu



Allison Duffy

Assistant Director,
Development Services
225-578-7935
aduffy@lsufoundation.org



Leslie Entremont

Development
Coordinator
225-578-9489
lentremont1@lsu.edu



Snappy & Piccolo

FALL FESTIVAL & Alumni Reunions 2021



November 12-14
LSU VS ARKANSAS WEEKEND

Join us for a fun-packed weekend of reunions, good friends, great memories, laughter, tailgating, and LSU Tiger football! LSU vs Arkansas football game will be played Saturday, November 13th. Kickoff time TBD.

Join Your LSU
Family As We
Celebrate
YOU
Our Alumni!

Mark your calendars now for our fabulous Fall Festival, where we celebrate you, our alumni, with special celebrations for the Classes of 1980/1981, 1985/1986, 1990/1991, 1995/96, 2005/2006, 2010/2011, and 2015/2016!

(Note: Class of 1980 will also hold a Spring 2022 reunion and crawfish boil. Details to come.)

More information on reunion registrations and football ticket reservations will be sent in early summer.





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geauxgive.lsu.edu

WAYS TO CONNECT

The LSU SVM offers many ways for alumni to connect and stay up-to-date on events and happenings at the school. Join our private Facebook group for alumni only and share photos, discuss cases, plan for events, reunite with old friends and more!



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