

# SVM ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2021-22

NEWS FOR ALUMNI BY ALUMNI OF THE UW SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## The Importance of Organized Veterinary Medicine

*An Interview with Drs. Doug and Kimberly Kratt*

As the past year and a half brought innumerable challenges in practice and beyond, often it seemed as though the world was drifting further and further apart. One route for remaining connected to our profession and each other is through organized veterinary medical associations.

During this time, SVM alumnus **Doug Kratt DVM'98** stood at the helm of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as its president. Dr. Kratt has made a tremendous impact on veterinary medicine extending well beyond our state through his leadership within the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association and AVMA — making Wisconsin proud.

Dr. Kratt's term would have typically required about 200 days of travel, but COVID times reduced that significantly and eliminated international meetings. Instead, Dr. Kratt settled in at home in Onalaska, Wisconsin and balanced accomplishing his presidential appointments while continuing clinical practice. His wife and fellow SVM graduate **Kimberly Kratt DVM'00**, co-owner of their clinic, Central Animal Hospital, remained committed to her role within multiple VMA working groups — also mostly virtually.



*Drs. Doug and Kimberly Kratt outside of their practice, Central Animal Hospital.*

Both Kim and Doug began their involvement within organized veterinary medicine at the local and state levels, serving on the WVMA's Executive Committee in multiple roles.

“Being involved in veterinary medical associations takes us from our bubble on a day to day basis and makes it much broader — it introduces us to a whole group of challenges that we haven't seen before,” Kim says.

She never expected her involvement to have such a profound impact on her life, having initially volunteered as an effort to expand her viewpoint and give back to the profession. She realized that “there is so much more out there, we can help animals with a more global perspective and servant leadership mindset.”

Doug had launched his involvement with a similar approach of advocating for the future of our veterinary profession and being good stewards of veterinary medicine. “I didn't want outsiders to begin taking control of

### Coming soon:

## **SVM Alumni Association**

This past September, the Alumni Advisory Board was excited to meet in-person for the first time in two years. One of the results of our meeting was the idea that we should form an alumni association for the School of Veterinary Medicine. Currently, the board is working on the details of how to best do this and what the function and role of the SVM Alumni Association will be. We will hopefully be announcing more details soon. If you have any ideas or would like to participate in the formation of the association, please e-mail the board at [uwsvmalumni@gmail.com](mailto:uwsvmalumni@gmail.com).

decision making for our profession, so I stepped up.”

Veterinary medical organizations are comprised of diverse groups of individuals from multiple facets of the profession, working together to address critical issues within our field. Current topics include promoting wellbeing within the veterinary field for all team members, empowering CVTs in practice, supporting clinics against cyberbullying, and aiding students in managing debt. Associations allow many resources to be available to practitioners and office managers, one example being the AVMA’s Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program, focused on employing methods to cultivate a more positive and supportive work environment. Both Kim and Doug agree that the focus on long term retention of veterinary teams is crucial. The AVMA is working with the AAVMC and multiple committees to brainstorm the many issues currently

allowing a drain effect of CVTs and DVMs from the profession. Doug highlights the multidisciplinary partnerships required to address issues across veterinary medicine and beyond. At the start of the pandemic, “the AVMA was able to assist in mobilizing diagnostic labs, modifying screening testing for COVID-19, supporting vaccine development and supplying a safe food supply while upholding animal welfare as processing plants closed down — veterinary medicine was crucial in helping navigate those situations.”

Other partnerships within Washington, D.C., allow veterinary medicine to have a strong foothold within legislation, with some political actions having a ripple effect across our whole profession.

Doug emphasizes that “it is important as alumni of the UW that we support the programs we came from — like staying informed about the expansion of the hospital. Higher

education and proper funding is extremely important for the communities and the state in which we live. Being a member of professional organizations helps to advocate for the profession. It is an obligation that we carry when we enter veterinary school.”

As we attempt to semi-normalize, consider exploring your local VMA, becoming involved in an organization or utilizing the resources the AVMA’s website offers. Involvement can be as simple as annual membership, which allows members to have a voice in decision making, remain current on useful information, utilize CE opportunities and engage in networking events. Dues funds are critical for the functioning of VMAs and to ensure forward progress.

“Starting with local / state involvement is crucial for advocating for positive and meaningful growth of our profession in the future. If no one steps up, we have to ask ourselves — who will carry it forward?”

## Meet Your Alumni Board

### Jennifer Lorenz, DVM’09

After graduating in 2009, Jennifer Lorenz worked briefly in Florida, and then Pennsylvania, as an equine veterinarian before returning to southern Wisconsin to start her own practice, Capital Performance Veterinary Services.

Since starting her practice, she has become more interested in pain management and rehab services, becoming certified in Veterinary Medical Acupuncture, Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy and most recently Canine Rehabilitation, with plans on becoming certified in Equine Rehabilitation soon.

She is currently working out of her clinic in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. In addition to practicing veterinary medicine, she has recently started breeding horses, and her first Connemara foal should be arriving next spring.



Since joining the Alumni Advisory Board in 2013, Jennifer has seen it evolve and become more involved in the SVM alumni community, and she is excited to see what will happen next.

# Alumni Award Recipients

## Distinguished Service Award

Myron Kebus MS'90, DVM'92



**Myron Kebus** serves as the aquaculture program veterinarian with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Kebus has been a pioneer in developing fish health-related regulations and training programs for veterinarians in fish health medicine and for fish farmers in preventing the spread of disease in aquaculture. Kebus is a founding member and

past president of the American Association of Fish Veterinarians and continues to present lectures and mentor association members. He is also past chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Committee, served as liaison for the AVMA Environmental Issues Committee and has represented veterinarians in the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section. An honorary fellow in the UW School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Pathobiological Sciences, Kebus and Professor Emeritus **Michael Collins** have taught a fish health selective course for veterinary medical students since 2005. Several students credit the class with inspiring them to become fish veterinarians and helping to establish longstanding mentoring relationships with Kebus.

## Young Alumni Award

Katie Kuehl DVM'12



**Katie Kuehl** is an assistant professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department at the Washington State University (WSU) College of Veterinary Medicine. She is the director of the WSU Shelter Medicine program at Seattle Humane where she works side-by-side with fourth-year veterinary students to give them hands-on training in shelter medicine and community

outreach. Kuehl also leads the One Health Clinic veterinary team. This partnership with the University of Washington and Neighborhood Health provides integrated medical care for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and their pets and allows students to collaborate interprofessionally. She is currently conducting research with the University of Washington Center for One Health Research and Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab on pets and coronavirus. Kuehl received the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association 2020 WSU Faculty Member of the Year Award. She is also president of the Board of Trustees of the Washington State Animal Health Foundation which is preparing to launch a new access to care resource, the Vets Helping Pets Fund.

## Founders Award

Bernard Easterday MS'58, PhD'61 and Susan Hyland MS'73, PhD'78



*Bernard Easterday, alumnus and nominator Scott Spaulding DVM'91, and Susan Hyland.*

**Bernard Easterday** and **Susan Hyland** were recognized for their integral role in establishing the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and setting the stage for the school's success. Both Easterday and Hyland are graduates of the UW-Madison Department of Veterinary Science, the precursor to the SVM's Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program. Easterday held his position as founding dean until retiring in 1994, overseeing many notable achievements as the school continued to grow its strong international reputation in research, education and clinical care. Hyland served as the school's first associate dean for academic affairs from 1983 to 2006, supporting students with dedication, compassion and guidance throughout and beyond the rigorous four-year DVM curriculum.

If you have someone you would like to nominate for an alumni award you can submit nominations online at [www.vetmed.wisc.edu/svm-alumni-awards](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/svm-alumni-awards). The nomination deadline for the 2022 awards is April 1, 2022. If you have any questions regarding nominations please e-mail us at [uwsvmalumni@gmail.com](mailto:uwsvmalumni@gmail.com).

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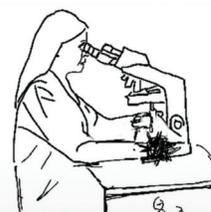
## FORWARD TOGETHER

John Hallett DVM'90 is making progress toward bringing his vision to life in a bronze art piece capturing the spirit of education, research and community at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. The sculpture, titled **Forward Together**, will be installed in the courtyard joining the current and new Veterinary Medicine buildings.

All gifts to the project will be doubled through the \$100,000 **Margo and Jack Edl Match**, and will directly support the cost of creating and installing the sculpture.

"Seeing John's sculpture take shape brings me back to my student days and the bonds formed with my classmates as we worked toward our shared dream of becoming veterinarians. These classmates, and the school's faculty and staff, have become lifelong friends, colleagues and mentors throughout my career," says **Ann Sherwood Zieser DVM'90**.

"Giving to Forward Together is an opportunity to give back to the school, to support to the creativity of my classmate,



and to inspire future students who will make their own impacts on animal and human health."

### LEARN MORE & MAKE A GIFT

Visit [supportuw.org/giveto/svmsculpture](https://supportuw.org/giveto/svmsculpture) or contact Pat Bowdish at [pat.bowdish@supportuw.org](mailto:pat.bowdish@supportuw.org) or 608.332.4750.