

SVM ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2023

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

A Letter from the SVM Alumni Board:

Dear fellow alumni and current students of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine,

I am pleased to be back serving on the board of the School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association (SVMAA) after a 2-year sabbatical. For those of you who are not familiar with me, I have a significant history with the UWSVM. I received my DVM in 1990 and my PhD in 1999. I am also on the SVM Board of Visitors. Although I am currently living in Georgia, I have strong ties to Wisconsin and specifically UWSVM.

My thanks to Jennifer and the rest of the group for taking over in my absence. I'm impressed with the progress that the group has made. I'm excited about the momentum and the interesting activities we are engaged in.

A quick summary of projects we are discussing:

- Scholarship Programs: there has been interest from alumni in expanding the existing scholarships
- Alumni Store: online store for alumni to purchase school merchandise
- Mentorship programs

To get more details to find out if you might be interested in participating in one of these programs feel free to call in to our next meeting or contact one of us on the board.

I look forward to working with all of you and hearing your thoughts. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,
Diane L. Larsen, DVM, PhD
UWSVMalumni@gmail.com

On, Wisconsin!
Your SVM Alumni Board



- Tom Bach DVM'94
- Holly Hovanec DVM'18
- Jennifer Lorenz DVM'09
- Debra Olbrich DVM'07
- Brad Poff DVM'87
- Kathy Reilly DVM'90
- Ann Sherwood Zieser DVM'90
- Ty Vannieuwenhoven DVM'89

SVMAA Meeting

When: June 2, 2023 at 12:00 pm CDT

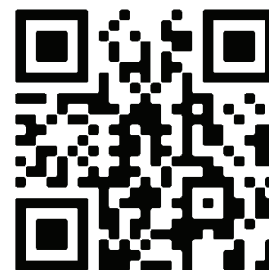
Where: Participate in person at the School of Veterinary Medicine or remotely

For remote meeting access, contact Kristi Thorson, Associate Dean
kristi.thorson@wisc.edu

SVMAA - Join or Renew Now

Benefits include:

- Invitation to the school's annual Dean's Luncheon (held in September)
- Invitation to attend SVMAA meetings
- A great way to have a voice in supporting the school, alumni, and the students



Construction Update

Kristi V. Thorson, Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

Construction on the school's addition broke ground nearly two years ago and we look forward to moving into the new north building later this year. This 140,000 square foot facility will allow us to double the size of the small animal hospital. Among many improvements, we will have more exam room space and dedicated rounds rooms for our students. The new building will house a significantly expanded ER and CCU and will also have an intermediate care ward.

The addition, which will be connected to our existing building, will also have more collaborative and conference room spaces, faculty offices to ensure access for our students, and new laboratories. New amenities will include a Badger Market and a rooftop terrace, both available to faculty, staff, students and clients.



Renovations in our existing building have already begun and we recently installed new CT and MRI machines in remodeled spaces. These are available for both small and large animal use. Future renovations will allow us to install a PET/CT machine next year. Improved facilities for our large animal patients and clients include a large covered indoor arena and completely remodeled large animal isolation. Renovations will be completed in early 2025.

To follow along with our progress, you can visit www.animalsneedheroestoo.com for construction camera footage, progress photos, and floor plans of the new spaces.

Alumni Spotlight // Mary Sarah Bergh DVM'03



Alumni are continually doing amazing things after leaving the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. One such story comes from 2003 alum Dr. Mary Sarah Bergh. Since graduating from the UW-SVM she has completed an internship at the University of Pennsylvania, a research fellowship at the University of Georgia, and a small animal surgery residency and Masters of Science degree at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bergh was a tenured Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and the Director of the Canine Rehabilitation Center at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and is currently working in private practice. She is an active faculty member and educator in AOVET and is an experienced and internationally recognized speaker and mentor, having produced over 200 publications, presentations, and book chapters. Dr. Bergh is currently one of only a handful of dual board certified small animal surgeons (DACVS 2009) and Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation specialists (DACVSMR 2012) in the Midwest, and she is the only one in her home state of Wisconsin.

Most recently, Dr Bergh has opened Midwest Veterinary Specialists and Frontier Veterinary Urgent Care. The two clinics operate separately but share the same building in Greenfield WI. Both practices are bringing new ideas in practice to the veterinary world. Midwest



Alumni Spotlight *(contd.)*

Veterinary Specialist is focused on the surgical, sports medicine and rehabilitation needs of patients while Frontier Veterinary Urgent Care is working to bridge the gap between primary care and emergency medicine.

Dr. Bergh wanted to start her own practice because she had a clear vision of the quality of care she wanted to provide her patients. As a surgeon, sports medicine & rehab specialist, she has a unique perspective and passion for working closely with the owner to treat the whole patient from diagnosis to full recovery. Since she couldn't find a practice that truly embraced this concept, she decided to open her own. She has equipped the practice with everything needed for the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal and neurological issues, including advanced imaging, diverse surgical and non-surgical treatment options, and a fully equipped physical rehabilitation center.

She is loving the freedom allowing her to have the creative and decision making power to enact her vision. "The best part of the job is seeing a patient that is in pain or having mobility issues and having capability to diagnose the problem, counsel the owner, and tailor a treatment plan specifically for that patient to allow a return to comfortable movement, so they can live their best life – we can do that all under one roof! I love seeing my staff get excited about this, too, and having them see the positive impact we can make on pets, their owners, and the human-animal bond."

While surgery and rehab may be Dr. Bergh's passion, she also saw a need for a new type of practice. Because general practitioners have a heavy case load, often not allowing for add-on appointments, and seeing the extended wait times in local ERs, the idea for an urgent care practice was formed. Frontier works closely with local veterinarians to see non-emergent cases such as ear infections, wounds, allergic reactions, dietary indiscretion, urinary issues and more, in a timely manner, while transferring the stabilized case back to the primary vet for ongoing care. This allows ERs to focus on life-threatening ER cases and general practices to maintain a better workflow and serve their clients efficiently.

While starting both practices Dr. Bergh has realized how important it is to have a team you can trust and delegate responsibilities to. "When starting a new business, there is so much to do (think design & construction, financial planning & banking, HR & staffing) and so many moving parts. There are just not enough hours in the day to do everything myself!" Advice for anyone who has similar ambitions is to "Surround yourself with a great team. No one can possibly do it alone. Your team should be comprised of experts in the fields that you are not and they will make sure your plan is viable, financially sound, and that you are ready to support employees in meaningful ways."

If you would like to learn more about Midwest Veterinary Specialist or Frontier Veterinary Urgent Care you can check out the web sites for each. midwestveterinaryspecialists.com and frontierveturgentcare.com

Don't forget to RSVP!

Alumni Reunion

JUNE 24, 2023

MADISON, WISCONSIN





**School of
Veterinary Medicine**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2015 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1102

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**Check out the Alumni
Storytelling Project!**

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