



St. George's University

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Grenada, West Indies



WHITE COAT CEREMONY



SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022

Patrick F. Adams Hall
True Blue Campus, Grenada

PROGRAM

- Procession Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DACVM, DEVPC
Senior Associate Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
St. George's University
- Master of Ceremonies Kerri Nigito, DVM, CPH, MPH, DABVP
Assistant Professor, Large Animal Medicine and Surgery,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
- Remarks Glen Jacobs, DEd
Provost, St. George's University
- Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker Neil C. Olson, DVM, PhD
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
St. George's University
- Keynote Speaker Ruby Perry, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVR
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine,
Tuskegee University
- Announcer Tara Paterson, DVM, MSc
Associate Professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University
- Individual Presentation of White Coats Dr. Ruby Perry, Dr. Kerri Nigito,
Dr. Muhammad I. Bhaiyat, Dr. Diana Stone, Dr. Hugo Fonseca,
Dr. Wayne Sylvester, Dr. Stacey Byers
- Professional Commitment Amanda Marancik, DVM
Assistant Professor, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery,
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RUBY. L. PERRY, DVM, MS, PHD, DACVR



Dr. Ruby Perry is dean and professor of veterinary radiology at the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. She wears the hat of several firsts—the first alumna to be named both interim dean and dean of a US veterinary school; the first female African American board-certified veterinary radiologist in the American College of Veterinary Radiology; and most recently, the first veterinary alumna to serve as acting president for Tuskegee University during the president's medical leave.

Dr. Perry is a dual graduate of Tuskegee University where she received her undergraduate degree and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. She has held several positions at Tuskegee including interim chief of staff, vice-provost of undergraduate education, associate dean for academic affairs, assistant veterinary radiology professor, and acting chair of the Department of Small Animal Medicine, Surgery and Radiology.

Additionally, Dr. Perry has served in a variety of leadership roles such as president of the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association, program coordinator for the American College of Veterinary Radiology, and she was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission. She has also served on various professional committees, task groups, and advisory roles for many students and student organizations—recently, she was honored with the Zoetis Champion of Diversity Award.

Before returning to Tuskegee University, Dr. Perry was a faculty member at Michigan State University for 20 years. There, she served as section chief of veterinary radiology and earned tenure as an associate professor of veterinary radiology.

Dr. Perry is currently president-elect of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Board of Directors, where she previously served as past secretary. She is also co-chair of the AVMA-AAVMC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.

Actively engaged in community service, Dr. Perry focuses on increasing awareness of the veterinary profession and advancing veterinary medical education. She is married to Dr. Winston Felton who is also a veterinarian and a Tuskegee University alum. She has three children: Benjamin, Alvin, and Christina, as well as 10 grandchildren.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

KERRI NIGITO, DVM '09, CPH, MPH, DABVP



Kerri Nigito, DVM '09, is assistant professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery. Her interests include food animal production medicine, food safety, and public health. Her research focus is production medicine in developing countries and food safety, in particular antibiotic and anthelmintic residues of food products.

Dr. Nigito earned her Bachelor of Science from Allegheny College before obtaining her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from St. George's University in 2009. Since becoming a full-time faculty member at SGU in 2018, she has also obtained her Master of Public Health at SGU and is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in food animal practice.

Prior to joining SGU, Dr. Nigito was in private practice, first in dairy practice and then in mixed animal practice, shelter practice, and relief medicine. Her broad experience provides a unique and comparative perspective of large animal practice and education.

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS

Calvin M. Johnson, DVM, PhD, DACVP (March 2022)
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

Calvin M. Johnson, DVM, PhD, DACVP (August 2021)
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

John A. Howe, DVM, CertAqV (January 2021)
AVMA Past President

Sarah Ballie, BSc, BVSc, MSc (IT), PhD, PFHEA, MRCVS (February 2020)
Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Education, University of Bristol

Willie M. Reed, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACPV (August 2019)
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University

Janet D. Donlin, DVM (February 2019)
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary Medical Association

Andrew T. Maccabe, DVM, MPH, JD (September 2018)
Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Ronald K. Cott, DVM (January 2018)
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, Advancement Consultant,
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri

Kent Hoblet, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM (September 2017)
Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

Douglas A. Freeman, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT (January 2017)
Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Sheila W. Allen, DVM, MS (August 2016)
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Trevor Ames, DVM, MS, DACVIM (January 2016)
Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

Clark Fobian, DVM (August 2015)
Owner/Veterinarian, Companion Animal Practice,
Thompson Hills Animal Clinic
Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Donald F. Smith, DVM, Diplomate ACVS (January 2015)

Professor of Surgery, Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

Raymond F. Sis, BS, DVM, MS, PhD (August 2014)

Dean Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

Theodore J. Cohn, DVM (January 2014)

President-Elect, American Veterinary Medical Association

Lila T. Miller, BS, DVM (August 2013)

Vice President, Veterinary Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Rene A. Carlson, DVM (January 2013)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Jan K. Strother, DVM (August 2012)

Vice President, American Veterinary Association

Tim Ogilvie, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM (January 2012)

Past Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

Marguerite Pappaioanou, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM (August 2011)

Executive Director, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

Gary Brown, BS, DVM (January 2011)

Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Bonnie Beaver, BS, DVM, MS (August 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

James Cook, DVM (January 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Alan M. Kelly, BSc, BVSc, PhD (August 2009)

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus and Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Gregory S. Hammer, DVM (January 2009)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

Charles M. Hendrix, DVM, PhD (August 2008)

Professor, Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine,
Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Larry R. Corry, DVM (January 2008)

Chair, Executive Board, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Roger K. Mahr, DVM (August 2007)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Ralph C. Richardson, DVM (January 2007)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

Sam H. Ridgway, DVM, PhD (August 2005)

Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of California

Oscar J. Fletcher, DVM, MS, PhD (February 2005)

Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

Samuel E. Strahm, DVM (August 2004)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Richard M. Linnehan, DVM (January 2004)

Astronaut, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Jack O. Walther, DVM (August 2003)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

J. Stephen Ware, BVM&S, MRCVS (January 2003)

President, Royal College Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

John A. Schmitz, DVM, PhD (August 2002)

Head, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences,
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Hugh Bilson Lewis, BVMS, MRCVS, Dipl. ACVP (January 2002)

Senior Vice President, Practice Development,
Medical Management International, Banfield – The Pet Hospital

Michael J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH (August 2001)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

G. RICHARD OLDS, MD, MACP

It is a great honor to be a part of this University and to welcome you as you take your first step in this noble journey. Today should have special meaning to both you and your families, in that it symbolizes your entry into the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians in training are afforded very special privileges. Taking on the mantle of doctors also carries great responsibilities. Although you may not in the beginning know a great deal about veterinary medicine, you will be expected to hold yourselves to the very highest standards of integrity, honesty, and compassion. Today is but the first step in what I hope is a great career.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)

I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. As you receive these white coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

NEIL C. OLSON, DVM, PHD

This White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic representation of your entry into the profession of veterinary medicine and a demonstration of your commitment to upholding the code of professional conduct expected of medical professionals.

It is my privilege to welcome you to St. George's University and your next step along the road to becoming a veterinarian. I request that you honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal we must continuously aim to achieve.

The experiences you will have at St. George's University will serve to enrich you personally and professionally. You have all worked diligently to become veterinary medical students, and I wish you every success as you strive to excel in your pursuit of the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for your career.

THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the veterinary profession. St. George's University embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 2001.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the veterinary medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our DVM students into the veterinary profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who, twice a year, inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

HONOR CODE

ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, an institution of higher learning dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe professionals who exhibit maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To refrain from violation of these ideals by cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and
- To accept the responsibility of reporting wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Being accepted into the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to further my knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will conduct my studies conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept my responsibility to assist my colleagues to achieve our mutual goals.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University's Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times.

It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a veterinarian. I will be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.