NEW SAVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE ACADEMIC HUB IS NOW OPEN

SHEVAUN JOHNSON SEVENTH SEMESTER SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI CORNER: DR. TOBY GOLDMAN

SEA TURTLE MONITORING

BASSETTERE ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE (BARC)
A Message from the Associate Dean for Research & Postgraduate Studies

Dr. A. Lee Willingham  BSc, DVM, PhD

I’m Dr. Arve Lee Willingham, associate dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies and professor of One Health at our University. As many of you know, the Research department is committed to improving the health of our local, regional and global communities through excellence in research. We have a proud history of attracting and nurturing researchers from all over the world. We also take pride in working with talented students who are creating solutions to solve many of the global health problems that affect our communities.

We are focused on strengthening our research culture and building on our rich history of collaboration. This is a culture that celebrates strong partnerships and collaborations. For, it is only when we capitalize on our partnerships that we can create lasting changes within our communities.

I ask as you excel in your studies that you remember that you hold the solution to at least one global health concern in our world. What you study as you pursue your DVM and/or postgraduate studies ties into the One Health approach that we celebrate here at RUSVM. Health of people will always be connected to the health of the environment and animals. What you are studying is not in isolation – we can only gain optimal health outcomes by recognizing the interconnectedness of people, animals, plants and the environment and our interdependence on each other.

With this in mind, I encourage you to learn more about our research centers and explore how you can collaborate with us.
Where are you from? Where’s home?
Home is where everyone wants to vacation, right here in Lodge project, Saint Kitts!

Where did you go to undergrad and what degree did you earn?
I did my undergrad in Guyana in Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health.

What made you choose RUSVM?
After visiting RUSVM’s annual open house in 2013, I knew that I belonged here. For the past ten years, I worked with RUSVM students during their ambulatory rotations. The students were impressive and extremely knowledgeable in both small and large animal fields. I knew I wanted to join them.

What is your ultimate career goal with your DVM?
I want to come back to St. Kitts to work for the Ministry of Agriculture helping the local farmers improve the health and production status of their livestock while working with RUSVM on the research into the bacterial disease Dermatophilosis that is currently plaguing our Bovine population.

What has been your favorite part about living on St. Kitts?
I can get to anywhere on the island within forty minutes and I have my immediate family here supporting.

What advice do you have for students coming to RUSVM and St. Kitts?
Make a bucket list as soon as you get to St. Kitts and complete everything on it! Too many students literally come here and do nothing, but drive from school to home and vice versa. They are missing out on all the beauty and treasures of this St. Kitts.

What has been your favorite course at RUSVM and why?
Gross Anatomy. I feel like it was the class that made veterinary school real for me because it was 90% hands on and it still serves as the backbone for most of the classes I’ve taken. I am sure I will use anatomy everyday of my career.

What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at RUSVM?
I was a TA and tutor for Pathology 2. I also tutored Anatomy 1, 2, and Parasitology. I was an active member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, and Diagnostic Imaging club. I also served as a research assistant under Dr. Pompei Bolfa, Dr. Toka, Dr. Brady Little and Dr. Illanes on various projects.

If you could thank one person for all you have achieved so far, who would that be and why?
The one person I would thank for all I have achieved thus far is God himself, for his guidance and protection throughout my journey.
On, Wednesday, February 13
PASS hosted a Family
Feud-style gameshow
that featured questions
from veterinarian medicine,
professionalism, and
life in St. Kitts.

The Spring semester concluded with the swearing in of a new SAVMA Executive Board (in order photographed, from left): Japinder Grewal, Student Wellness Officer; Kenwar Kahlon & Shelby Fincher, Activities Directors; Junior Saint Preux, President; Bronwyn Turner, Senior Delegate; Joshua Taylor, Vice President; Justine Kwicinski, Junior Delegate; Manisha Kukreja, Parliamentarian; Ireland Castillo, Secretary; Carly Levinstein, Webmaster; Esmeralda Cano, Cultural Outreach Officer; (Not pictured: Gretchen Yinger, Treasurer)
The ‘Academic Hub’ is now open

The Academic Hub opened during the Spring semester. The building includes five study rooms that are suitable for small group study (4–6 persons each) and individual quiet study. In addition, the ground-floor conference room, which can accommodate more people, is also available for study after noon on weekdays and all day on weekends.
Celebrate and honor with the Diversity Committee

The RUSVM Diversity Committee recognizes various special dates and moments. The committee is dedicated to sharing information with students so they become well-rounded, culturally-aware professionals.

Black History Month movie night

Women’s History Month Featuing Drs. Vieira, Sample and Becker

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Valentine’s Day Photo Contest

Kim Collins, fastest man over 40, visited campus

On February 20, Kim Collins, and his wife Paula, came to RUSVM to share health and wellness tips. Mr. Collins is a native of St. Kitts and in 2003 became the World Champion in the 100M. He competed in eight consecutive World Championships between 1997 and 2011. He also competed in 2015 in Beijing. He was the oldest man, age 40, to break the 10-second barrier with his personal best of 9.93.

Paula Collins is a fitness trainer and International Association of Athletics Federations (I.A.A.F.) certified coach. She was also the winner of the 2015 Miss Jamaica Bikini Fitness contest.
Dr. Toby Goldman
The secrets to health and happiness

A former juggling performer, Dr. Toby Goldman regaled our incoming students with insightful truths about his beloved veterinary career at the January 2019 White Coat ceremony. Dr. Goldman is a hospice veterinarian for Lap of Love in the Las Vegas area. He graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1992. At the beginning of his career, Dr. Goldman worked in the San Francisco Bay Area, a busy practice in Cincinnati Ohio, and moved to Las Vegas in 1995.

A Nevada licensed and USDA accredited veterinarian, he has worked as an associate, practice owner, and Animal Emergency Center board member and president. Dr. Toby has consulted for entertainers, hotels, zoos, and the state veterinary board. He has cared for many “exotic” and zoo species, including fish. He often speaks, writes, and performs for groups, clubs, and schools. Appearing in television, radio, online, and print, he has educated and commented on a wide variety of topics.

Dr. Toby remains fondly attached to the island of St. Kitts and his alma mater. His first memories of his time on island are the sounds of the steel band music and the mighty chorus of the tiny singing frogs, both of which he misses dearly.

Dr. Toby’s veterinary interests include traditional and holistic medicine, using a common sense scientifically-based approach. He loves to talk about recognizing and managing pain, and uses spinal adjustments, acupuncture, herbs, and supplements.

He is an active road and trail runner with his Australian Cattle Dog Brizzie, playing softball, racquetball, hiking, snow skiing, boating, scuba diving, and riding his ATV. He also likes playing his guitar and ukulele, singing, painting, and travel and he is fluent in sign and worked as a sign language interpreter for the deaf, entertainer, Teacher, and Travel Counselor. His personal mission statement is “to create love, magic, and passion, by sharing my authentic self.”

During his keynote speech, Dr. Toby shared: “Our patients teach us two important secrets to health and happiness. The first one is to keep moving. Every day is not full of puppies and kittens and rainbows, so move more like water...you are worth it. The second secret is to lose the fear. As a hospice veterinarian, fear and death are silent companions. When I feel grateful, there is no room for feeling fear, and I am immortal. Animals don’t fear death, and now is only what matters. [...] Tread lightly on the land, water, reef, and be extra careful on the road. [...] Sustain your long run one step at a time with courage, grace, and strength, to really live until you finally stop moving. Be mindful doctors, stay awake, pay attention, on purpose, without judgement, as if your life depends on it.”
Featured Colleagues

ISHA WEBSTER
Student Experience Specialist/Bureau

GLENDICIA PAUL
Customer Service Representative

What services do you provide to the students? We assist with the management of student and Club accounts. We also provide answers to general questions and give directions.

What advice do you have for students in regards to working with your department? Visit us in the Student and Research Administration Building. We are here to answer questions, provide guidance, or referrals as appropriate.

Is there something students or colleagues can do to make your job easier? Don’t wait if you have questions. The sooner you come in, the quicker we can help resolve your concern.

What is the most common question you are asked? Where is xyz’s office?

Living better with the Wellness Committee

The RUSVM Student Wellness Committee is dedicated to the support and promotion of student health and wellness. The SAYMA Student Wellness Officer acts as a liaison to student health services, the Counseling Center, RUSVM Gym, and other wellness resources. The Wellness Committee hosts “stress buster” activities to reduce stress around final exams. The Wellness Committee also hosts a Biggest Shredder, a fitness challenge to promote physical health and wellness.

Make Your Own Stressballs

Puppy Therapy

Kitten Therapy

Positive Image Board

One Health Fair

Inspirational Chalk Walk
St. Kitts’ first animal shelter is under construction

Basseterre Animal Rescue Centre (BARC)

Plans are being finalized for the Basseterre Animal Rescue Centre (BARC), St. Kitts’s first-ever animal shelter. B.A.R.C., the self-supporting animal centre, will rescue dogs and cats from around the island. Animals will receive health-care and rehabilitation, and they will be prepared to thrive in their home environments. The shelter will not only make a huge difference for the animals and people of St. Kitts, but it will also provide an amazing learning opportunity for Rossies who will be able to support the shelter with their skills.

More information can be found online at www.barcstkitts.com.
The PASS program had 33 students complete their certificates during the spring semester of 2019.

The Inaugural Spring Open House was a success!

On March 21 and 22, RUSVM welcomed over 70 visitors on campus for our first, Spring Open House. Prospective students and their parents toured our community. This opportunity gave them the chance to better appreciate our operations, culture, and facilities here at RUSVM.
The St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network (SKSTMN) was created in 2003, after a student interested in volunteering to help with island sea turtles discovered there was not an organization in place on the island. The group has grown each year, and now approximately 20 students each semester assist with sea turtle monitoring and care on island.

SKSTMN is a community-based nonprofit that monitors nesting sea turtle populations and acts as an advocate for the strengthening of sea turtle protection laws. In partnership with the St. Kitts Department of Marine Resources and national, regional and international agencies, SKSTMN monitors leatherback nesting beaches, conducting early morning and night surveys and tagging. Leatherback nesting season has begun, and the SKSTMN has located four leatherback nests so far this season.

If you are interested in observing sea turtles nesting, please contact the Sea Turtle Hotline at (869)764-6664.
Before moving to St. Kitts first-semester Rossie, Delia Large-Hart, worked in veterinary diagnostics and endocrinology research. After fourteen years of work, she made the decision to return to school to complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DMV) degree program at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM).

Delia enjoys the cultural diversity and warmth of St. Kitts and has begun exploring the hidden treasures of the island.

A few of her favorite things to do include hiking the Nevis Peak and Mount Liamigua volcano, the two highest peaks on St. Kitts and Nevis.

She also enjoys racing at Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and running in several island marathons. Her love for adventure has led her to run the entire island of St. Kitts and the peninsula — why? Because she simply loves running.

“Running makes me happy. And I love to see new places and meet cool people. It’s a way to see parts of the island you may not know. I use running as a way to explore.”

“When I decided to come to school here, I started planning how to run around the whole island and then around the peninsula. I had a couple friends who agreed to run as well—Rossie, Hannah Adamson ran 30 miles around island main road; it was her longest run to date and she crushed it. Rossie, Audrey Bolanos agreed to run the peninsula with me so I’d have a friend in the evening. Then when Jeffrey Fazio, student engagement and professional standards specialist—RUSVM, found out about the run, he offered to follow on his scooter and be a mobile aid station! His wife also joined us. Running the entire island would not have been possible without their help and encouragement. I’m also happy that while I was running, I received good mornings, high fives, and friendly honks from locals.”