

## Special Interest Articles:

- VIN and SVECCS
- More on Fundraising!
- The Caribbean Connection

## Individual Highlights:

VIN 1-2

LSU & OVC

Events 3

NCSU & UCD

Events 4

The Caribbean

Connection 5

Election Details 6

## National Officer Updates



President Joseph D'Abbraccio is proud of his accomplishments this term. Most recently he, with the help of Vice President Amanda Moon, has expanded the externship base exponentially. Within the first week of posting on VIN, 70 responses for available externships have been added to the database from all over the world. The next outreach will be to the 4,000 VECCS members which is certain to be lucrative. Additionally, Joe has secured a new communication modality with VIN that will provide chapters with a more fluid method of communication (see more with VIN article). On the fundraising front Joe has brokered a deal with an outside apparel company. This partnership will allow SVECCS chapters the ability to order a variety of paraphernalia to fundraise for their chapters.

Last, but not least, he has developed a case challenge linking SVECCS with IVECCS where the winner will present their unique case to a room full of colleagues at the annual conference. Joe is still hard at work and hopes to complete the redesigning of the website, make a master calendar of all chapter events and establish a national SVECCS fund to assist chapters in sending members to IVECCS or to help fund guest lecturers.

Vice President Amanda Moon, along with executing the externship expansion has dedicated herself to revising the national survey and increasing communications between the national board and student chapters. Amanda continues to generate awareness of our national SVECCS facebook page along with working with VIN to provide chapters with a more efficient way of communicating.

Secretary Cyndi Fichtner has diligently been updating our contact list. It's a big job considering the changeover of officers each year. She plans on completing the list in its entirety and setting up protocol

for all chapters to follow so that each future transition is accurate and timely.

Member-at-Large Diya Sharma has organized the website with the most current information to date and has made sure the dissemination of information throughout our site is accurate. In the next couple months she will continue to provide members with the most recent and relevant information, solidify the SVECCS chapter contacts, as well as provide the website with a more creative design.

As the second Member-at-Large I have accomplished my goal of revamping *Vital Signs*. I am pleased to have increased chapter participation in each newsletter and incorporate stories of national and international interest. I had hoped to produce three newsletters during my term, and am well on my way to accomplishing that goal. I strive to continue the momentum of chapter contribution in the third issue and hope that participation increases for future issues to come.

## VIN: Communication, Internships and More!

VIN – Veterinary Information Network is a tool every veterinary medical professional, and student alike, should take advantage of. It is a huge resource for research and source of communication

with colleagues. VIN has a *Student Center* with message boards, journal abstracts, a library, a link to PubMed and much more. The new edition of Plumb's is even available to view. Additionally,

there is a *Specialty Center* with access to information on cardiology, ophthalmology, oncology, surgery, ECC etc.

VIN is also a great database for internships.

## VIN: Cont'd



Accessing the message boards can provide you with advice on how to be a good applicant along with the ability to receive advice from DVMs, current residents and interns. Try out beta.vin.com for the newest features available to the network.

SVECCS has teamed with VIN to provide a dynamic way for all chapters to communicate with one another. With the phase out of Google.Wave we wanted to provide our members with an easy, fluid and valuable way

to exchange information. VIN seems the most natural place to convene since it is a centralized connection to the veterinary community. There is a *Conference Room* where discussions can happen in "real time," as well as the ability to provide a daily digest of communication on a thread of interest. The group that was created is solely for SVECCS members only. This is in addition to all the benefits you have as a member.

VIN is free to join, so make sure

to sign up today: [www.vin.com](http://www.vin.com) Students may also benefit from the CE (continuing education) classes that are provided on the main VIN site. If there is space available, students may take the class without charge. Of paramount benefit is the NAVLE review course offered, of which there is a nominal fee. We will soon provide your chapter officers on the link to the SVECCS VIN group. We are currently refining everything so that you have a smooth transition to your new communication network!

Every chapter can earn up to 15% of all merchandise sales from their students.



[http://everydayapparelinc.com/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=125&zenid=edb0dafd35e05e8e4a2adfb9906ea482](http://everydayapparelinc.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=125&zenid=edb0dafd35e05e8e4a2adfb9906ea482)

## NSVECCS Fundraising Opportunity

An exciting opportunity for fundraising has just been made easier! Everyday Apparel has teamed up with NSVECCS to offer every chapter a 15% discount from their website merchandise.

Available items include: scrubs, coveralls, messenger bags, stethoscopes, t-shirts, sweatshirts, lab coats and much more!

This is a wonderful and easy opportunity to raise funds for your chapter especially if you

do not have the funds to keep large quantities of stock on hand.

Your chapter provides a promotional code upon ordering to receive the discount, and the items are sold to your students at your discretion.

If interested, please contact [nsveccs@gmail.com](mailto:nsveccs@gmail.com) for more information.



## What is Your SVECCS Chapter Doing?

Reminder: Per the constitution, each chapter will be required to submit at least one contribution to the national newsletter each year. It can be from members or officers and should relate to VECCS, IVECCS, SVECCS, or their local SVECCS chapter. Topics may include, but are not limited to: chapter fundraisers, chapter wetlabs, special topics in

emergency & critical care, internships, residencies, externships or chapter business and marketing. Failure for a chapter to submit a contribution to the newsletter as requested may result in a penalty in which 15% of their chapter apportionments of IVECCS funding will be withheld from their chapter that year.

We really want to hear from you as every chapter concentrates on different events each year. This is an opportunity to have other chapters learn from you, and you from them!

Please submit **by May 15<sup>th</sup>** for the June issue!

## Louisiana State University SVECCS Current Events

Guest Author: Erika C.Fauth

This year, our chapter at Louisiana State University is defined by activity. We have recently hosted and participated in a number of events. The club has grown in size and participation this past year and we hope it continues that way.

Our lunch meeting speaker this past month was Dr. Wolfson, the mobile shelter veterinarian at LSU, who gave a lecture on toxic plants and their effects on domestic animals. Our upcoming guest speaker is Dr. Stephen Lee, who owns a local emergency clinic and will be informing us about the nature of owning and running a private emergency clinic. We have also facilitated biweekly student

rounds with the small animal rotating interns in the clinic, which is an exciting development.

Our recent events have included fundraisers and education wetlabs for both the public and our club. Some of our top fundraisers have been dog washes during football tailgating, multiple bake sales, and selling color changing beverage mugs, and image changing coffee mugs during the winter holidays. During this year's Open House, our club project was removing candy from a stuffed tiger's belly with an endoscope for all the kids. We wanted to demonstrate for the public the many uses there are for an endoscope. The project was a definite success.

The first wet lab we had this year was in conjunction with the Feline Club. We received over twenty feline cadavers to practice neutering, performing CSF taps and epidurals, completing bone marrow sampling, placing various types of feeding tubes, intubating, placing chest tubes, performing thoracocentesis, and placing tom cat urinary catheters. Several of the LSU residents, interns, and clinicians helped instruct the lab. We plan to have another wet lab with the Diagnostic Imaging Club next month to learn how and when to use the common diagnostic imaging equipment in a critical care situation.



LSU SVECCS and Feline Club Joining Forces

## Ontario Veterinary College Events

Ontario Veterinary College SVECCS has already been busy this year with a lucrative lecture series and benchmark Feline Urethral Obstruction Lab in addition to their classic and much anticipated Emergency Procedures Lab.

Diya Sharma, President OVC SVECCS reports, "In the Fall Semester, we had Dr. Karol Mathews give a lecture to the Students of the OVC concerning pain management in the emergent patient. In November Dr. Justine Lee, DACVECC and co-director of the Pet Poison Helpline paid a visit to the OVC on behalf of NAVC to give a well received lecture 'Common mistakes made in the ER.'

Just before the Christmas Break, Dr. Catherine Sabino, one of our Emergency and Critical Care Residents, gave a fun and insightful lecture on the possible toxicities that can occur around the holiday season, 'The Toxic Christmas'."

Most recently, the OVC SVECCS chapter conducted its very first Feline Urethral Obstruction Lab, where "students were given hands-on opportunity to gain practice in this common and very emergency driven problem in male cats. This was a new triumph for the SVECCS chapter, and had collaboration with Dr. Alexa Bersenas, chief of the OVC Emergency and Critical Care department, as well as Dr.

Sabino."

The upcoming months prove very eventful for OVC SVECCS as well. Plans to hold a CPR lab with Dr. Marie Holowaychuk, DACVECC and OVC faculty will help teach the most current and acceptable practices for resuscitation in companion animals. Additionally, the Emergency Procedures Lab will provide students with hands-on practice in some common emergency procedures such as: tracheostomy, placement of thoracosotomy tubes (chest drainage tubes), abdominocentesis and thoracocentesis, and venous cutdowns (for emergency IV access in critical patients).

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*"The upcoming months prove very eventful for OVC SVECCS...."*



## No. Carolina State University Pet Health Fair



*Guest Author: Liz Gettinger*

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 a dedicated group of the North Carolina State University Chapter of SVECCS hosted an event to educate the public about the health of their pets. Everyone was invited to stop by the "Pet Health Fair" held in Raleigh, NC at Hope Elementary/ Raleigh Mennonite Church. Attendees learned how to perform canine and feline CPR. Additionally, we discussed general health and wellness topics not usually covered during a regular wellness visit at the veterinarian.

There were several stations in

addition to CPR demonstrations with canine and feline models. Each station was manned by a veterinary student prepared to answer questions. At one station live dogs (pets of students) were used to demonstrate how to take a temperature, pulse, respiration rate and capillary refill time as well as an explanation of mucus membrane color changes. There were stations about nutrition, household hazards and preventative health care including heartworm disease, vaccines, and spaying and neutering. Our goal was to use this event to educate the public in a fun and involved way and to address topics that the

average pet owner is curious about but has not had the opportunity to ask. Raffles for gift certificates to area restaurants and pet related products were sold and refreshments provided. The proceeds from the raffle and a generous number of sponsorship donations (an incredible \$950!!!) will go towards allowing the NCSU SVECCS to purchase our own dog or cat CPR dummy so that we can more easily educate our members and the public about Emergency and Critical Care techniques.

## UC Davis SVECCS Events and Symposium



UCD SVECCS is a very active and educationally driven club. Their events include "Rounds", "Journal club", "E-Team", wet labs and their annual symposium.

Rounds are UCD hospital cases presented by current residents and faculty. Six to eight cases are presented each year.

This year SVECCS started joining rounds with other clubs in an effort to combine small animal ECC along with other species and to expose

non-SVECCS members to the area of emergency & critical care. To date, conjoined rounds have included the avian & exotics medicine club, canine medicine club and equine medicine club.

The Journal Club provides an opportunity to thoroughly understand "bogus" information in medical literature. Students are instructed to pre-read an article that will be discussed and disseminated with fellow colleagues and faculty. Braidee Foote, SVECCS Co-President raves, "(this) is an important skill to master, as this is how we will be continuing to grow as doctors once we are out in the real world."

E-Team provides an opportunity to shadow senior students in the ER and ICU. Volunteers work cases in four hour shifts

gaining experience and knowledge that proves very applicable to their future semesters at UCD. "These always book up fast and we have to limit the shifts to two per student per quarter," says Braidee.

First and second year vet students are encouraged to attend the CPR wet lab. A resident discusses the basics proceeded by a practical on their dummy dog "Jerry". Jerry is useful as students can place a catheter, insert an endotracheal tube, breathe for him with an AMBU bag, and perform compressions. Additionally they have an ECG simulator that will read out different ECG patterns. This year they would like to incorporate a wet lab on fluid therapy – if you have done this before and would be willing to share your secrets please contact Braidee Foote at

[braideefoote@gmail.com](mailto:braideefoote@gmail.com) .

UCD annual symposium is a major fundraising event. Students and faculty work together to create a theme focusing on small animal medicine. The symposium provides 12 hours of CE opportunities for vets and techs in the area. Participants are either local general practitioners or specialists in ECC. The fee for attendance includes breakfast, lunch and savvy topics. Symposium 2010 highlighted current economic situations and how to work with ECC on a budget targeting clients with limited funds. They have already begun to plan this year's symposium, which will be held on **May 21st, and 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Keep checking the website for registration information: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/SVECCS/>

## The Caribbean Connection

### Transitioning from Caribbean School to Clinics

Guest Author: Ashley Shaw

As I left Ross University in St. Kitts and headed back to the U.S. to the University of Florida in Gainesville, I was a mix of emotions. I was excited and anxious to start clinics, but I knew I would greatly miss the place that I had called home for two and a half years.

After a week of orientation, which mainly consisted of getting student ID's, touring the school and shadowing students on the rotation, I would be starting on. It was time to start this next chapter of my life and veterinary school. My first rotation was Oncology, a notoriously busy rotation at UF. I was nervous the first few days and had to get back in flow of dealing with clients and patient in a clinic setting. Everything

quickly fell into place and I further realized that my veterinary school journey may not have been typical, but had definitely prepared me for the challenges of clinics.

Since starting at UF, I have seen a variety of cases, including small animal, large animal and exotics. I have seen diseases that I have only up until now have read about in textbooks and class notes. As a student on Small Animal Medicine, several days a week were spent receiving emergency cases. While on this rotation I had the opportunity to gain experience with Sago palm toxicity in a family of Golden retrievers, chylothorax in a hyperthyroid cat with an unclassified cardiomyopathy, and acute kidney injury in a cat which eventually received dialysis.

The amount of knowledge and practical experience I have gained has been exceptional.

The transition to life in the clinic has been made easy by the students, clinicians, residents, interns and staff that are part of the university. The students have been very welcoming and have been very helpful, especially in instances where subjects have been taught in different fashions amongst the schools we have attended. The clinicians have been excellent as well. Teaching rounds are a very common occurrence and many clinicians really want the students to 'be the doctor' and make the patients that we see truly our own.

All in all, the transition to clinics was made easy, not only by the welcoming staff and students at

UF, but also by the many lessons in being flexible that I learned while at Ross University and living in the Caribbean. Cases may not always have happy endings and the answers we so desperately search for by running various tests may not be found (often they aren't!), but my clinical experience thus far has been a very rewarding one and I look forward to the future experiences I will have while here.



### Proficiency Award Details for Caribbean Students

Guest Author: Joseph D'Abbraccio

Nominations for the Emergency and Critical Care Proficiency Award given by VECCS/SVECCS and now Abbott Animal Health are currently being taken both stateside and in the Caribbean. The faculty and administrators will be submitting recommendations to the VECCS executive board for students they feel have done well in the area of ER/CC.

This nomination will be based on performance at your university as well as your evaluation while on the ER/CC rotations at your clinical school

and additional studies in ER/CC. New this year, the award comes with a \$700 grant including a membership to VECCS for the remainder of 2011 as well as 2012 plus VECCS will also provide a personalized certificate and stethoscope with VECCS logo! A student that is deemed qualified will be awarded the previously mentioned items at their graduation ceremony (or alternative if not in attendance).

The SVECCS board and VECCS board greatly appreciate our partnership with Abbott and it is thanks to the hard work of both

executive boards for securing this award.

If you are not eligible this year do keep it in mind for the future. Such a reward looks very good for those that are interested in residency and board certification by ACVECC.




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*"...the award comes with a \$700 grant including a membership to VECCS for the remainder of 2011 as well as 2012 plus..."*

# Important Reminders!

## SVECCS 2011 OFFICERS

President Joseph  
D'Abbraccio  
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VP Amanda Moon  
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Secretary Cyndi Fichtner  
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Diya Sharma - Website  
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Please visit our website  
<http://sveccs.org> for more  
information on sveccs  
chapters.

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## 2012 Board Nominations

Open nominations are from  
**April 1-15th**

Please submit your  
nominations to VP Amanda  
Moon at:

[sveccsvp@gmail.com](mailto:sveccsvp@gmail.com)

Please join the **National  
SVECCS Facebook** page to  
enhance inter chapter  
relations! We realize there  
are a lot of pages out there.

The official one is:

**“Student Veterinary  
Emergency and Critical Care  
Society”**

The **National Survey** is  
soon to be distributed.  
Please remember per the  
constitution “compliance  
from each chapter  
president is expected and  
at least 50% local chapter  
member response is the  
objective”.

*Please keep a look out for  
it in the next few weeks!*

## Why You Should Run for National Office

It is unanimous that we all have  
been enjoying our national  
positions. Of course one of the  
biggest perks as an officer is  
attending the IVECCS conference  
*gratis*. Holding office for just one  
term, we wanted to share with  
you the fun points of our  
positions and why you should run  
for our office!

President: Joe encourages a  
strong leader with vision and  
determination to run for his  
office. The position was most  
rewarding to him due to the level  
of exposure he has with  
members and the networking he  
has facilitated with his future  
colleagues.

Vice President: Amanda enjoys  
working with veterinarian  
students that are diverse in  
background and experiences.

She appreciates the variety of  
contacts she has already made  
in the emergency field.  
Says Amanda, “Being on the  
board does take work, but it is  
not overwhelming...you always  
have people that are willing to  
help you.”

Secretary: Networking has been  
the biggest perk for Cyndi.  
Meeting international DVMS  
and vendors at IVECCS, along  
with interacting with chapter  
presidents and learning how  
each one has set up their  
chapter board has proven a  
very gratifying experience while  
in office.

Member-at-Large: There are  
two positions available. One  
manages the website while the  
other produces and edits the  
quarterly newsletter.

Maintaining and creating the  
newsletter satisfies my creative  
edge while allowing me to  
network with my fellow  
colleagues throughout the US,  
Canada and abroad.  
Additionally, communicating  
with other chapters and  
creating business relationships  
on a national level are benefits  
that I value greatly in this  
position.

Involvement with the website  
rewards Diya by providing her  
with the ability to make a  
contribution to the goals of  
SVECCS on a national level  
while still allowing for some  
flexibility in time. “It is great if  
you are a very involved person  
who would still like to help the  
National Board.”