

Vet Med News

JULY 2021

Connect 2021

Sept. 17-18

Mentor Program + Career Mixer & Match + Reunion + Continuing Education



Annual Event

CONNECT 2021

Students + Alumni + Practitioners

We're less than two months away from Connect 2021, our signature college event featuring Mentor Day, Career Mixer & Match, College Celebration, Reunion Programming, Awards Presentation, and a six-credit CE program in three tracks.

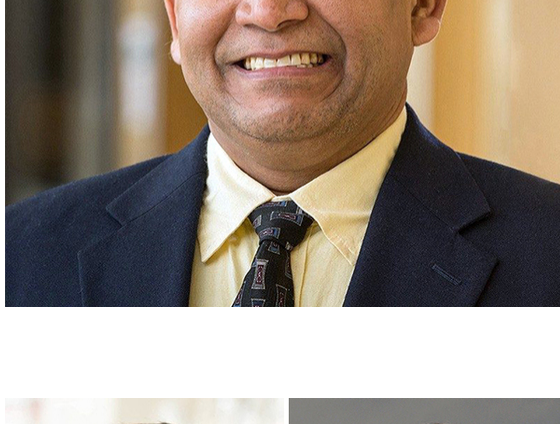
All alumni, current and retired faculty, staff, and students, as well as local practitioners and technicians, are invited to attend.

Please join us in this celebration of mentoring students, advertising available positions at veterinary practices, and earning CE credit from lectures presented by alumni.

Now is the time to register and connect with classmates! For information on all events and to register, please visit the [Connect 2021 website](#).

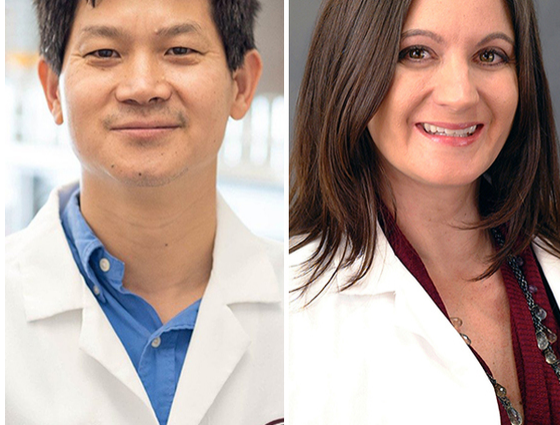
Let us know if you have any questions; we look forward to seeing you there!

Around the College



Creating cell lines to help treat mitochondrial diseases in children

[Aloka Abey Bandara](#), research associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, used CRISPR-Cas9 to create live mitochondrial disease cell models that will lay the groundwork for drug studies and future mitochondrial disease research. His recent work was published in the journals *Mitochondrion* and *BMC Molecular and Cell Biology*.



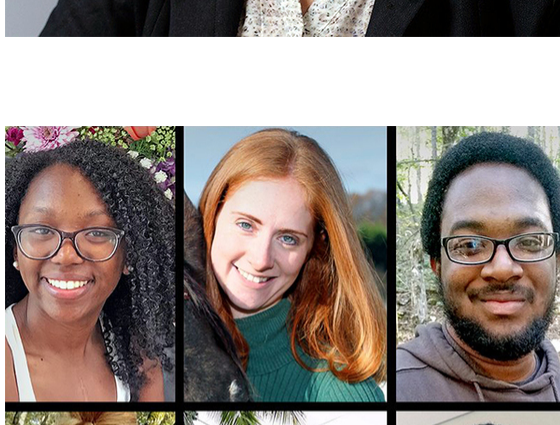
DBSP researchers study mechanisms behind learning and long-term memory

[Hehuang "David" Xie](#), associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), and his research team, including DBSP Associate Professor [Michelle Theus](#), elucidated transcription factors and enzymes that control certain processes in the brain through the methylation of DNA. The team's work was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.



Hungerford among public health experts pushing vaccinations for fall semester

[Laura Hungerford](#), department head and professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences, joined a panel of Virginia Tech officials and local health experts to discuss the importance of vaccines and the ongoing preparations for a full, in-person experience for students this fall.



BMVS student named to inaugural ID IGEP cohort

Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences (BMVS) student [Caitlin Armstrong](#) (top, center) is among eight Virginia Tech graduate students comprising the first cohort for the Infectious Disease Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program (ID IGEP), which engages students in diverse research approaches and topics. The program is based in the [Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Arthropod-borne Pathogens](#).

Vet Med Alumni

[VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online](#) →

Congratulations to our 2021 Alumni Awards recipients!



Drs. Tim Fan, Cyndie Courtney, and Anne Zajac

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of our 2021 Alumni Awards!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT ALUMNI AWARD

Tim Fan (DVM '95)

OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNI AWARD

Cyndie Courtney (DVM '11)

OUTSTANDING FACULTY ALUMNI AWARD

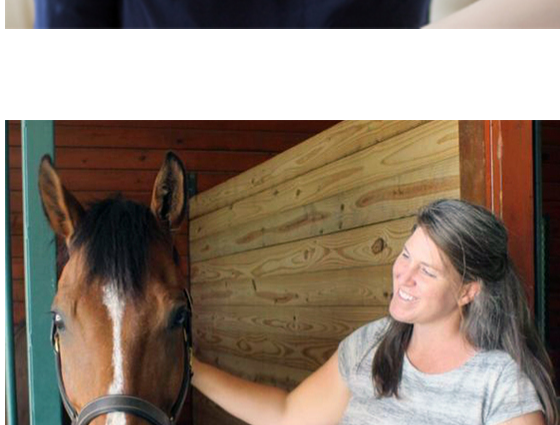
Anne Zajac, Professor Emerita of Parasitology

All three individuals will be receiving their awards and speaking at Connect 2021 on Sept. 17-18; please consider attending and congratulating them! We will share more information on these VA-MD Vet Med rock stars in the upcoming weeks.



Alumna promotes positive practice culture

Written by [Cyndie Courtney](#) (DVM '11) and published in the *American Animal Hospital Association's Trends* magazine, "[Client Expectations, Rights, and Responsibilities: Setting Client Expectations to Protect Practice Culture](#)" examines the relationship among practice culture, patient safety, and client behavior and provides a roadmap for establishing client expectations that reinforce a positive practice culture.



Alumna launches two distinct businesses

[Katherine Johnson](#) (DVM '03), an equine rehabilitation specialist who operates *Veterinary Rehabilitation Services of Virginia* in Louisa County, teamed up with a friend to launch a pair of very distinct businesses – a rehabilitation center for horses and a wedding and event venue – on an Orange County farm property bearing circa-1782 Clifton House.

Vet Med in the News

CNN

[Traveling with your pet? Here's what you need to know, according to experts](#)

WFIR

[Advice from a vet: pack enough pet meds for your road trip](#)

[Mark Freeman](#), clinical assistant professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

BUSINESS INSIDER

[Almost all of the current COVID-19 deaths are among those unvaccinated](#)

[Lisa Lee](#), research professor, Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation

FOX5

[Mixed opinions from Montgomery County parents on summer camp mask mandates](#)

[Laura Hungerford](#), professor and head, Population Health Sciences

UTMB NEWSROOM

[New laboratory study of five ebola vaccines provides data on features and functions of vaccine protection](#)

HORSETALK.CO.NZ

[Jury still out on whether ponies are "hot blooded" or "cold blooded"](#)

VIRGINIA MERCURY

[Livestock are a major part of Virginia agriculture. But there are fewer and fewer vets for farm animals.](#)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

[As Caves Valley celebrates PGA Tour's BMW Championship, scholarship program for young caddies takes center stage](#)

THE PIG SITE

[National gene-editing task force begins work](#)

TODAY

[Woman admitted to veterinary school plays TikTok trick to surprise her family](#)

GIVE to VA-MD VET MED

Your support helps us advance knowledge, improve health, and save lives.



YEARS OF RUNNING TOGETHER

We're celebrating 40 years!

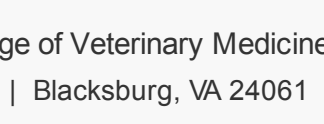
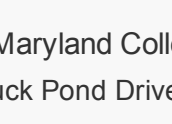
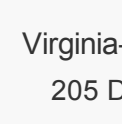
VA-MD Vet Med's first class matriculated in 1980.

STAY CONNECTED



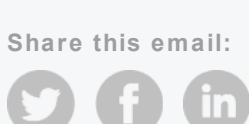
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