Auburn did a fantastic job putting together the symposium in March. We are so grateful for all of the hard work that they put in and for being so accommodating to the 715 students and 27 advisors in attendance. We enjoyed a heartfelt service project of painting dog houses for local humane societies on Friday night and attended insightful labs and lectures on Saturday. Thank you, Auburn, for everything that you did!
Hello Everyone!

My name is Mary Ann McDougal and I am a senior at Auburn University majoring in Animal Sciences. A little over two years ago I decided to turn my life upside down and transfer to Auburn to pursue a Pre-Veterinary Medicine degree in hopes of one day going to vet school. I was a previous photojournalism major and knew very little about what goes into the application process, requirements, and the time commitment. I vividly remember searching the Auburn involvement directory online trying to see if there was a club I could channel my time and energy into and PVMA caught my eye. A few months later, I attended my first Symposium at Purdue University, and just a few weeks after that I was elected as the Vice President of PVMA. I hardly knew what I was getting myself into as we discussed putting together a bid for Auburn to host the symposium in 2018. Following my year of service as Vice President, I was then elected President and Auburn was chosen as the next University to host the National Symposium which occurred just 3 weeks ago. As my time as Auburn PVMA’s President comes to a close, it is bitter-sweet because it has been a strong foundation for me. I took a leap of faith and decided to run for APVMA President, and, well, here I am writing you all this letter. I am so incredibly honored. I believe that the greatest quality a leader can have is a listening ear and a servant heart. This next year, I promise you that I will be here in every way, shape, and form I can be and with your help, we can continue to grow this organization to something even bigger and greater than it already is. I am honored to be walking with all of you on this journey.

Before I share my goals for the future of this association, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who helped make the APVMA National Symposium at Auburn University a success. The students, faculty, and advisors truly made the symposium incredible and it could not have been done without everyone on board.

It was a dream come true to have hosted at my home school and I am so blessed to see it come together.

This upcoming year I hope to see a few things come into view. First off, I would love to iron out the details involving the National Symposium, as it has grown drastically and it is so hard to accommodate the demand for attendance. With this, I hope to expand to Regional Symposia which could aid in resolving this issue. Most importantly, however, I want to grow the communication between the PVMA chapters from all over the nation. I am a strong believer in working together to create something bigger than yourself. In this day and age, you cannot get anywhere without the help from those around you. We must come together and be transparent to build these bridges that could be so easily constructed — all it takes is a little work.

As this semester comes to a close, I urge all of you to enjoy your last few weeks. As a senior, time flies by at the speed of light and when you blink, it’s gone. My advice to all of you is to do something you’ve never done before. Start that internship that throws you out of your comfort zone. Do the volunteer work that takes a little bit of extra effort. Speak to that person you don’t know very well because they might turn out to be your best friend. You never know what can happen when you just take a leap of faith — trust me.

Loyally,
Mary Ann McDougal
President
Mary Ann McDougal
My name is Mary Ann McDougal and I am a senior at Auburn University majoring in Animal Sciences on the Pre-Veterinary Medicine track. I have served as the previous Vice President (2016-2017) and President (2017-2018) for the Auburn PVMA chapter, as well as, co-directed the National APVMA Symposium held at Auburn University in March 2018. I am the founder and CEO of an animal advocacy organization called "For the Animals" which is a self-created platform focusing on educating the general public on proper care and nutrition for their pets. We also focus heavily on creating and maintaining a healthy and safe environment for those pets that have yet to be adopted still living in shelters across the state of Alabama. I love volunteering and being as hands-on as I possibly can. In the future, I wish to specialize in surgery and shelter medicine in hopes of one day partnering with local humane societies and performing surgeries and wellness checks for the animals being taken in. My ultimate goal is to champion for the animals around me by decreasing the stray population drastically and encourage adoption.

Vice President
Widmaier Francillon
I am Widmaier Francillon. I am 21 years old and I currently attend NC State University where I major in Animal Science with a Veterinary Bionscience concentration and a Nutrition minor. I am originally from West Orange, New Jersey. At NC State, I currently work as a community ambassador on Central Campus and at the Equine Educational Unit as a student leader/volunteer. I also a part of the NCSU VetPAC Internship program where we advise and provide opportunities for pre-veterinary students and coordinate events for both high school and college. I also volunteer at NC State’s Turtle Rescue Team. I have shadowed with Cameron Animal Hospital as well as West Orange Animal Hospital. I am taking part in research on the anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of the previously listed analgesic drugs in neonatal piglets and various other mini projects. I hope to work in Mixed Animal Medicine or Exotic Animal Medicine.
Treasurer
Kayla Radtke
Hello! My name is Kayla Radtke and I am currently in my second year at Purdue University where I will be graduating a year early with my Bachelor's degree in Biology. I have served as the Treasurer to Purdue's Pre-Veterinary Medical Association for the 2017-2018 school year. I have also gained quite a bit of experience by being a Veterinary Assistant at a small animal hospital for the last 4 years, volunteering in the oncology department in Purdue's small animal hospital, being an extern at an emergency clinic, and researching the wildlife in Africa. I hope to become a Small Animal Veterinarian and eventually open my own practice. I am also preparing to apply to Veterinary School this upcoming cycle! I have been preparing for this by making a binder with all the necessary information such as potential schools, animal experience, veterinary experience, research experience, etc.! I look forward to working with this executive board and I am excited to see what this year brings.

Secretary
Alexis Roach
My name is Alexis Roach, a junior Laboratory Animal Science student with a minor in Chemistry, hailing all the way from the illustrious North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. During my undergraduate years at my institution I have been involved in various organizations, and clubs that have greatly contributed to my college experience. Thus far, I have been a member of the Pre-Veterinary Club, MANRRS, College of Agricultural and Environmental Science Advocates, Global Semesters study abroad program, University Honors Program, and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. I have dedicated numerous hours of community service from being a Laboratory Animal Research volunteer, a cheerleading coach for a middle school over two years, conservation centers, ASPCA, initiating my own toilery drive for Hurricane Harvey victims, and many other services. In previous summers I have studied abroad taking a course in animal science, and working as a Veterinary Assistant for multiple animal hospitals. My career aspirations involve attending a College of Veterinary Medicine to earn my DVM degree in Laboratory Animal Medicine.
Webmaster

Victoria Ashby

Hi everyone! My name is Victoria Ashby and I am a current sophomore studying Wildlife Sciences with Pre-Veterinary concentration along with minors in Natural Resources Ecology and Public Health at Auburn University. I served as the 2017-2018 Service Chair for the Auburn PVMA chapter, and was Co-Chair of Outreach for the 2018 APVMA Symposium which was held at Auburn University this year. I am the current Secretary for the Auburn University chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, and I will be serving as the peer instructor for the Conservation Biology Learning Community here at Auburn in the fall, which is geared towards incoming freshmen in mentoring them throughout their academic endeavors. I am currently employed as a Necropsy Technician in the AU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Pathobiology. As well, I am an active member of the AU Disease Ecology Lab within the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, where I conduct research surrounding vector-borne disease in the state of Alabama. I subsequently serve the SFWS as an Undergraduate Research Ambassador. I am so excited to be serving you all as the APVMA Webmaster for the 2018-2019 year! I hope to utilize my experiences from my undergraduate career thus far in this position. I cannot wait to see what this year holds.

WELCOME TO THE APVMA EXECUTIVE BOARD
As this year comes to a close for the outgoing executive officers, we extend a hand of gratitude to all of your hard work and dedication to the APVMA. All of you worked to implement important changes that positively affects the future of the association. The continuance of the Ambassador Program and conversion of paper documents into digital truly makes a difference moving forward and we cannot be more appreciative. Thank you so much.

(from left to right) Calli Morris, Kalyn Bryan, Legend Thurman, Ilissa Chasnick, and Liz Price.
Education Resources at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine has created over the last few years a free iBooks which address topics veterinary students often struggle to master. Some of these topics pre-veterinary students may be interested in such as heart worm disease, dentistry, arthritis, coagulation, membrane potential, cellular respiration, and the spay procedure to name a few.

Attached below is the link that will allow you access to the 38 iBooks readers can download for FREE with an iPhone, iPad, or Mac computer. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity, and have excitement to read some of the iBooks.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2018 APVMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

APVMA Scholarship Award
  Julia Carlin
  Jessica McNett
  Montana Lins

Outstanding Club Community Service Award
  Centenary University
  Delaware Valley University

Senior Award
  Samantha Frosch
  Mackenzie Shannon

One Health Scholarship Award
  Audrey Negrelli

Research Scholarship Award
  Claire Bublitz

Regional Symposium Sponsorship Award
  Grand Valley State University

AVMA Scholarships
  Ilissa Chasnick
  Kalyn Byan
  Yufan Chao
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