

# 4 units, 3 classrooms in new Hospital complex to be named to honor benefactors

As construction on the new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Veterinary Education Center wraps up this winter, students and faculty are looking forward to stepping into the new teaching hospital and academic building in March 2015.

Located on College Station Road just under three miles from the main College of Veterinary Medicine campus, the new buildings received a wealth of financial support for construction. Four separate units of the Large Animal Hospital and three classrooms in the academic building will be named for these private donors.

The equine receiving area, which is the first in the lineup, will be the area where clients are greeted, patients admitted and outpatient examinations and treatments occur. A client-friendly reception area will feature comfortable seating, a laptop charging station, two client consultation rooms and an animal holding area with six stalls, two large exam rooms and a student rounds room.

“The biggest advantage is that the whole outpatient receiving area will have an easy traffic flow pattern and ample parking,” said Dr. Eric Mueller, director of equine programs and chief medical officer of the Large Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “This will allow us to separate healthy outpatients from the more seriously affected patients in the hospital. Patients can be evaluated and discharged without having to enter the main hospital.”

The Rooker Equine Receiving area is named for Atlanta developer John W. “Jack” Rooker (BBA ’60) and Cynthia “Cindy” Wilkins Rooker (BSEd ’62). The couple bred and sold Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds for decades and at times had them treated at the CVM. The Rooker Hall dorm in the East Campus Village complex is also named for him and features a fireside lounge named after Cindy.

“How you start a process is a good indication of how it will end up, so the receiving area is going to be important for the whole operation,” Rooker said. “You’re receiving cases of all kinds, and in my opinion, it’s an impressive and important part of the job.”

Rooker is looking forward to the opening of the new Hospital in 2015 and seeing how the different facilities work together.

“I hope the entire campus does for the faculty and staff what they’ve been needing for years,” he said. “When you look at the number of square feet they have to work with in comparison to other veterinary schools, it’s phenomenal what they’ve been able to get done, and this will give them elbow room to do their jobs.”

The second unit of the Large Animal Hospital will feature two exam rooms and 16 stalls that will be divided into two sides – one for healthy patients and the other for more ill patients. Named for Byron F. Snyder, the Snyder Equine Inpatient Clinic will house patients being treated



An aerial view of the new UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Veterinary Education Center, taken in October 2014. Photo © Aerial Innovations of Georgia, Inc./ October 2014; photo provided by the Turner Construction Company.

for eye conditions, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, and minor medical issues. Snyder gave money to the CVM for equine support through a bequest.

“This particular unit is naturally ventilated and will feature yokes in each stall to allow horses to put their heads

outside and experience the fresh air,” Mueller said. “This area was designed to simulate a natural barn or stall setting. We want to create as much of a home environment as possible for our patients and their owners.”

The third unit of the Large Animal Hospital is an ICU



Panoramic view of the outbuildings that comprise the Large Animal Teaching Hospital.

PHOTO BY SUE MYERS SMITH



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*The Equine Performance Arena, which is funded by the UGA Athletic Association, will be used to evaluate equine performance and lameness issues. It includes three different surfaces on which horses may be evaluated for lameness.*

wing named for Marguerite T. Hodgson. She gave money to the CVM, through a bequest, for equine research and programs. The Hodgson Intensive Care Unit will be climate-controlled and focus on critically-ill patients, such as neonatal foals and horses with respiratory disease. The main working area will feature a central nurse's station and exam room for close monitoring.

"Much like a human ICU, this unit will have 24/7 careful monitoring and treatment," Mueller said. "It will be the heart of the large animal critical care service at the new campus."

The Food Animal Clinic, funded by an anonymous donor, will house theriogenology (reproduction), an equine dental suite and production animal medicine. The reproduction area will feature stalls for mares and stallions with individual run-out paddocks, palpation stocks, a collection and analysis lab and an area for embryo transfer work. There also will be an area to house mares with foals. The production animal medicine area will include a laboratory to process field samples and to test milk samples for potentially harmful organisms.

"This Field Services building is a new addition," Mueller said. "We don't have this in our existing facility, and it will be fantastic to have an area that the field services clinicians and students can call home."

Another exciting and new area is the Equine Performance Arena, which is funded by the University of Georgia Athletic Association. The covered arena will be used to evaluate equine performance, and includes three different surfaces to examine horses for lameness. Force plates with sensors will allow for computerized gait and lameness evaluation, and two exam rooms will provide a place for treatment and farrier services.

"The UGA Athletic Association is proud to support the new Equine Performance Arena," said Greg McGarity, director of athletics for the University. "Our national champion equestrian team has a natural relationship with the equine faculty. Our team members, like other horse owners, know our animals are being cared for by world-renowned equine doctors. We want, and these doctors deserve, the best facilities in the country. This performance arena gives the UGA CVM a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility that the UGA AA is honored to fund."

Additional large animal units will provide space for colic patients, small ruminants and cattle. A separate isolation unit will feature eight stalls with self-contained ventilation systems for large animals with infectious diseases.

In addition, the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital will

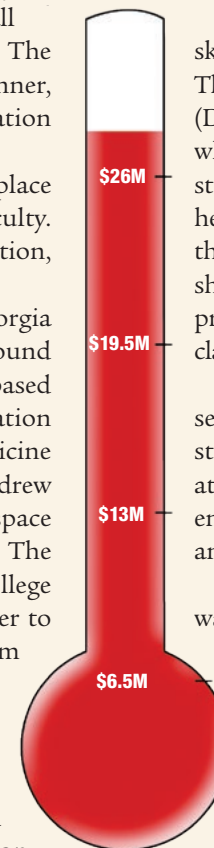
house diagnostic radiology, ultrasound, MRI and CT imaging suites, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery suites, and an interventional radiology room – all available to both large and small animal patients. The College has purchased a new state-of-the-art CT scanner, MRI and linear accelerator, which will allow for radiation therapy of both small and large animals.

The new academic building will become the place for third-year students to meet and learn from faculty. It will feature a 160-seat auditorium for instruction, continuing education courses and guest speakers.

A second classroom, funded by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, will seat 80 with round tables to promote small group discussions and case-based learning. "The Georgia Veterinary Medical Association is excited to invest in the future of veterinary medicine by supporting the students at UGA," said Dr. Andrew J. Morrow, president of GVMA. "The classroom space and the technology that it will provide are superb. The members of GVMA are proud to partner with the College in many ways, but this classroom will be a reminder to the students that we encourage and support them daily while they earn their DVM degree."

Two smaller 40-seat classrooms, one funded by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians, will offer an area for group meetings and close interaction. "Veterinary students have to spend many hours learning the ins and outs of the profession prior to applying it clinically with animals," said Dr. Todd

**Our Goal:**  
**\$32.7 Million**



Brown, SCAV president. "The newer classrooms will provide the needed resources to stay ahead of the curve.

Our association has viewed some of the blueprints and sketches of the new classrooms and they look amazing." The other 40-seat classroom was named by Sally Papp (DVM '70) in honor of her husband Dr. Eugene Papp, who taught pathology. "My classmates and many other students who were taught by him will recall how strongly he felt about us knowing all there was to know from that fat pathology book and his hundreds of 2x2 slides," she said. "He was a force to be reckoned with, and I am proud to have my name along with his associated with this classroom."

Outside of the classrooms, a large reception and seating area will provide a space for students, faculty, staff and hospital clients to meet and grab a bite to eat at a UGA Food Services eatery. The flexible design of the entire campus meets current needs for patients, clients and doctors while also allowing for future expansion.

Total fundraising for the new hospital complex was \$27,640,000 as of June 30, 2014. The CVM is still fundraising for this important project to provide advanced equipment for patients and students.

**If you would like to make a gift, please contact the Office for Veterinary External Affairs at [give2vet@uga.edu](mailto:give2vet@uga.edu) or 706.542.1807.**

— Carolyn Crist (ABJ '10, BA '10, MA '14)



*An architectural rendering of one of the state-of-the-art classrooms in the new Veterinary Education Center.*