Dear Albert Alligator,

More than 150 years of knowledge and experience left the College of Veterinary Medicine this past year. How could this happen? Through the retirement of five key faculty members whose combined service totals 159 years.

In June 2011, Dr. Colin Burrows retired after 31 years of service. In February 2012, Dr. Elliott Jacobson retired after 33 years of service, followed in March by Dr. Paul Gibbs, with 32 years of service, and in April by Dr. Michael Schaer, with 34 years of service. In September, Dr. Charles Courtney plans to retire after 30 years of service.

To say they will be missed is an understatement. These individuals have helped establish our college’s reputation nationally and internationally. The scope of their knowledge cannot be replaced, but will be built upon as we move forward. So, to honor their contributions and to find a silver lining in the loss of such dedicated and valuable faculty, the focus of this year’s annual fund is to support each professor’s namesake scholarship.

Last year, our alumni and friends gave more than $333,000 for scholarships. This commitment allows the college to expand classes, offer an exceptional veterinary medicine education and hire outstanding new faculty.

As you take a moment to remember the impact these professors have had, we hope you’ll remember that when you give back, Florida moves forward. Best wishes and Go Gators!

Sincerely,

Glen F. Hoffsis
DVM, MS, DACVIM
Dean
It was Dr. Burrows’ vision to see a new small-animal hospital in the teaching component at the vet school. This vision became a reality in November 2010 when the finest small-animal hospital in the nation opened. Through the generosity of many individuals, a scholarship fund was established to honor Dr. Burrows and his 31 years of extraordinary service to the college. The Colin F. Burrows Scholarship is for students who have an interest in small animal medicine.

Dr. Charles Courtney, associate dean for research and graduate studies, closes his vet school career in September. Courtney taught parasitology to all the vet school classes. Courtney also competes with the Team VetMed cycling group and will complete his 10th Horse Farm Hundred century ride this fall. The Charlie and Debby Courtney Team VetMed Scholarship fund was established in his honor.

Dr. Paul Gibbs “inspired many students to pursue careers in preventive veterinary medicine, epidemiology and global one-health initiatives,” said Dr. Tom Holt, Florida’s state veterinarian. Gibbs also leaves a legacy in the newly created Education Center for students at the vet school. You can honor Dr. Gibbs by donating to the Veterinary College Scholarships fund.

Dr. Elliott Jacobson served the college for 33 years – not including his residency. Dr. Jacobson was recognized by the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and presented with the 2011 Emil Dolensek Award for his “exceptional contributions to the conservation, care, and understanding of zoo and free-ranging wildlife.” You can honor Dr. Jacobson by donating to the Veterinary College Scholarships fund.

Dr. Michael Schaer, pictured here at the 2012 commencement ceremony, imparts a few words of wisdom to the graduating class. Known affectionately as “Uncle Mikey,” his “maxims” were keys to avoiding the pitfalls of veterinary medicine. His key lesson: “You can’t learn when you’re upset.” The Michael Schaer scholarship was established to honor Dr. Schaer and his 34 years of extraordinary service to the college.
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☐ Charlie and Debby Courtney Team VetMed Scholarship Fund (018167)
☐ VetMed Scholarship Fund In Honor of Elliot Jacobson (000809)
☐ VetMed Scholarship Fund In Honor of Paul Gibbs (000809)
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