

DVM COMMENCEMENT TRANSCRIPT

*The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University
Class of 2020 Virtual Commencement*

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Mace Bearer: Dr. Kenita S. Rogers
[Music: [Pomp and Circumstance](#)]

DEAN'S WELCOME & Remarks

To the Veterinary Class of 2020 and all of the families and friends, faculty and staff, and other loved ones watching from home, I want to welcome you to the 2020 Commencement Ceremonies for Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

My name is Dr. Eleanor Green, and I am privileged to serve as the Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine. I want to thank you all for joining us from your homes around the country for this very important event.

As you can tell, this is no ordinary commencement ceremony. We are thrilled to be able to celebrate this momentous occasion with you all, especially as so many of us are self-isolating in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we would have preferred to celebrate in person, we trust this ceremony will be especially memorable and hope that even more of you are able to join us remotely than would have been possible otherwise.

COVID-19 has presented unique challenges to higher education and to the veterinary profession. All of us have been asked to adapt to these challenges and one of the ways you, the Class of 2020 did so, was to successfully complete the last month of your clinical rotations, as they were moved online in response to the pandemic.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of each and every one of you, and each and every faculty member, who have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, creativity, and innovativeness. It is one thing to believe you are prepared and another to prove it by demonstrating notable success under fire. While I most certainly prefer not to go through another global pandemic, it is special and memorable to see people you care about and the institution you revere step up as you all have done. Congratulations to you all.

I am confident in your success as you depart Texas A&M today to join the ranks of Aggie Veterinarians across the country. You will not avoid challenges in your lives; however, we are confident that the world-class training you have received and the Aggie spirit and core values that are instilled within you will carry you through, and you will proudly serve the profession well.

The Class of 2020 represents another significant milestone — you are, and forevermore will be, the 100th class of Aggie Veterinarians to graduate from the tradition-rich halls of Texas A&M University. This is a remarkable achievement for you and for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Congratulations to you all for being part of a historic moment for Texas A&M and the College.

Over the past 104 years, the College has served Texas as its only college of veterinary medicine, and one of only 30 in our nation. The 132 veterinary students graduating today will increase the number of Texas A&M veterinary graduates to 8,587.

Indeed, May 6, 2020, marks a very special day, especially for the men and women who are joining the ranks of the veterinary profession. Your journey has been challenging. After completing the pre-veterinary requirements, which often include a 4-year undergraduate degree and sometimes a graduate degree or two, you entered the rigorous, 4-year veterinary curriculum. These students before us have completed all of the requirements to become new doctors of veterinary medicine and will leave Texas A&M to embark upon their professional careers as veterinarians.

This is also a special time for the faculty, as they reflect, with pride, on the product of their labors. They are reminded once again that their dedication to quality education at Texas A&M has been rewarded with your academic success and the graduation of an

outstanding class of veterinarians. Today is an extraordinary celebration for them, as well. While they cannot all be here together, in the same room, for this event, we know that they are all here in spirit, celebrating with you from their homes.

Indeed, today marks a celebration for everyone — parents, grandparents, partners, spouses, children, and friends — all who have provided the love, support, and the educational network needed for these graduates to realize their dreams of becoming doctors of veterinary medicine. We welcome you all! Graduates, please set aside time to thank those who helped you.

CLASS OF 2020 REFLECTIONS

(Dean Eleanor M Green): It is now my distinct pleasure to welcome Ms. Taylor Adams, soon to be Dr. Taylor Adams, to share the Class of 2020 Reflections. Taylor has served as class President during the last three years of the curriculum, a delegate to the national Student American Veterinary Medical Association, and one of the inaugural members of the CVM White Coat Group.

(Dr. Taylor Adams): Hello, fellow graduates, friends, family members, and distinguished guests.

This was not the way we hoped to meet today and this is definitely not the way we hoped that these hats would look on our heads. It has been my privilege to be the President of the Class of 2020. I have loved getting to know and work with each of you — in mentor groups, as class officers, during clinical rotations, and in various club and extracurricular activities. I also must thank the faculty and staff of the Texas A&M CVM for all of their hard work and dedication to our strong education and positive experiences during our time here. Thank you to our class faculty advisors — Dr. Herman and Dr. Washburn — for your constant support and for being our biggest cheerleaders. Thank you to Dr. Cornell and the entire Professional Programs Office for listening to our concerns and continuously improving our educational process.

Our graduation from veterinary school is a huge milestone and tremendous accomplishment for all of us — and today is a day for each and every one of us to be proud and to celebrate.

Speaking of being proud, if you are the loved one of a graduate, we would all like to thank you for your constant support — your support with food, love, encouraging words, and let's be honest — picking up our slack!

Here are a few facts about the Class of 2020: we were the first class in the beautiful new Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex buildings — not without incident, as the first row and Courtney's laptop well remember; we survived caring for NOVA the ostrich during our first year — though not without her pecking us incessantly at the insistence of the third years; it snowed during fall finals of our second year — but no tests were canceled; we received our white coats and Aggie rings during third year — and there were some ring dunks to go with it; and we were the only class forced to successfully complete our fourth year clinical rotations online.

Our biggest class initiative was definitely the addition of breakfast tacos and Tiff's Treats for the class each semester — those were the biggest hit! Oh, and Scott — thank you for continuing to hold your questions until the end.

All of the incredible experiences and events that we have been through together have forged a lifelong bond — one that is stronger than the Coronavirus, stronger than time and distance we will be apart, and one that can only be understood through being a member of the Class of 2020.

The past 2 months have been very tough, but it has also been a challenging four years for us. We are used to hard work, trusting others during times in which we do not have all the answers, and demonstrating resilience.

Moving forward, with everything that the world has been through over the last 2 months, I wanted to reflect on a few takeaways from this pandemic that may help each of us as we move into the next phase of our lives — Take time for yourself each day. Prioritize time with family and friends. Know what you are grateful for. Ask others how they are doing and follow up. Support local businesses. Get up, make your bed, and get out of your pajamas. Wash your hands frequently and if at all possible, buy stock in Zoom Video Conferencing. In all seriousness, I believe there are many things to reflect upon during this time that can carry us forward, despite this not being the ending to our veterinary school experience that we had hoped for.

I wish more than anything that I could be in front of my fellow classmates today giving you each a hug — and we all know how I very much dislike hugs — and looking you in the eye to say thank you for the honor of being the president of the best class in the history of the Texas A&M Veterinary School.

I very much look forward to everything that we will accomplish in our careers and our lives. This is just the beginning of a wonderful next phase and I can't wait to see you soon. Cheers to us!

CLASS OF 2020 CHARGE

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): I am privileged to welcome Dr. Kevin Washburn, professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, who has been honored by being voted upon by the students to present the charge to the class of 2020. Dr. Washburn.

(Dr. Kevin Washburn): HOWDY!

First of all, let me say that I am so humbled and honored to have been chosen to be a part of this monumental day in your lives! Twenty-seven years ago, I was in your shoes! Wow, I am getting old! I have learned so many things along the way about veterinary

medicine and veterinary students! I would like to begin by sharing a few of those gems with you!

No matter how smart veterinary students are, there is always one on each rotation that squirts themselves in the face with a water hose (hint, look for the arrow on the nozzle!)

Veterinary students start their fourth-year clinical rotations with enough equipment in their smocks to perform a major surgical procedure. They end their clinical rotation year by having to borrow a community thermometer.

There is little that pleases a DVM or veterinary student as much as lancing an abscess full of yellow creamy purulent material. The more the better. We can all understand the Dr. Pimple Popper phenomenon!

When I was in private practice, every horse I saw seemed to have "just have come off the race track!" More likely they were driven past a race track at some point in their lives.

Cats have the ability to climb up the kennels and get into the ceiling of a veterinary clinic and hide for several days..... (or so I have been told)

If you clip the wings of a bird make sure you clip them short enough to avoid them still having the ability to fly just above your reach for long distances.

After you deliver the calf, no matter how big it is, or how little the cow is, always go back and check for more!

Dogs that "don't bite" usually do!

Cows that are paralyzed out in the pasture and "can't get up Doc!" usually can.

Always check out the anatomy of your patient one more time before you spay a cat named Louise (if you don't you may find out later its name should be Lewis! Or so I have been told).

Veterinary students are some of the most resilient people I know as they can survive on little to no sleep, junk food, very little exposure to sunlight and high cortisol levels for months on end.

And I must say I am so lucky to work with them every day! This class will always have a special place in my heart for many reasons. Dr. Herman and I have been honored to be your faculty advisors from day 1. You all have overcome difficulties along the way. Highs and lows, laughs and tears, but succeed you have! And I am so proud to have been a small part of it! It has been a very special experience for me these past four years and I feel like today I am becoming an empty nester!

I would like to share with you a story about my grandfather. He lived to the ripe old age of 101! He used to come visit and stay with us for periods of time when I was growing up. Every time he visited at some point he would ask me one simple question. Kevin, do you live to eat or eat to live? My response to that question always consisted of a few seconds of awkward silence and a blank stare. I answered differently each time as I wondered if there was a correct answer. I often thought of it as a "chicken or the egg" type question.

Well, after several years went by, along with the passing of my grandfather, it dawned on me what he was truly asking me. I realized he wasn't strictly talking about food or sustenance, I mean you have to eat food to live right? No, his question had a deeper meaning. What he was asking me was "from where do you draw your motivation? What drives you? Where do your priorities lie? Are you driven by success at all costs? Notoriety? Having the nicest veterinary clinic? Having more clients? Making the most money? Do you live to eat? Or, are you driven by the need to provide for your family, to be the best spouse, father, mother, brother, sister or friend you can be? To help others and make lifelong relationships? Do you eat to live?

This is a wonderful profession that provides us the opportunity to make real differences not only in the lives of animals but the lives of the clients we serve. The human-animal bond is powerful and allows us to help others in ways other folks can't. Will we take those opportunities? Will we eat to live? Or will we rush, rush, rush to get things done and make more money and build the practice, not taking time for family, friends and ourselves? Will we live to eat?

I'd like to close by quoting the lyrics of an old country song by Mac Davis. He says,

**Hey, where you going in such a hurry?
Don't you think it's time you realized
There's a whole lot more to life than work and worry,
The sweetest things in life are free and they're right before your eyes!
You got to stop, and smell the roses, you've got to count your many blessings every day, you're going to find your way to heaven is
a rough and rocky road, if you don't stop and smell the roses along the way!**

In closing, I would like for you all to remember 2 things from me above all the other things I may have told you over the last 4 years.

Number one: anaplasmosis does NOT cause hemoglobinuria

And number two, but certainly the most important: every once in a while, evaluate your priorities and stop, and smell the roses!

Congratulations!

Love y'all! WHOOP!!!

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): Thank you, Dr. Washburn, for your heart-felt charge to the class of 2020. We now come to the moment that you have all been waiting for – the presentation of diplomas and the hooding ceremony.

I would like to invite Dr. Karen Cornell, Associate Dean for Professional Programs, to officially present our students for graduation.

(Dr. Karen Cornell): Dean Green, based upon the recommendation of the faculty of Texas A&M University, I certify that these candidates have fulfilled all of the academic requirements for their degrees.

I am honored to present them to you for the awarding of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree. We will now present the graduates in their regalia and doctoral hoods.

BESTOWAL OF DOCTORAL HOODS

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): The hood worn by each graduate symbolizes the academic community's recognition of completion of the requirements for an advanced degree. Higher education developed in European monasteries during the medieval era, and originally, hoods were utilitarian capes worn by monks. However, over the years the hood and investiture ceremonies have evolved, as a symbol of personal intellectual accomplishment.

There are a variety of robe and hood colors among the faculty. This indicates their various degrees and the schools they have attended. Today, we focus on the grey hood trim and grey stripes, signifying the doctor of veterinary medicine degree. The inner silk lining of the hood of our graduates today represents Texas A&M University's school colors — maroon and white.

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

(Dr. John R. August):

Dr. Taylor Adams — Dr. Adams has accepted a small animal rotating internship at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Dr. Emily Adamson — Dr. Adamson will be joining Metro Paws Animal Hospital, a small animal medicine practice in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Amanda Armendariz — Dr. Armendariz will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dr. Brianna Armstrong — Dr. Armstrong will be joining Firehouse Animal Health Center, a small animal practice in Round Rock, Texas.

Dr. Kathaleen Bailey — Dr. Bailey will be joining Sugar Land Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Sugar Land, Texas.

Dr. Don Barnett — Dr. Barnett is receiving the rank of Captain from his sister, Major Coleen Barnett, United States Air Force. Dr. Barnett is a member of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and will be completing a small animal internship at Fort Hood Army Base in Killeen, Texas.

Dr. Joseph Blount — Dr. Blount is hooded by his father, Dr. Tom Blount. Dr. Blount will be joining Trans Ova Genetics in Bryan, Texas, and be focusing his practice in cattle reproduction.

Dr. Shiloh Brackett — Dr. Brackett will be joining Cottonwood Creek Veterinary Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Waco, Texas.

Dr. Valerie Briell — Dr. Briell will be joining Germantown Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice in Germantown, Maryland.

Dr. Sarah Brien — Dr. Brien will be Pet's Best Friend, a small animal practice in Braintree, Massachusetts.

Dr. Karly Brightwell — Dr. Brightwell will be joining Westridge Pet Hospital and Wellness Center, a small animal practice in Schertz, Texas.

Dr. Katie Burchfield — Dr. Burchfield has accepted a poultry residency at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

Dr. Chelsea Burleson — Dr. Burleson will be joining the North Boulder Companion Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Boulder, Colorado.

Dr. Stephen Chapman — Dr. Chapman will be practicing small animal medicine with Cole Veterinary Hospital in Spring, Texas.

Dr. Sophie Christilles — Dr. Christilles will join Dr. Mark Haugland in equine practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Annalis Cigarroa — Dr. Cigarroa has accepted a small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Elizabeth Clementson — Dr. Clementson will be joining Dime Box Animal Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Dime Box, Texas.

Dr. Nicole Copeland — Dr. Copeland has accepted a small animal rotating internship at BluePearl Stone Oak in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Danielle Covarrubias — Dr. Covarrubias will be joining VCA Deer Creek Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Crowley, Texas.

Dr. Emily Crews — Dr. Crews will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Hutto, Texas.

Dr. Kelly D'Ancicco — Dr. D'Ancicco will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Cedar Park, Texas.

Dr. Courtney Daily — Dr. Daily will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Carissa Dale — Dr. Dale will be joining Little Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Longview, Texas.

Dr. Desiree Davidson — Dr. Davidson will be joining VCA Orso Creek Animal Hospital and Emergency Center, a small animal practice in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Gabriela DeLima — Dr. DeLima will be practicing small animal medicine in Jensen Beach, Florida.

Dr. Brittany Donald — Dr. Donald will be Highland Lakes Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Marble Falls, Texas.

Dr. London Dority — Dr. Dority will be joining Bissonnet Southhampton Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Nantika Du — Dr. Du will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Plano, Texas.

Dr. Hunter Enderle — Dr. Enderle has accepted a small animal rotating internship at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Dr. Shelby Faw — Dr. Faw will be joining Foster Creek Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Richmond, Texas.

Dr. Austin Floyd — Dr. Floyd will be joining VCA Jones Road, a small animal practice in Cypress, Texas.

Dr. Kelli Franks — Dr. Franks will be joining Belton Small Animal Clinic, a small animal practice in Belton, Texas.

Dr. Wendy Garcia — Dr. Garcia will be joining Wharton Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Wharton, Texas.

Dr. Sarah Genz — Dr. Genz will be joining Crossroads Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Copperas Cove, Texas.

Dr. Nicole Gibbs — Dr. Gibbs has accepted a small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr. Meagan Gonzales — Dr. Gonzales will be joining Perrin-410 Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Amelia Gonzalez — Dr. Gonzalez will be joining ZippVet, a small animal practice in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Lynanne Graf — Dr. Graf will be joining Springtown Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in San Marcos, Texas.

Dr. Maria Granello — Dr. Granello has accepted an equine internship at Littleton Equine Medical Center in Littleton, Colorado.

Dr. Breanna Green — Dr. Green will be joining Oak Forest Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Hunter Greer — Dr. Greer has accepted an equine internship at Brock Veterinary Clinic in Lamesa, Texas.

Dr. Victoria Grimsley — Dr. Grimsley is hooded by her husband, also a member of the Class of 2020, Zachary Grimsley. Dr. Grimsley will be joining Cole Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Spring, Texas.

Dr. Zachary Grimsley — Dr. Grimsley is hooded by his wife, Victoria Grimsley, a fellow member of the Class of 2020. Dr. Grimsley will be joining Oak Ridge Animal Clinic, a small animal practice in Spring, Texas.

Dr. Lorena Gutierrez — Dr. Gutierrez will be practicing small animal medicine in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Alana Hall — Dr. Hall will be joining Banfield the Pet Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

Dr. Daniel Hanson — Dr. Hanson has accepted a small animal rotation internship at Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists in Longmont, Colorado.

Dr. Haley Jatzlau — Dr. Jatzlau will be practicing equine medicine at Elgin Veterinary Hospital in Elgin, Texas.

Dr. Wendell Kale Johnson — Dr. Johnson is hooded by his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Ford-Johnson. Dr. Johnson will be joining Town & Country Pet and Equine Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Louisburg, Kansas.

Dr. Sydney Jones — Dr. Jones has accepted a small animal internship at Neel Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dr. Brooke Kehlenbrink — Dr. Kehlenbrink will be joining South Pine Animal Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Crockett, Texas.

Dr. Kleg Kennedy — Dr. Kennedy will be joining Haskell Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Haskell, Texas.

Dr. Shanna Keshvari — Dr. Keshvari will be joining a mixed animal practice in Texas.

Dr. Kailey Kestner — Dr. Kestner will be joining the Family Pet Clinic of North Richland Hills, a small animal clinic in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Dr. Chelsea Kosar — Dr. Kosar will be practicing small animal medicine at Banfield Pet Hospital in Waco, Texas.

Dr. Bailey Kramr — Dr. Kramr will be joining Whitestone Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Cedar Park, Texas.

Dr. Brooke Kuehler — Dr. Kuehler will be joining Herbst Veterinary Hospital and Kendall County Veterinary Center in Boerne, Texas.

Dr. Evelyn Lake — Dr. Lake will be joining Cottonwood Creek Veterinary Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Waco, Texas.

Dr. Kristina Leon — Dr. Leon will be joining Gulfgate Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Miranda Lester — Dr. Lester will be joining Canton Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Canton, Texas.

Dr. Katrina Luu — Dr. Luu will be joining the Houston Cat Hospital, practicing exclusively feline medicine in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Lauren Balderas Lyda — Dr. Lyda will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Tyler Mackey — Dr. Mackey will be joining Houston County Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Crockett, Texas.

Dr. Michael Manriquez — Dr. Manriquez will be joining Marina Bay Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in League City, Texas.

Dr. Ashtyn Marek — Dr. Marek will be joining Foster Creek Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Richmond, Texas.

Dr. Elizabeth Martin — Dr. Martin has accepted a small animal rotating internship at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Dr. Scott Mash — Dr. Mash has accepted a small animal rotating internship at Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Dr. Amanda Mason — Dr. Mason will be joining the Animal Emergency and Trauma Center, a small animal practice in Poulsbo, Washington.

Dr. Amber Matula — Dr. Matula will be joining Lone Star Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Victoria, Texas.

Dr. Leah McAda — Dr. McAda is hooded by her father-in-law, Dr. Wesley McAda, a 1986 graduate of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. McAda will be joining Cuero Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Cuero, Texas.

Dr. Reagan McAda — Dr. McAda is hooded by his father, Dr. Wesley McAda. Dr. McAda will be joining South Texas Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Beeville, Texas.

Dr. Emily McCann — Dr. McCann will be joining Firehouse Animal Health Center, a small animal practice in Kyle, Texas.

Dr. Andrea Mercer — Dr. Mercer will be joining Animal Medical Center on Crow River, a mixed animal practice in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

Dr. Antonio Miller — Dr. Miller will be joining Houston Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Brandi Miller — Dr. Miller will be joining VERGI Emergency Clinic, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Kelly Min — Dr. Min will be joining the Montgomery Animal Shelter in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Sierra Mountain — Dr. Mountain will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Ashley Musgrave — Dr. Musgrave will be practicing small animal medicine in Texas.

Dr. Duc Nguyen — Dr. Nguyen has accepted a Laboratory Animal Medicine residency at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Jennifer Nguyen — Dr. Nguyen will be joining CityVet, a small animal practice in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Bridget Norris — Dr. Norris will be joining Wellborn Road Veterinary Medical Center, a small animal practice in College Station, Texas.

Dr. Michelle O'Bert — Dr. O'Bert has accepted a small animal internship at VCA Alameda East in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Daniel Olson — Dr. Olson will be joining MedVet Dallas, a small animal practice in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Kathryn Ortiz — Dr. Ortiz will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Courtney Pease — Dr. Pease will be joining Lamar Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice in Paris, Texas.

Dr. Thomas Peltier — Dr. Peltier will be joining Noah's Ark Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Andrew Penn — Dr. Penn will be joining Spencer Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Pasadena, Texas.

Dr. Monica Pickett — Dr. Pickett will be joining Hill County Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Paulina Platten — Dr. Platten will be joining Graef Veterinary Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Taylor, Texas.

Dr. Ashton Plummer — Dr. Plummer will be joining VCA Emergency Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in League City, Texas.

Dr. Ashley Polasek — Dr. Polasek will be joining Banfield Pet Hospital, a small animal practice in Webster, Texas.

Dr. Jessica Porras — Dr. Porras will be joining Bull Creek Veterinary Services, a mixed animal practice in Iola, Texas.

Dr. Anna Marie Pratas — Dr. Pratas has accepted a small animal internship at Arizona Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Julia Purnell — Dr. Purnell will be joining All Pets Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Katy, Texas.

Dr. Michael Rauch — Dr. Rauch will be joining Fayette County Veterinary Clinic, a mixed animal practice in LaGrange, Texas.

Dr. Lindsey Reichwein — Dr. Reichwein will be joining Oxford Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Oxford, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Meagan Rennie — Dr. Rennie will be joining Gulfgate Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Jace Reynolds — Dr. Reynolds will be joining University Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Itzel Rios — Dr. Rios will be joining Edinburg McAllen Veterinary Services, a mixed animal practice in Edinburg, Texas.

Dr. Chris Rivera — Dr. Rivera will be joining Community Pet Health Center, a small animal practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Alicia Robinson — Dr. Robinson will be joining Henderson Animal Care Hospital, a mixed animal practice in Henderson, Texas.

Dr. Alyssa Rush — Dr. Rush will be joining South Valley Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Rylee Rushing — Dr. Rushing will be joining Gully Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Arlington, Texas.

Dr. Sadie Sacra — Dr. Sacra will be joining a mixed animal practice in the Austin, Texas area.

Dr. James Sanchez — Dr. Sanchez will be joining Border Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Weslaco, Texas.

Dr. Kody Scherer — Dr. Scherer will be joining Spencer Veterinary Services, a mixed animal practice in Gilmer, Texas.

Dr. Devyn Shultz — Dr. Shultz has accepted a small animal internship at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Dr. Anne Serra — Dr. Serra will be joining VCA Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Rebecca Shipley — Dr. Shipley will be joining Rose-Rich Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice in Richmond, Texas.

Dr. Pauline Sklenar — Dr. Sklenar will be joining VCA Katy Trails, a small animal practice in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Sarah Slack — Dr. Slack will be joining Beachnut Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Amethyst Southern — Dr. Southern will be joining Tropicana Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Jill Starks — Dr. Starks has accepted a small animal internship with Arizona Veterinary and Critical Care Center in Gilbert, Arizona.

Dr. Lauren Strazdis — Dr. Strazdis will be joining Metro Paws Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Kristin Streeter — Dr. Streeter will be joining Van Buren County Veterinary Clinic, a small animal practice in Clinton, Arkansas.

Dr. Amanda Tabone — Dr. Tabone is hooded by her father, Dr. George Tabone, a 1993 Graduate of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Tabone will be joining VCA Angel Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Flower Mound, Texas.

Dr. Margaret Tiedeman — Dr. Tiedeman will be joining Alamo Dog and Cat Hospital, a small animal practice in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Jonathan Tingle — Dr. Tingle will be joining Pine Creek Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dr. Luke Tomaso — Dr. Tomaso is a member of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and will be serving at the Fort Campbell Public Health Activity in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Dr. Alexa Turner — Dr. Turner will be joining Belton Veterinary Hospital in Belton, Texas, where she will practice mixed animal medicine.

Dr. Timothy Turner — Dr. Turner will be joining the Outdoor Vet, a large animal ambulatory practice in Longview, Texas.

Dr. Michael Vallon — Dr. Vallon will be practicing mixed and equine animal medicine in the Waco, Texas, area.

Dr. Carling Vanier — Dr. Vanier will be joining Animal Medical Center, a small animal practice in Lubbock, Texas.

Dr. Jillian Villalva — Dr. Villalva will be joining Westgate Pet and Bird Hospital, an exotic animal predominant practice in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Rachel Walla — Dr. Walla is hooded by her father-in law, Dr. John Walla. Dr. Walla will be joining Greenwood Village Veterinary Clinic a small animal practice in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Jenna Ward — Dr. Ward has accepted an equine internship at Pine Bush Equine Services and Veterinary Hospital in Pine Bush, New York.

Dr. Kelly Wen — Dr. Wen will be joining Heights Hospital for Animals, a small animal practice in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Nathan Wheeless — Dr. Wheeless will be joining Central Animal Clinical a small animal practice in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Dr. Erika Wiggs — Dr. Wiggs will be joining Bryan Animal Clinic, a small animal practice in Bryan, Texas.

Dr. Mary Margaret Worley — Dr. Worley will be joining Deason Animal Clinic, a mixed animal practice in Floresville, Texas.

Dr. Rachel Youngblood — Dr. Youngblood has accepted an equine internship at Brazos Valley Equine Hospital in Salado, Texas.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): We now come to a solemn and pivotal moment in today's commencement ceremony. While the hooding ceremony was symbolic, now marks the actual time of transition – the conferring and granting of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Literally, within a few beats of your hearts, your lives will be forever changed. No longer will people refer to you as Mr. or Ms. — or just brother, sister, son, or daughter. From this point forward, you will forevermore be Doctor.

Members of the 2020 Graduating Class, it is now time to confer your degrees.

“Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and by the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System and the State of Texas, I hereby confer upon you, individually, the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with all the rights, privileges, and societal responsibilities pertaining thereto.”

Fellow colleagues and doctors of veterinary medicine, allow me to be the first to congratulate you and welcome you to the proud profession of veterinary medicine, one of the most noble professions in the world!

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): It is my pleasure to invite Dr. Karen Cornell to administer the Veterinarian's Oath.

(Dr. Karen Cornell): As we administer the “Veterinarian's Oath” to the graduates live, via Zoom, I would like to ask veterinarians viewing the ceremony to join us as we take the oath:

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

Congratulations, Class of 2020. It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with you. I look forward to watching you lead our profession into the future.

CLOSURE

(Dean Eleanor M. Green): Members of the Class of 2020, when you entered this celebration today, you were still students of our faculty. Now as you depart, you are colleagues and fellow veterinarians.

Accept your degree with pride and as a symbol of your achievement. It is a treasure that cannot be lost, borrowed, or stolen. It will afford you respect and establish you as an authoritative figure in animal health, animal welfare, and One Health. It will open doors to a wide variety of professional opportunities, as you serve humankind through ministering to the needs of animals in a profession that advances the health of animals, people, and the environment.

As you depart this celebration, the Aggie Spirit goes with you. You have been, and will continue to be, an integral thread in the fabric comprising the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences – and the university we love so much — Texas A&M University — Aggieland. There is truly no other institution equal to our own. You are forevermore Aggie Veterinarians, and you have the values, the confidence, and the experience to lead and change the world.

Texas A&M University and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences will forevermore be your home — and we welcome you to come back frequently — to fulfill the continuing education part of your life-long learning, to consult on a medical case, to support the college in a variety of ways, or just to socialize.

We extend our very best wishes for a healthful, productive, prosperous, and fulfilling career in veterinary medicine — the most rewarding career I know of.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me, from your homes, far and wide, in recognizing the accomplishments of the Class of 2020, the world's newest veterinarians.

This completes the 2020 commencement ceremony for Texas A&M University's 100th Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class. We invite you to enjoy images of the Class of 2020 during the recessional. The Ceremony hereby stands adjourned.

RECESSION

[Music will play as video slideshow as submitted photos scroll]

