My favorite "Leader of the Pack" article ever written was in volume 2 and issue 2, the March 2003 "Dispatch", where some of you might remember my part basking in the great glory of my alma mater, Ohio State, beating Miami for the college football championship. While I acknowledge that "turnabout is fair play", I have to admit that I've tried to avoid writing about the palindromic pummeling of my beloved Buckeyes by the Florida Gators on this January 8 in the BCS championship and yet I cannot escape it. The only topic of conversation directed to me at the SEAALAS meeting on January 18-19 was about the Gators. The game was replayed on Turner South on the night of January 18 to my shock and horror as I channel surfed into it. It seemed like the only commercial run during the January 8 game was this rock 'em, sock 'em robot and Dodge truck ad that also kept popping up the AFC championship game of January 21 causing me to revert to place conditioning and Buckeye-Gator recall. All the press coming out of Columbus, Ohio prior to the BCS was largely of how the Buckeyes just needed to show up in Arizona, go through a few paces in the game, handily dispatch the undeserving Gators, and collect their various awards. It did not work out that way, obviously. So, Florida Gator and SEC fans - congratulations on a championship well-earned! As I reflect more and more on that game, I can't help but think of how it serves as a metaphor for current international events in laboratory animal care and specifically that of the United States and China. The U.S. in animal care is this Ohio State-like juggernaut entity resting on its laurels and China is upstart Florida that is ready, willing, able, and hungry to compete. Think about this: Yale University entered into a joint arrangement with Shanghai's Fudan University and outsourced a considerable number of experiments overseas. International pharmaceutical corporations, such as Pfizer, tired of dealing with regulations, animal rights extremists, and perceived high costs, are likewise doing their inimitable best to offshore animal care and research as they have other jobs. A large reason is that animal care and research in Shanghai can be done for 20% of the cost in the U.S. (or at least Connecticut). For every $10,000 an American makes in salary, someone in China is willing to do it for $2,000! In the face of this economic reality, what are we in the DAR to do to keep from finding ourselves up to our armpits in Chinese alligators? The answer has nothing to do with bashing China, but looking within ourselves. The best way for higher cost operations to compete with low cost operations is to provide higher quality, in combination with innovation and efficiency where possible, and those must be our goals. Everyday we must be mindful of quality and ways to improve in animal care, veterinary services and administrative functions. If we can do this, we'll be metaphors for the excellence of Swiss watches, hand-crafted fine china, and other enduring masterworks.
### Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Mintz</td>
<td>February 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Menefee</td>
<td>February 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulasi Ghimirey</td>
<td>February 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Mook</td>
<td>February 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Amankwah</td>
<td>February 24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christin Veeder</td>
<td>February 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Abraham</td>
<td>March 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kasie Moore</td>
<td>March 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonid Trebelev</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Dixon</td>
<td>March 16th</td>
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<td>Samantha Smith</td>
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<td>Gary Roesinger</td>
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<td>Danette Hudson</td>
<td>March 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claude Reese</td>
<td>March 31st</td>
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<td>Rashidat Ayantuji</td>
<td>April 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madlene Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Neal</td>
<td>April 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erik Thurman</td>
<td>April 26th</td>
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</tbody>
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### Milestones

*Congratulations to Lashay Cobb on her 5th year of service at DAR!*  
*Congratulations to Gary Menefee on his 5th year of service at DAR!*  
*Congratulations to Claude Reese on his 5th year of service at DAR!*  
*Congratulations to Erik Thurman on his 5th year of service at DAR!*  
*Congratulations to Franklin Valesquez on his 5th year of service at DAR!*  
*Congratulations to Dr. Deb Mook on her and her husbands newest addition to their family. Annalise Nola Painter was born on January 21st.*  
*Congratulations to Gary Roesinger on passing his ALAT.*

### Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marlene Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dylan Summerville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Kairdolf</td>
<td>February 9th (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirk Hubbard</td>
<td>February 16th (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monteris Fowler</td>
<td>February 27th (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Smith</td>
<td>March 1st (13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy McCormack</td>
<td>March 2nd (9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisco Calderon</td>
<td>March 9th (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabrena Harvey</td>
<td>March 20th (2)</td>
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<td>Darlene Wyche-Alha-De</td>
<td>April 1st (9)</td>
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<td>Lashay Cobb</td>
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<td>Gary Menefee</td>
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<td>Erik Thurman</td>
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<td>Karen Lieber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Valesquez</td>
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<td>Selma Yarney</td>
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<td>Greg Kable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manny Da Silva</td>
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<tr>
<td>JJ Martinez</td>
<td>April 23rd (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Miller</td>
<td>April 24th (7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Neal</td>
<td>April 24th (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Hatchett</td>
<td>April 26th (2)</td>
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</tbody>
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### Welcome

We would like to welcome the new faces to DAR!  
**Jatineear Givens** - Program Manager  
**Tony Favaloro** - Vet tech II  
**Sabrena Harvey** - Animal Care Technician I - WMRB  
**Melinda Dorson** - Animal Care Tech I - Winship  
**Carl Johnson** - Temporary Animal Care Tech Trainee - RLS
Kudos

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Ellen Adams for graciously taking on the roles off three staff members on Thursday Jan.4th. She had to take up the slack for Kendall (out sick) and Casey (gone), not to mention do her own job. She also helped keep me straight with some of my sick sentinels.

Kudos to Kendall Flynt from Christin Veeder for staying late to help with the pinworm hunt.

Kudos to Marlene Barnes and Daniel Amankwah from Ellen Adams and Karen Lieber for their help with redeployment of over 150 sentinels in WH.

Kudos to Tina Engle from Lynne Morelock-Roy for smoothly incorporating the purchasing needs at a moment's notice.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger and Neville Whitehead from Karen Lieber for capturing my wayward mouse.

The Archer lab wants to extend kudos to George Petkov at the Children's Center for making such a concerted effort to work WITH the lab and for being patient in the name of research! Sometimes working with the lab means a little bit of inconvenience on the animal care tech and George has been very understanding - for that we thank you!

Kudos to Gary Roesinger and Cisco Calderon from Doug Taylor for gracefully handling the challenging requests of the O'Neill lab for rat transport.

Kudos to Daniel Duah from Ellen Adams and Karen Lieber for being observant and finding several sentinels that were overlooked.

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Carol Westbury for all the hard work and time she put in to save Snowscene (the rabbit) when she was under the weather.

Kudos to Tina Engle from Lynne Morelock-Roy for following through and getting in touch with Claire. Welcome back to Claire!

Kudos to Michelle Kulasiewicz from Lynne Morelock-Roy for keeping all of us on track and for being an incredibly caring co-worker.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger from Karen Lieber for going above and beyond duty by delivering my coffee cup and Kendall's umbrella back to our offices after dropping us off at SEAAALS.

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Lynne Morelock-Roy for this great newsletter and for keeping up with our bulletin board!

Kudos to Kendall Flynt from Karen Lieber for her help with quarantine parasitology which enabled me to get 27 cages released from quarantine early.

Kudos to Kasie Moore and Lynn Collura from Christin Veeder for helping with sentinel testing.

Kudos to LaShay Cobb from Carol Westbury for working hard and taking up the slack when Winship was short-handed.

Kudos to Kendall Flynt from Christin Veeder for labeling all the sampling supplies for Whitehead sentinel testing.

Kudos to Cisco Calderon from Lashay Cobb for giving me training lessons in how to put together a cart. Thanks for all your help!

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Lashay Cobb for always willing to help me and bring supplies promptly.

Kudos to Kathy McCormack from Lashay Cobb for being so helpful and kind when I call her concerning animal shipments.

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Nancy Miller for all their help with transporting DAR to the SEAAALS meeting in January.

Kudos to Marsha Howard and her program committee from Nancy Miller for the fabulous 2007 SEAAALS meeting they arranged.

Thanks to DAR for the opportunity to attend the meeting. Nancy Miller

Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Kendall Flynt for being a huge help with the Athens Tech Students. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy day at the last minute to teach them all about Oscar and Felix. Thanks so much!

To Neville Whitehead from Kelly Suter. I really miss DAR. Emory has the absolute finest animal care and services I have ever seen. All of the hard you and your staff devote to the expert animal care has never been lost on me and I miss it. From my perspective, it is the single most important component of a research infrastructure and no one, and I mean no one, does it better than Emory's DAR.
Holiday Party

by: Kendall Flynt

This year’s holiday party kicked off with much excitement! Everyone was happily awaiting the arrival of Santa. The party began with a huge meal filled with meals from all around the world. Many of us can say we had never before tried sheep cheese, which was very tasty. The infamous bourbon balls made their way back this year as well. There was more food then anyone could have possibly imagined eating. After everyone had stuffed themselves like a Thanksgiving Day turkey, the activities began.

Everyone enjoyed the DAR version of “The 12 Days of Celebration!”. Some are still waiting on the “six weeks paid vacation”. The song which was written by all here at DAR was a success. Following the caroling, we began the annual trivia game. There was not as much controversy surrounding this year’s game as in previous years. The game ended in a tie. Certain games of musical chairs were omitted this year due to their violent nature.

Following the trivia, a much awaited guest arrived. Santa Clause, played by our own Doug Taylor, arrived to pass out the gifts. All were in wonder of his jolly belly which was oddly on the move throughout his visit. After Santa’s visit, everyone waddled, still stuffed from the large meal, back to their respective facilities with gifts in hand.

As the party fades into memory, we are all looking forward to next year’s Holiday Party. Maybe Santa will make another appearance at the next Holiday Party if we are all good boys and girls this year. Overall, the Holiday Party was a success, which we all owe thanks to the Holiday Party Committee for their efforts and planning.

SEAALAS 2007

by: Lashay Cobb

I had an opportunity to attend the SEELAS conference last month. Thursday morning they started with the Tech Talks. All the talks were about monkeys except for Samantha’s she talked about “The Reconstruction of Micro Mice”. I didn’t get the opportunity to hear her but I heard she did a wonderful job. After lunch there were other presentations. Dr. Huerkamp was first and he did a presentation on “What Are The Three R’s.” He did a good job as always. He did an even better job because his sweetie was there. The presentation that was most interesting to me was the presentation about Retirement/Chimp Haven. Chimpy Haven is a place for chimps to go after they can no longer be used for research. It is a retirement home for them. They can go and develop their natural instincts as if they were in the wild.

That evening they had the banquet. It was nice and the food was delicious. It was especially nice for me because I was the second place winner from a drawing and won $50. Agnes was third place winner. Lynne was also presented with the Linda Hazel Memorial Award. She received a plaque and a check. The keynote speaker was Alistair Dove, he was from the Georgia Aquarium and he gave a presentation on the aquarium talking about their R’s.

On Friday morning Dr. Huerkamp and Greg participated in a panel discussion. It was a very interesting discussion. What the future holds for laboratory Animal Technicians. Greg really got everybody’s attention talking about our scanning system and how it operates. He talked about all the kinks that had to be worked out and kinks that could happen before we put it into place. He said new technology is good but you have to consider everybody involved including the animal care technicians before you just put something in place.

That evening we visited the Georgia Aquarium. I enjoyed the beluga whales and listening to how they survive in the water. The most interesting fact about them is that they have the same kind of lungs we do. They can’t stay under water no longer than 20 minutes at one time. They have to come up to get air even when they are sleeping.

I enjoyed both days and got a lot of good information. You also get the opportunity to get a lot of nice writing pens from the vendors! Thanks to Marsha and the rest of the committee for a job well done. Emory represented well and I look forward to the next year when Emory hosts the SEELAS conference.
Under the Scope

Name: Greg Kable
Position: Manager, Information System - DAR
Longevity: DAR since 4/22/1996
Personal Background: I grew up in a small town on a farm in Indiana. We housed a variety of different animals on the farm. It's ironic that when I was 12 years old or so, my favorite past time was taking target practice at the rodents on the farm. Now I oversee the security and environmental conditions of these animals. I attended Purdue University where I received a degree in computer science. Before I came to Emory, I worked in a clinical laboratory where I interfaced laboratory equipment with a central database. This job had me traveling to various places throughout the world. I almost missed the birth of my son, because my wife went into labor while I was in Scotland.

I have been working for Emory 11 years now and don't miss the traveling. I have a wife (Julie) who works at Emory as well and two wonderful kids (Joshua - age 11 and Emily - age 7). Factoid: Wes and I are not related!

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job: Developing new technology that will reduce effort and improve quality.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go: Decatur, Indiana to see my family.........Ha Ha Ha.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get: A transporter as designed on the TV show Star Trek.....I'd like to be able to transport from home to work in 5 seconds instead of the 45 minutes nail biting, name calling drive from Gwinnett I do daily.

In your free time, what do you enjoy doing: I enjoy coaching youth sports. Going to happy hour with my friends.
A Look at the Rollins Facility

by: Tulasi Ghimirey

It is a great pleasure working among people from all walks of life. We have friends from different counties within Georgia State, whose contributions to Animal care in DAR, Rollins was so outstanding. This includes Marsha Howard, Roger Dixon, Monterris Fowler, Michael Shelton, Gary Menefee and Keith Abraham. Also making immense contribution at Rollins DAR are colleagues from Bhutan (the country where smoking is banned) a smart lady from Nigeria (the country of crude oil) and a Ghanaian (the hometown of former UN Boss, Kofi Attah Annan).

If one peep through the hallway, one can see people with diverse cultures working collectively to boost the Biomedical Research for curing of incurable diseases. As diverse as we are, we house varieties of animals. Presently we have pigs, rabbit, dogs, shoal of fish, sheep, frogs, rats, mice, primates, cats, hamster, and songbirds. Some species like chicken, guinea pigs are in and out throughout the year and tadpoles and iguana are out for a while. We also house worms that we use to feed songbirds. We are looking forward to receive axolotls, larval form of tiger salamander as a new species in the Rollins facility. Rollins DAR staff is a big family. We are always train to grab the opportunity to help and to substitute for that on vacation and on sick leave respectively. Besides of our regular duties we sometimes share our personal life while at break and in the tech room. Some are compiled below:

Gary Menefee's 5th anniversary is on April 8th since he started working with DAR. Congratulation Gary. Have a wonderful happy birthday. You just turned 48 years on Feb 4th 2007. May you live long to see the 100 yrs. Sister Shirley, thank you so much for organizing a birthday party for your beloved brother-Gary Menefee.

It is a blessing for Roger Dixon's mom. She turned 78 yrs on Feb 2nd '07. May the Lord bless her with more years.

Roger commences his daily work from Crawford Long DAR and completes his assignments at DAR, Rollins. Roger! thank you so much for the wonderful work that you render for DAR.

Monterris Fowler whose 2 years anniversary is on the 28th Feb 2007 since he joined DAR-Rollins. Highly industrious worker at DAR Rollins cage wash.

Friendly and easy to talk to is Tulasi Ghimirey. His son Ryan who is 2 years old recently had ear surgery. He is now responding to treatment. Ryan, DAR Rollins is wishing you a speedy recovery.

Rashidat Ayantunji, the ubiquitous young lady and a lead tech, have been a force to reckon with at DAR Rollins. She has been giving a helping hand to every Tom, Dick and Harry at Rollins DAR.

George Kojo Eshun is a novice at Rollins DAR. His daughter will graduate from Dunwoody High School in May 2007. Thelma Eshun, (George's daughter), congratulation in advance.

Methuselah of Rollins -DAR is Michael Shelton (a.k.a. food professor) is always smart for the handling of the primates and other big animals.

Keith Abraham, DAR-Rollins cannot do without you. Your wonderful work at DAR, Peavine cannot go without comment. Your services at Peavine is highly commendable.

The most pivot pillar of Rollins -DAR is Marsha Ann Howard, the supervisor, who always steer affairs as far as animal care is concerned. She uses her masterly skills to ensure that the work is always well done.
Relay for Life
by: Nancy Miller

For the fourth year in a row, DAR has put together a team to participate in Relay For Life - a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. Our team name is “All Creatures Great and Small”. We are really excited this year because the event will again take place on our very own Emory campus. The event will take place on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodruff P.E. Center. It will conclude on Saturday, April 14 at 7:00 a.m. The teams are made up of students, faculty, staff and friends. The theme this year is “A Night with the Stars”. There is a special reception for cancer survivors on April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Join the fun - Help in the fight against cancer! This is the main money raising event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Teams compete against each other to raise as much money as they can for cancer research. The event is set up like a track relay and the teams must have a member on the track at all times. The “race” begins at 7:00 p.m. and goes through the night. Teams camp on the grounds and sell food or have fun activities in exchange for donations.

There’s still time to join the team! To do so, see Nancy Miller to sign up. If you can’t join the team, consider supporting one of the team members as they come around asking for your help in the fight against cancer. You can make a difference!

Poems

Simply the Best

From mountains to watersprings
To a house full of roses
You are simply the best
because your heart is so warm
bringing out your finesse

You take time out to care for my feelings
because when I'm down or being hurt by the world
I call on you to do the healings

You are simply the best, my one and only
Always around when I am lonely.

I need very little to make me happy
A little sunshine,
A little rain
A little laughter,
A little tear,
A little love,
A little understanding,
A little acceptance,
A little honesty,
and you
You are all I really need

You are all I really need

Oh love our hearts has over flowed with sweet dreams
Ruling this world of kings and queens.
Loving you is simply the best!

Happy Easter!