Another Dateline, this time: September 27, 2010. As I pen this column, I recall that 7 days previous with my editor breathing down my neck, I was totally bereft of any journalistic inspiration. As I now create prose I find myself wanting to comment upon Veteran’s Day (given Emory’s newly announced 11/11/2010 planned commemoration) or the remarkable transformation over the past 2 years of the quality of necropsy history and diagnostic work or possibly a reminder of the importance of the DAR Big Three: Caring, Competence and Trustworthiness. I am sure I will have another chance to comment upon 200+ years of history of America’s protectors; I hope the aforementioned kudos to the veterinary staff will suffice; and I will hold off sermonizing vis-à-vis The Big Three. I have been told that a great personal fault (note the proper pronunciation of the word, vet staff, unlike my foible of ~ September 9) is loyalty. And so I will remain devoted to an idea that came upon me on September 21 when I took the chance, with Deb, Doug and Vanessa, to seek creativity in the antiquities of our Carlos Museum. Incidentally, The Carlos has something for almost everyone in the DAR with relics from the ancient Americas, Africa, and Asian cultures and, just as importantly, it is free to Emory employees. Anyway, as I wandered among the antiquarian remains, especially the amulets of bats and armadillos and jaguars, and, with my colleagues haven taken good stock of their senses and opportunistically separated from me, my mind likewise wandered to Apollo Smintheus, the Mouse God of ancient Greece. Although there are Greek artifacts in the collection, there is nothing in The Carlos to celebrate the Mouse God. The cult of Apollo Smintheus thrived for 3,000 years and it all began when soldiers from Crete invaded Asia Minor and were victorious because mice had gnawed through the leather straps of their enemies’ shields. A temple on the island of Tenedos was dedicated to Apollo Smintheus and living there were strange creatures—albino mice. According to the Roman Pliny, these mice were used to predict the future. As we crest above 20,000 cages of mice cared for by the DAR, it might be...
important for us to pause and appreciate the means to enable the future contributed by the laboratory mouse: albino BALB/c, black B6, agouti 129 and all their inbred, outbred and mutant kin. The epoch of the laboratory mouse in modern times has been relatively short, by comparison, only about 110 years, but the achievements have been far more substantive than soothsaying. The domestic mouse in this relatively short history has been used to validate the principles of genetics and has been instrumental in Nobel Prize winning work. In just the past 10 years alone, for example, the mouse has been integral to garnering Nobels for scientists demonstrating how telomeres protect chromosomes, revealing the cancer-causing properties of HPV, discovering HIV, explaining the function of the olfactory system, using embryonic stem cells to change genes, developing MRI, and showing how signaling is done in the neurologic system. As we toil sometimes in the obscurity of the basement of our research buildings (or as I like to say, as we are quietly successful), let us never forget and likewise be inspired by the mouse, a metaphor for the DAR in its position of nobility even though often “unseen”.

Name: Denika Warwell
Position: Special Services for the Division of Animal Resources
Longevity: 8 weeks

Personal Background: This New York apple became a Georgia peach in 1995. I have over 15 years experience in the veterinarian field. Of those 15, I have worked for the Center of Feline Medicine and Surgery for the past 8 years in roles of office manager, vet technician, receptionist, kennel care, and pharmacy technician. Currently, I give my time to the childcare ministry for Berean Christian Church and have been doing so for 13 years. I have two awesome children, 15 & 13, two fat cats and a trained turtle. I am also owner and operator of Denika’s Desserts since 2000.

Most Rewarding Aspect of Your Job: The most rewarding part of my job is being able to provide outstanding customer service and building professional relationships.

If You Could Travel Anywhere in the World, Where Would You Go: Australia

If You Could Have Any Luxury Item in the World, What Would You Get: I want the resources to keep Denika’s Desserts flourishing so I do not have to worry about obtaining any luxury item I so choose to acquire in the future.

In Your Free Time, What Do You Enjoy Doing: I love participating in church activities, community service, baking, spending time with my children and traveling to various places around the country and abroad.
BIRTHDAYS

Huerkamp, Michael James  September 14  Pitt, Claude D  October 16  Meeks, Maya Encantada  November 10
Morelock-Roy, Lynne Allyn  September 1  Taylor, Douglas Karl  October 23  Velasquez, Franklin A.  November 13
Kable, Gregory J  September 3  Davis, Aimee Kamell  October 5  Wyche-Aha-De, Darlene A  December 26
Sellers, Jana Terrell  September 4  Cosby, Cherie  October 13  Griffey, Virginia Annette  December 9
Wiles, April Nicole  September 25  Lee, Vanessa Keller  October 31  Calderon, Alberto  December 8
King, Kaja Arne  September 12  Weed, Kristy Elaine  October 5  Calderon, Francisco  December 19
Batiste, Mikelyn R  September 24  Mandall, Kelli Nicole  October 24  Sparks, Rachelle  December 16
Presley Jr, Jr Eugene  September 25  Lieber, Karen A  November 15  Pritchett, Sharaarah L  December 5
Ming, Henry C  September 10  Duah, Daniel A  November 6  Dunkley, Calvin K  December 31
Miller, Nancy  September 24  Ergle, Christina Kim  November 3  Fincher, Loraine Leigh  December 3

Happy Birthday

ANNIVERSARIES AND MILESTONES

Acheampong, Hanson F  September 6, 2005  Gray, Aaron Christopher  October 27, 2008
Barlowe, Sara Rebecca  September 13, 2010  Trebelev, Leonid  October 29, 2001
Griffey, Virginia Annette  September 16, 1985  Perry, Jennifer R  October 30, 1995
Sparks, Rochelle  September 19, 2008  McCalla, Derrick Alberga  November 2, 2009
Abraham, Keith  September 25, 2005  Jenkins, Paul  November 8, 2006
Weed, Kristy Elaine  October 2, 2008  Magana, Carlos R  November 10, 2008
Pritchett, Sharaarah L  October 7, 2005  Duah, Daniel A  November 14, 2004
Alford, Koya Naon  October 9, 2006  Batiste, Mikelyn R  November 19, 2009
Dunkley, Calvin K  October 11, 2004  Nanje, Agnes E.  November 29, 1999
Davis, Aimee Kamell  October 12, 2009  Thurman, Erik Dijuan  December 3, 2001
Duktic, Karen E  October 12, 2009  Elliott, Benjamin Mark  December 14, 2003
Broadshaw, Stephen M  October 20, 2008  Finch, Loraine Leigh  December 16, 2009
Mack, Antonio  October 24, 2006  Reese Jr., Claude  December 17, 2001

Welcome, Reclassifications, Promotions, and Awards

Welcome to our new receptionist, LouAnn Reid. We are glad to have you at DAR.
Congratulations to Dr. Lee for passing her American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) boards and getting promoted to Assistant Professor.
Congratulations to Greg Kable for being this year's recipient of the Topaz Achievement Award. This award recognizes Greg's leadership, courage, and innovation in implementing results and is given out to only one individual a year.
Congratulations to Martha Mize for passing her AALAS exams.
Congratulations to Koya Alford for her promotion to Supervisor in the Whitehead Building.
Congratulations to Kathy Troyer for her promotion to Accountant/HR Representative.
Congratulations to Rachelle Sparks for her reclassification to Accountant.
Congratulations to Leigh Finch for her reclassification to Veterinarian Technician II

Welcome and Thank you to our Temporary Staff in the Office, Shyla Tucker, Louise Coxxum, Laura Myers, and Denika Warwell.
Welcome to our work study students, Henry Ming, Priyanka Gandhi, Kelli Mandall, Sara Barlowe, Jessica Wilson, and Connie Fan. Welcome back Medha Shukla and Stella Spears. We hope you have a rewarding and educational year with us at Animal Resources.

"It's when ordinary people rise above the expectations and seize the opportunity that milestones truly are reached."
- Mike Huckabee

Congratulations on your achievement!
Do You Have an STD?

RACHELLE SPARKS

It's a sunny fall day. The leaves are changing to those vibrant colors we look forward to admiring. The school buses are taking over the neighborhood streets and the birds are planning their winter vacation to the south. Not all is right with the world, but it is enough for you to believe life is good. Who knew when you went for your annual check-up that the doctor would find that you have a medical condition that is not serious, but needs immediate attention. The first thing that comes to mind is "I don't want to use all my vacation and sick time for this procedure. My family and I are going on our Florida vacation in a couple of months." Then you remember you have an STD. This is one STD you'll want to have, which we will discuss later in this article.

Disability is something most people do not like to think about. But the chances that you will become disabled probably greater than you realize. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 3 in 10 chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age (www.socialsecurity.gov). People often think in terms of disability only in terms of permanent disability. However, for the person not yet needing to go on permanent disability, brief or temporary periods of disability can improve a person's quality of life, help maintain health, and extend the working career. Many companies offer disability to their employees at no cost to the employee. Here at Emory, Faculty, Staff and Post Doc employees who work at least 20 hours a week and are classified as regular full-time or part-time are eligible.

Short Term Disability (STD) coverage helps you maintain a weekly income if you are sick or injured and can't work for a short time. The plan replaces 60% of your weekly base salary for the first 180 days of an illness or injury. Employees may elect a 15, 21, 30 or 60 day waiting period. Short Term Disability employee contributions are based on the waiting period you choose and are taken out on an after-tax basis. Many people are not aware of or do not consider Short Term Disability as a necessity. Short Term Disability is essential to singles as well as men and women with families. For less than ten dollars a month it can mean the difference of maintaining or losing your assets and your quality of life. No one anticipates being in an accident or needing outpatient surgery, but you can rest easy knowing that if this situation arises you are covered. So make that step and sign up for Short Term Disability. Emory's Annual Benefits Enrollment period is October 11, 2010 - October 29, 2010. This is a small period of time to make a decision that could affect your life for a long time to come.

For more information on Long Term and Short Term Disability call 404-727-7611 or log onto http://www.hr.emory.edu/eu.

News at Emory

KATHY TROYER

- Open Enrollment is from October 11—October 29. Please make sure you submit for you benefits for the 2011 year.
- Flu Shots will begin October 11th. This is free for employees with Emory Health Insurance. Please take advantage. Check out our News at Emory Board in the main office for dates and times.
- Emory becoming a smoke free campus?? It is possible. In 2012 smokers will be charged a surcharge for healthcare. Contact FSAP if you are interesting in smoking cessation classes.
- Emory’s Hardship Fund is almost ready to take applications. The fund cannot begin helping people until it reaches $15,000. It is a few hundred dollars shy. Have you donated? You never know when a catastrophic event could impact your finances and it is convenient to do a small payroll deduction or one time payment online so please go support your Emory family at www.emory.edu/hardshipfund today. Ongoing financial support is necessary to keep this program available to our community. One dollar makes a difference.
- Emory’s pharmacy is now open. Located in between Clinic A and the Mocha delights café. Take advantage of this convenient service.
- Please check out Emory News You Can Use to see the latest news at Emory at www.hr.emory.edu/newsyoucanuse.
- Please contact Kathy Troyer or Shanhara Pritchett if you have any interest in contributing to the DAR Newsletter.
Kudos to Greg Kable from Lynne. You deserve a standing applause. Thank you for keeping our systems healthy and for being there, day and night when they are not.

Kudos to Nancy Miller from Tina for brightening our days with treats from the garden and home-made bookmarks that are so perfectly scented!

Kudos to Marlene Barnes from Nancy Miller for your leadership of the Clinic B facility and Agnes Nanje for your leadership of the Pediatrics facility while Rashidat was out on leave. You both did a great job and always managed to have a pleasant outlook even when dealing with unhappy investigators. Neville and I can not thank you enough.

Kudos to Tina Engle from Kathy for being a mediator, mentor, and teacher. You have been great in my transition.

Thanks to Sharmyn Gipson from Rachelle for making me laugh on days I want to scream!!

Kudos to Kristy Weed from Doug for keeping the ‘outer buildings’ under control.

Kudos to Dr Lee from Doug for passing boards and getting promoted to assistant professor.

Kudos to the Clinic B staff: Antwawn Bryant, Antonio Mack, Kaja Alford King and Jana Sellers and the Pediatrics staff: Sierra Stallsworth, Alberto Calderon and Steve Brodshaw from Nancy for working as a team and taking care the facility while Rashidat was on leave.

A giant thank you Dr. Huerkamp from Lynne for your patience and support, good advice and ready ear.

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Tina Engle for taking care of the much needed archiving for all of us (in the office plus the lab) & finding us so many excellent work studies!

A HUGE Kudos to Alyssa Kairdolf from Darlene for managing to complete 2-1/2 months of census in 1.25 months! This is absolutely phenomenal, especially in the light of numerous Granite issues. Way to go Alyssa!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Koya for making sure my pager was working throughout my first day on the job.

Kudos to Lisa Copeland from Greg Kable. The website looks great, the AAALAC floor drawings look fantastic, and the automation of the billing application will make people’s life easier. Great Job!

Kudos to our dedicated and resilient office staff from Lynne Morelock-Ray, once again you’ve risen to the occasion and ‘weathered through the storm.’ Another year end complete!!!! I don’t want to be cliche, but I really don’t know how we did all of this. Every single team member used their expertise and their inner resources to make this happen.

Kudos to Shaylor Tucker from Greg Kable. I told you the IT department was a happening place. Thank you for all your hard work.

Kudos to Barb Butler and Shaylor Tucker from Lynne. Thanks a million.

Kudos to Denika Warwell from Darlene for handling the front window, clinical cases, special services and everything else! Excellent job Denika!

Kudos to Marlene Barnes and Agnes Nanje from Neville for their hard work covering Clinic B and Pediatric facilities during Rashidat’s absence. Excellent job guys.

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Rachelle. Thanks for being such a fantastic supervisor. I appreciate the opportunity to work under your tutelage.

Kudos to the伍druff Staff from Koya Alford for working EXTRA hard during Ann’s vacation.

Kudos to Marsha Howard from Kathy for always listening to my gripes when I need you to. You make my days easier.

Kudos to the vet staff from Kathy for asking great questions about cost accounting timecards. Your questions are helping me learn so keep them coming.

Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Nancy for his unique ability to multitask.

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Nancy Miller, and Lynne Morelock-Ray from Kathy for having so much patience and training me so diligently in my HR duties.

Thank you Rachelle Sparks from Tina for that JRS mode of yours – tracking down answers to every order and its proper invoice. Your detailed notes are greatly appreciated!

Kudos to Gary Roesinger and Cisco Calerdon from Tina for letting us pull them over and out of their busy days for answers only they would know.

Kudos to Drs Wood and Asher, Maya Meeks, Alime Davis, and Leigh Fincher, from Doug for helping make the AVMA workshop a huge success.

Kudos to Koya Alford from Kathy for always answering my beckoning call.

Kudos to Rachelle Sparks from Lynne. I don’t know how you did it. You rock!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Greg. Thank you for all you have done for me and the IT department. You’ll be missed. Good luck in your new job!

Kudos to Derrick McCalla, Calvin Dunkley, Eugene Presley, and Gideon Usifoh for their hard work cleaning the stainless steel ceiling in Clinic BT.

Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Koya for TRYING to teach me how to use various computer programs and the copier in the front office.

Kudos to Karen, Maya, Carol, Kristi, Cherie, Alime, Leigh, Doug, Vanessa, Deb, Paul, Daniel, Marsha, Minida, Agnes, Marlene, Ann, Nancy and Neville from Lynne Morelock-Ray for answering the gazillion and one questions we had and for coping with our changes all summer long. Only a few more weeks and things should settle down!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson from Darlene for completing all of your animal orders, reconciliations, and paying invoices in the midst of health issues. All of your work was done with zero errors. You Rock Shar!!

Kudos to Laura Myers from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for learning the animal order process and the “invoice attached” form in Emory Express. You are doing a great job.

Kudos to Darlene from Lynne Morelock-Ray. I don’t know how you did it. Tremendous Job!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Nancy for not complaining when I ask her a security or environmental question, even though she has moved on to her new HR job.
Kudos to Henry Ming, Priyanka Gandhi, and Kelli Mandall from Kathy. You are doing a great job in the office.

Kudos to Alyssa Kairdolf from Lynne. I don’t know how you did it. Phenomenal contributions both with census and training/tracking Kathy’s orders! Kudos to Tina Engle from Lynne. The deadlines were tight, the nerves were frazzled, but it came out all right, the ARAC was dazzling! Well not quite dazzling, but it rhymed! Thank you for your dedication and attention to detail, your friendship and good humor!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Lynne, the woman of many changing positions, how many hats did you wear??!

Kudos to Kathy Troyer from Neville for her willingness to help with IT stuff while at the same time learning her new job. You have been wearing multiple hats and wearing them with a smile.

Kudos and many thanks to Aimee Davis from Tina for answering all kinds of drug questions 24/7 - even in between your reps. & sets! Wow.

Kudos to Denika Warwell from Tina Engle. You’re simply so terrific and fun to work with every day! Thanks for bringing in lots of cheer with all your stories, smiles, and laughs.

Kudos to Rachelle Sparks from Darlene for managing all of your year-end orders and requests with ease. This was your first experience with year end but you did a great job!

Kudos to Greg Kable from Darlene for quickly pulling together everything I.T. that needed to be ordered for year end. You are phenomenal!

Kudos to Kelli Mandall and Priyanka Gandhi from Kathy for knocking out the archiving project. You guys are great.

Kudos to the Customer Service Staff from Rachelle. Through it all you have remained strong and unmoving. You are appreciated.

Kudos to Jessica Wilson from Greg Kable. Thanks for joining our group.....Good luck this year in school.

Kudos to Louis Coaxum from Greg. Are you done yet? Thanks for being on the IT team. We can’t do it without you!

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson from Lynne. I don’t know how you did it. Incredibly done!

Kudos to Lisa and Louis from Lynne. You were there to cover IT when Kathy couldn’t!

Kudos to the entire office staff from Kathy. Thank you for being patient with me as I have transitioned into different jobs and thank you for all of your training.

Kudos to Cherie Cosby from Doug for staying strong while you learn the new job.

---

See You at AALAS!

Shaharah Pritchett

The AALAS convention is once again upon us. And this year we are fortunate enough to have it here in Atlanta. This year the spotlight forum is Biomedical Research in Space. As always, there are many interesting learning opportunities. When you get a free moment, thumb through the program and take a look at all of the topic specific classes, forums and workshops. There may be a few opportunities for you to learn something interesting and new. I would like to encourage all of my fellow technicians to never stop growing. Even though we look to our supervisory and management staff to maintain an environment of teamwork, as well as coach us on our journey to personal development, we must hold ourselves accountable for our own growth and development. Even if DAR is not going to be your life’s work, make the most of your time here and challenge yourself to be better than you were when you started. I have volunteered to be a part of the welcoming committee at this year’s national convention and I hope to see you there.