



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of
Veterinary Medicine

Celebrating the
**COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY
MEDICINE**
2026 Graduation

Thursday, August 20



Welcome *to the 2026* Graduation *for the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine*

Today marks an important milestone for our
College of Veterinary Medicine graduates.

Graduation is the culmination of the hopes and
dreams of our students and their loved ones, as
well as the faculty and staff of the college. We
are deeply grateful and excited to celebrate this
important day with the entire community, and we
cannot wait to see what this class achieves as
they move forward with their careers.





A Note of Gratitude

To our university's leadership and governing body, the Arizona Board of Regents, thank you for leading, advocating for, and protecting this university and its values on behalf of our state.

Thank you to our community, donors, and key partners for believing in and supporting our vision for this college.

Thank you to the faculty and staff who work tirelessly to educate and support our students throughout their journeys.

Thank you to our pet professors and teaching herds, who selflessly give of themselves to enrich our students' educational experience.

Thank you to the families and friends whose love and encouragement made our students' time here possible.

And most importantly, thank you to our students for choosing this program and trusting us with your education. We could not have asked for a better class, and we can't wait to see what you accomplish next.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, and the state of Arizona, will always be your home.

Bear Down, VetCats!



Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

Order of Ceremony

Processional

National Anthem

Welcome

Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Hispanic Welcome

Alex Ramirez, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, PhD
*Senior Associate Dean,
Academic Programs & Faculty Affairs*

Land Acknowledgment

Alberta A. Arviso, PhD
Senior Engagement Officer

Student Speaker

Jacob Coker
2026 DVM Graduate

Faculty Speaker

Anthony Martin, DVM
Associate Professor of Practice

Doctoral Hooding

Anthony Martin, DVM
Associate Professor of Practice

Sallianne Schlacks, DVM, DACVIM-SA
Assistant Professor of Practice

Lara Shreve, DVM, CVAP
Assistant Professor of Practice

Sarah Carotenuto, DVM, DABVP (CF)
Associate Professor of Practice

Graduate Blessing

Alberta A. Arviso, PhD
Senior Engagement Officer

For live, real-time captions to your smart device, please scan the code



Veterinarian's Oath

Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 2026 Graduates

Closing Remarks

Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Recessional

Please remain seated while students, faculty and leadership exit for a class photo. Families are welcome to join their graduates outside of the Linda Ronstadt Music Hall.

College of Veterinary Medicine Leadership

Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Alex Ramirez, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, PhD
Senior Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Faculty Affairs

Kina Barton, BGS
Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration

Teresa Graham Brett, JD
Senior Associate Dean, Student and Community Engagement

Maggie O'Haire, PhD
Associate Dean, Research

Bonnie Price, DVM, MPH
Associate Dean, Clinical Relations

Yan Zhang, DVM, PhD, DACVM
Director, Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory



Graduation Speakers



Jacob Coker

2026 DVM Graduate

Jacob grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma, and earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration: Management from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Since moving to Arizona with his dog Mable, he's come to love the landscape, culture, and even the heat, and is excited to call Tucson home. Following graduation, Jacob will start his career in mixed animal general practice at Reata Veterinary Hospital. He's grateful to the family, friends, and mentoring doctors who supported him along the way, and hopes to one day pay it forward by teaching veterinary students himself.



Anthony Martin, DVM

Associate Professor of Practice

Dr. Martin grew up on a small farm in Enterprise, Alabama, where, as the youngest, he was responsible for feeding the animals, sparking his early passion for animal husbandry. He graduated from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1998 and went on to join Dairy Veterinary Services (DVS) in Chandler, Arizona, as an associate, eventually becoming a partner. At DVS, he worked closely with his dairy clients' teams to improve their operations through animal health and employee training. In 2021, Dr. Martin left practice to begin teaching at the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine. Outside of work, he enjoys wake surfing and spending time with his family and herd of cattle.



Veterinary
Medicine

*Doctor of Veterinary
Medicine Degree
2026 Graduates*



2026 Doctor of Veterinary

Natalie Adras

Katherine Albers

Taylor Albert

Gloria Andrade-Feraud

Ashlee Arevalo

◆ *Lindsey Arkangel*

Conor Atkinson

Stephen Baglieri

Kimberley Banach

Zachary Bauer

Marilyn Bernal

◆ *Carmaletha F. Bitsoi*

Genevieve Bock

Alexandra Booth

Odessa Rae Grace Burdick

Ten Caballero

Charlotte Carter

Naomi Chao

Holly Clark

Meghan Cochran

◆ *Jacob Coker*

Emily Colby

Asbley Lynn Comerer

Stefanie Contreras

Addison Crippa

Delaney Datta

Serina De La Trinidad

Jennifer De Long

Jenna Della Torre

Amanda Derby

Tania Do

Amanda Doorenbos

Meagan Dowell

Ariana Ussery

Lauren Elliott

Mackenzie Eschberger

Alexandra Finnegan

Raquel Foster

Mia Fragoso

Hailey Schang

Briana Frieri

Peyton Gadberty

Sarah Gagliano

Madelaine Starr Galvan

Noah Gershoni

Sophia Gompers

Talis Green

Carter Grimes

Ivy Halliday

◆ *Madison Hammond*

Isabel Herrera

Cielo Hidrobo

◆ *Gamen Huang*

Bailey Hunt

Dylan Hutchison

Julia Imler

Medicine Degree Graduates

Asbley Johnson



Ke'olani Kabale-Lua

Rita Kalar



Veronica Kaufman



Madison Kim



Dakota King

Jason Kirk

Natalie Krug



Maria Lerma



Ethan Levin

Grisel Lopez Reyes

Mary Macri



Michael Martinez

Elisa Martinez



Zoe Mason

Hannah McAlister

Bailey McGill

Karla Isela McKernan



Nicholas Melvin-Wong

Maddie Moore

Elizabeth Moreno

Megan Muglia

Madison Muirhead

Gagan Singh Multani

Faye Muñoz



Michealla Omo

Nicole Orazi

Joseph Ortiz-Venegas

Madison Paige

Annisa Pannell

Alyssa Christine Perez

Samantha Peterson

Jillian Peterson

Kimberly Phung

Shawn Piemont

Jessica Pihlblad

Natasha Radic

Chyna Rendon

Brandon Reynolds

Sydney Riester



Camille Riggs

Breanna Salvino

Imara Savon

Nina Sciaraffa

Kiena Scott

Kayden Shotwell

Sarah Smith

Aundrea Denyse Smith

Valeria Smith

Makenna Snodgrass

Laura Szaniszlá Szabo



Tabitha Torres

Artaja White

Mary Wolkerstorfer

Shabab Zaman

Payton Zarnik



Student Award Recipients

Student Awards celebrate the diverse talents and contributions within this graduating class and recognize the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our students, as voted on by faculty members.

Pillar Awards

Pillar Award recipients are honored for their exceptional commitment to the University of Arizona's core values, consistently demonstrating outstanding character and professionalism both in the classroom and at clinical sites.

Integrity: *Ethan Levin*

This award recognizes someone who has shown moral character off-campus at clinical sites and our Arizona CVM campus.

Exploration: *Michael Martinez*

This award recognizes an attitude of exploration and curiosity. A person who explores outside their comfort zone in all scenarios.

Determination: *Carmaletha Bitsoi*

This award recognizes a "Bear Down" attitude and perseverance in overcoming obstacles over the past three years.

Inclusion: *Nicholas Melvin-Wong*

This award recognizes going above and beyond to make Arizona CVM a more inclusive environment.

Adaptation: *Jacob Coker*

This award honors perseverance and adaptability throughout the program, from shifting classrooms to transitioning into clinical sites.

Compassion: *Camille Riggs*

This award recognizes someone who has shown compassion for their peers, mentors, and community over the past three years.

Additional Awards

These distinctions encompass specialty and species-specific awards within the field of veterinary medicine.

Excellence in Bovine Animal Medicine: *Veronica Kaufman*

This award recognizes excellence in bovine medicine, demonstrated through a strong work ethic, problem-solving ability, a solid knowledge base, clinical skill, and ongoing engagement.



Student Award Recipients

Excellence in Equine Animal Medicine: *Dakota King*

This award recognizes excellence in equine medicine, demonstrated through a strong work ethic, problem-solving ability, a solid knowledge base, clinical skill, and ongoing engagement.

Excellence in Rural/Mixed Animal Medicine: *Ethan Levin*

This award recognizes excellence in rural animal medicine through demonstration of a strong work ethic, considerable knowledge base and clinical skills.

Excellence in Dermatology: *Madison Hammond*

This award recognizes excellence in dermatology, demonstrated through a strong work ethic, a solid knowledge base, clinical skill, and ongoing engagement.

Excellence in Research: *Lindsey Arkangel*

This award recognizes excellence in research, demonstrated through a strong work ethic, a solid knowledge base, and ongoing engagement.

American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Certificate of Clinical Excellence Awards

Students nominated demonstrate a sincere interest in veterinary internal medicine or small animal affiliated specialties, including cardiology, oncology, neurology, and nutrition, as well as outstanding didactic and clinical expertise.

For Small Animal: *Madison Kim & Ke'olani Kabale-Lua*

For Large Animal: *Zoe Mason*

American College of Veterinary Pathologist Student Award for Excellence: *Michealla Omo & Gamen Huang*

This award recognizes outstanding students who have demonstrated exceptional proficiency and interest in anatomic and/or clinical pathology.

American College of Veterinary Radiology Student Award for Excellence: *Maria Lerma*

This award recognizes outstanding graduating students who have demonstrated exceptional proficiency and interest in veterinary radiology.

American Association of Feline Practitioners Outstanding Senior Award: *Tabitha Torres*

The awardee, nominated by their school, receives a certificate and a complimentary Recent Graduate Membership to the AAFP.

Faculty ♦♦♦

Faculty Marshals

Anthony Martin, DVM

Associate Professor of Practice

Sallianne Schlacks, DVM, DACVIM-SA

Assistant Professor of Practice

Lara Shreve, DVM, CVAP

Assistant Professor of Practice

Sarah Carotenuto, DVM, DABVP (CF)

Associate Professor of Practice

Fernando Amitrano, DVM

Associate Professor of Practice

Holly Bender, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Professor

Antonio Bowens, DVM, DACVIM

Associate Professor

Priscilla Bowens, DVM, MPH, JD

Associate Professor of Practice

Emily Bray, M.A., PhD, CAAB

Assistant Professor

Teresa Graham Brett, JD

Senior Associate Dean

Professor of Practice

Christina Brownlee, DVM

Assistant Professor of Practice

**Bonnie Buntain, MSc, DVM, D(E)
ABVP (Equine), DACVPM**

Professor

Obadiah Byanet, DVM, MS, PhD

Associate Professor of Practice

**Diego Celdran-Bonafonte, DVM,
MSc, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Practice

Curt Coffman, DVM, FAVD, DAVDC

Associate Professor of Practice

**Sarah Eaton, DVM, DACT, CVA,
DABVP (Equine), MBA**

Associate Professor of Practice

**Ryane Englar, DVM, DABVP
(Canine, Feline)**

Professor of Practice

**Daniel Foy, MS, DVM, DACVIM
(Small Animal), DACVECC**

Associate Professor of Practice

Julie Funk, DVM, MS, PhD

Dean

Professor

Matthew Goetz, DVM, MBA

Assistant Professor of Practice

Nellie Goetz, DVM, MPH

Associate Professor of Practice

Jose Goni, DVM, MS

Associate Professor of Practice

Prem Govindappa, DVM, PhD

Assistant Professor

**Lauren Grider, DVM, MA, ALC,
NCC, CCFP**

Assistant Professor of Practice

Faculty ◆◆◆

Brisa Hsieh, DVM, DACVIM
(Small Animal)
Associate Professor of Practice

Ilona Jaffe, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Danielle Kaplan, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Rob Keegan, DVM, DACVAA
Professor

MK Klein, DVM, MS, DACVIM
(Oncology), DACVR
Professor of Practice

Krista Kline, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Gayle Leith, DVM, MA, MS, DABVP
(Equine)
Associate Professor of Practice

Victoria Lukasik, DVM, DACVAA
Professor of Practice

Evan MacLean, PhD
Professor

Christy Martin, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Kathryn, O'Connell, DVM, DACLAM
Associate Professor of Practice

Maggie O'Haire, PhD
Associate Dean, Research
Professor

Cameon Ohmes, DVM, MS,
DACVIM (Equine), MBA
Assistant Professor of Practice

Megan Owen, PhD
Assistant Professor of Practice

Healthier Penton, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Latticha Pluemhathaikij, DVM,
DACVMP
Assistant Professor of Practice

Kristen Pogreba-Brown, MPH, PhD
Associate Professor

Bonnie Price, DVM, MPH
Associate Dean
Associate Professor of Practice

Alex Ramirez, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, PhD
Senior Associate Dean
Professor

Martin Reimann, MS, PhD, MA, PhD
Professor

Kerri Rodriguez, MS, PhD
Assistant Professor

Victoria Sammons, DVM, PhD
Assistant Professor of Practice

Steph Shaver, DVM, DACVS-SA, MS
Associate Professor of Practice

Lisa Viesselmann, DVM, MS, DACVP
Assistant Professor of Practice

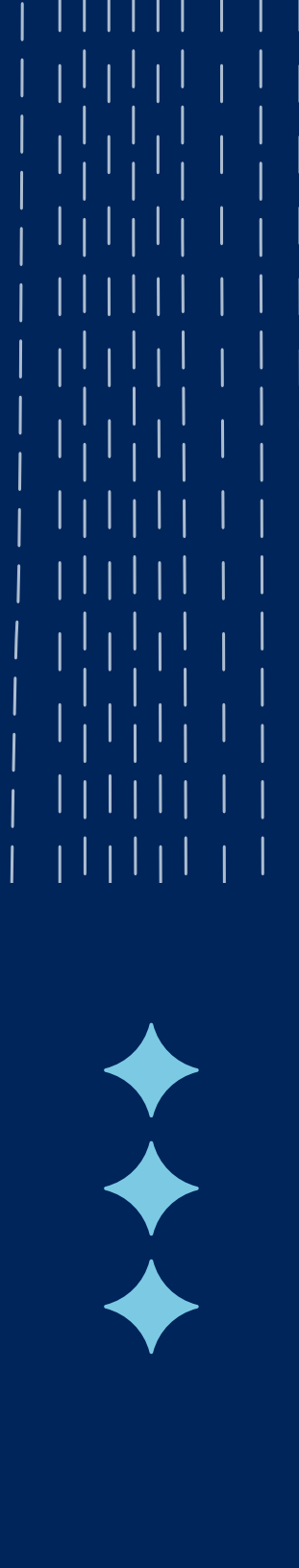
Nicole Vigil, DVM
Assistant Professor of Practice

Yvonne Wikander, DVM, MS, DACVP
Professor of Practice

Jennifer Wishnie, DVM, MSc,
MPH, DACVPM
Associate Professor of Practice

Caroline Wood, DVM, PhD,
DACVIM (Oncology)
Assistant Professor of Practice

Mitch Zischke, PhD
Associate Professor of Practice



Veterinarian's Oath

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.



Translations

Hispanic Welcome:

Alex Ramirez, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, PhD

Thank you, Dean Funk.

Welcome to the University of Arizona VetCat Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremony.

It is an honor to address those who are completing their academic training today and beginning a new stage in their professional lives.

The years you have spent in our program have been very special.

You have had to develop new learning skills and learn a multitude of information.

You have forged a new path, one in which you encountered many obstacles, but you continued to move forward.

You have received a first-class education at an institution that always strives for excellence in education.

The University of Arizona will always be your home, and our VetCat family will always be here for you.

Today we don't say goodbye, but see you soon. Because you are now members of a highly honored profession, and this great University will always be your alma mater.

A world of opportunities now opens up. As long as you embrace the desire to be the best veterinarians you can be, as long as you maintain your hard work and work ethic, success is guaranteed.

We're all here, celebrating you and wishing you a bright future.

Congratulations!

You did it!



Translations

Graduate Blessing: Alberta A. Arviso, PhD Dine' (Navajo)

Our Dear Heavenly Father, Earth Mother, and Holy Ones,
We are thankful for the land on which we gather from the
four directions.

We are your precious children from near and far, we come
together for a commencement.

We are thankful for our graduates, the Class of 2026.

We are thankful for their enthusiasm and accomplishments.

We are thankful for their love of animals and their love of
veterinary medicine.

We are thankful for their families and communities.

We are thankful for our teachers and learners.

We are thankful for our leaders and our university.

We are thankful for all life and nature that surround us here
in the southwest region of the U.S.

Bless us as we depart from this celebration of academic
achievement.

Bless our graduates with strength and resilience as they
move onward in their journey.

Bless us to be mindful of all aspects of health and life,
especially animal welfare.

Bless us to live in harmony and to help others in need.

Bless us with protection and safety as we travel home to
where our fire burns.

Bless us with faith, love, joy, and gratitude.

Bless us from the sacred spiritual places we honor and hold
dear in our hearts.

Nanise' Naaldlooshii Bila'ashdla'ii Nihá Nahasdzáán Bikáá'

Niilyéii Baa Hááh Hasin Dóó Baa' Ahééh Íl'

All things bright and beautiful. All creatures great and small...

To All Our Relations. Amen



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