



The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

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For immediate release

SEC VET SCHOOLS VYING FOR TOP SPOT

A new program, the Hill's SEC Veterinary Medicine Alumni Challenge, has increased alumni support to five veterinary colleges in the Southeastern Conference: University of Tennessee, Auburn University, University of Georgia, Louisiana State University and Mississippi State University.

The Challenge, sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, kicked off at the American Veterinary Medical Association alumni receptions in July 2003 and will end this June 30 with the results being announced at the AVMA in Philadelphia. The goal of the challenge is to increase alumni participation in annual giving to each of the veterinary colleges.

"This has been an exciting opportunity for our veterinary alumni to support their alma mater, while engaging in a friendly competition among the SEC veterinary colleges," said Dr. John Chambers, 1986 UTCVM alumnus and current president of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association. "Many of us have remained very enthusiastic and loyal to SEC athletics. This program lets us give something back to the veterinary schools from which we graduated and to show that we think ours is the best in the SEC!"

The university with the highest percentage of alumni participation will receive a \$7,000 cash award from Hill's, followed by \$6,000 for second place, \$5,000 for third place, \$4,000 for fourth place, and \$3,000 for fifth place. The cash award will be used at each university to benefit students by funding the Hill's Alumni Challenge Scholarship.

Dr. Howell Little, a Senior Veterinary Affairs Manager with Hill's, said, "Hill's Pet Nutrition is proud to join the University Of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in taking a leadership role in encouraging alumni investment in veterinary education. Alumni donations are truly an investment in our college's ability to mold and shape the future of veterinary medicine. "

"The SEC challenge has helped to impress upon our alumni how critical their annual gift is and how much it is needed to support the veterinary program," said Dr. Michael Blackwell, Dean of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. "This college continues to look beyond state appropriations to enhance our financial support."

The UT College of Veterinary Medicine is hosting an alumni and faculty reception before the Georgia game on October 11, 2003 in the University Center Crest Room two hours before kick-off. For more information, please contact the UT College of Veterinary Medicine Development Director Claire Eldridge at 865-974-4379, or celdridge@utk.edu