

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

Contact: Sandra Harbison, 865/974-7377 or 865/660/0255
sharbiso@utk.edu

For immediate release

VETERINARY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM) honored three alumni during its Annual Conference in February.

Dr. Julie Fischer, a 1996 graduate from the veterinary College has received the First Decade Achievement Award. This award is presented to a person who has graduated from the UTCVM with a DVM degree within the last ten years. As a recipient, Fischer shows promise of continuing contributions to the veterinary profession through service to clients, animals and the community. Fischer, currently Director/Clinician of the Veterinary Hemodialysis

Unit at University of California Veterinary Medical College-San Diego says, “One of the greatest gifts UT gave me was an internalized sense of the importance of mentorship. I was fortunate enough to receive phenomenal mentorship while I was here and I hope to carry that gift forward.” Fischer credits the support of her mother and grandmother with her success.

Dr. Mary Blinn received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for non-private practice. Blinn received her DVM degree from UT in 1984 and is the Shelter Veterinarian of Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control in North Carolina. She has dedicated her life to improving the lives of shelter animals for 17 years. “17 years ago when I entered shelter medicine no one entered that field. I felt quite alone in the world and would often rely on my former instructors from the veterinary college in Tennessee to help me along the way.” Blinn has been a voice in the community for those who could not speak for themselves.

Dr. Donald Ragland received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for private practice. Ragland graduated number one in his class in 1981, “I have to say I feel like having received an award for breathing. Just doing what you have to do, what you need to do, what comes naturally.” According to Dr. Susan Ford, who nominated him, Ragland is active in his church and community and has brought high quality medicine and surgery to a rural community in middle Tennessee.