



The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

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News Release

All Roads lead to Knoxville

Dr. Mohamed Abd-Eldaim from Egypt read a biographical sketch of Dr. Ferenc Toth from Hungary. Dr. Madhu Dhar from Pune, India looked at the many international flags on display. Dr. Hwa-Chain Wang nibbled on Shepard's Pie as Australia's Dr. Kate Hill and Sri Lanka's Dr. Charmindrani Mendis-Handagama placed their pins on the world map indicating their home countries. All the activities were part of the first International Day at The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, which has one of the most diverse populations on the university campus.

"All Roads Lead to Knoxville" was the theme of the inaugural event, which was coordinated by the dean's office and the college's Veterinary Social Work Services as a way to strengthen professional relationships by exploring the diversity represented at the college.

Each of the faculty and staff members has traveled a different road to arrive at the college, and each brings a variety of perspectives as we all focus on the same mission and vision, a commitment to making a difference in people's lives every day. Whether by interacting with and mentoring students, caring for the beloved companions of our clients, improving human health through research or developing plans for the future of the college, we are working together to make a difference.

Dr. Sionagh Smith from Scotland says events such as International Day help open our eyes to variety, "It reminds us not to come to conclusions about origins based on outward appearance or accent."

Many faculty and staff at the college filled out questionnaires designed to encourage exploration and discussion of diverse backgrounds. The UT College of Social Work and the International House co-sponsored the event.