A CLEAR VISION FOR MARINE MAMMALS

CARMEN COLITZ (DVM, ’93 and PhD, ’96) has a vision for animal eye health. Over the past 15 years, Colitz has performed more than 300 eye surgeries on marine mammals such as sea lions and seals. “These beautiful animals get cataracts as they age, just like everyone else,” she says. “It’s incredibly rewarding to help them regain their sight and previous quality of life.”

From childhood, Colitz aspired to be a veterinarian. As a veterinary medicine student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, she was fascinated when her professor showed a video of cataract surgery. She focused on animal ophthalmology from that point, but didn’t start working with marine mammals until she was on the faculty at The Ohio State University. “I got a call from a former student who had become the attending veterinarian at Six Flags in Ohio,” said Colitz. “She said, ‘I’ve got two blind sea lions here, and I want you to come and help them.’” Colitz assembled a team and drove to the park to perform cataract surgeries on the animals. The procedures went smoothly, the animals recovered their vision, and Colitz found a new calling.

Today, she runs a veterinary specialty and emergency practice in south Florida with her husband, a boarded veterinary surgeon. About 13 years ago, a colleague approached Colitz with an idea. “She wanted to help support eye health, especially those with cataracts and retinal degeneration,” Colitz says. “We both were already prescribing supplements for our patients from health food stores, but it was difficult because little dogs don’t like to take pills.” Colitz and her business partners developed a formula and tested it. “Our initial one-year clinical study showed that the supplement was safe, that treated dogs didn’t go blind from retinal degeneration, and the supplement benefited their health in general,” she says.

They patented the formula, OcuGLO™, and the product is now the top vision supplement for both dogs and cats, sold in more than 70 countries around the world. “We now have a formulation for humans as well, called OcuGLO™ Human,” Colitz says. “It’s been an exciting journey.”

Last year, Colitz enrolled in Haslam’s Executive MBA Strategic Leadership program. “So far, it’s a great experience,” she says. “The leadership focus is amazing and so well-balanced. My goals are for my hospital to become a world-class specialty and emergency animal hospital, and to make OcuGLO™ a household name.” This program is helping her get there.
With their solution for the best tracking and traceability of blood products from donors to recipients, Haslam MBA students Michelle Davis, Carson Hollingsworth, Morgan Sowers, and Abigail Wegman won the Canadian Blood Services and SCAN Health’s Virtual Business Case Competition. They split the $4,000 cash prize.

Haslam Executive MBA for Strategic Leadership student and renowned marine mammal veterinarian, Carmen Colitz, recently performed a 17-hour cataract surgery on Bruce, an 18-year-old sea lion.

Ben Meadows, a PhD student in economics, was a finalist in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition for his research presentation, “Can We Love Invasive Species to Death?”

The Haslam College of Business hosted the seventh annual SEC MBA Case Competition in April. The University of Alabama won first place and $10,000. The winning team, advised by Quoc Hoang, included Everette Dawkins, Samuel Greene, John Clary, and Bryonna Rivera Burrows. FedEx sponsored this year’s competition.

Six MSBA students participated in the Fast Pitch Case Competition, MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference. Eight students and program director Missie Bowers attended the two-day conference in Boston in March.

Melton Scholar Austin Kuhr, working under associate professor of business analytics & statistics, Chung Eun Lee, received the first place award for research from the Haslam College of Business and the silver award for undergraduate research from the Office of Research and Engagement in the recent EUR&CA research exhibition.

WINNERS OF THE MSBA INTERNAL CASE COMPETITION, CLAY DANIEL, BEN BOATRIGHT, AND SETH HALLING, REPRESENTED THE HASLAM MSBA PROGRAM AT THE INMAR WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY BUSINESS ANALYTICS CASE COMPETITION ON MARCH 26 IN WINSTON SALM, NORTH CAROLINA.

More than 100 business analytics and statistics and supply chain management faculty and students attended Amazon’s Nashville headquarters kickoff at the Ryman Auditorium in February.

The student-led Management Society, which promotes hands-on opportunities for professional development, has grown to 73 members, an increase of 125 percent. Its speaker series participants included representatives from: Aldi, Amazon, AT&T, Boeing, Pilot Flying J, Dollar General, Cintas, E.J. Gallo, Enterprise Holdings, PepsiCo/Frito-Lay, Coca-Cola, Whole Foods, 21st Mortgage, American Century Investments, Kimberly Clark, Radio Systems Corporation, Whirlpool, Target, TTI Group, Morgan Stanley, UBS, Volkswagen, Tennova Healthcare, Vanderbilt Mortgage, and others.

125% GROWTH
TREY QUEALY’S INTEREST IN SUPPLY CHAIN began with a race. As student council president in high school, Quealy faced a dilemma when he ran out of pizzas in the concession stand during the homecoming game. “It was my job to find as many pizzas as possible, as quickly as possible, at the best price,” he says. Quealy enjoyed the challenge and told his mom about it that night. “She said, ‘Maybe you should think about majoring in supply chain.’”

Quealy hasn’t looked back since. Now a senior in supply chain management at Haslam, he says the past four years have been packed with new experiences, challenges, and friendships.

A runner since middle school, Quealy is part of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s track and field and cross-country program. “Joining this team is part of what drew me to Haslam,” he says. “After high school, I had to make a decision about whether to give up the sport. I realized I wanted to keep running, and am proud to do that here.”

Off the track, Quealy actively seeks new opportunities and experiences. He’s completed three internships in the past four years and participated in several student programs, including the Leadership Knoxville Scholars program, Rocky Top Roundtable, and the Leadership Studies Advisory Board.

“The college does a tremendous job of presenting students with opportunities, but it’s up to us to take advantage of them,” he says. “My motivation to do that has really pushed my academic and professional career.” During his freshman year, Quealy received an email about an opportunity to apply for a free trip to Seattle through Boeing’s Accelerated Student Experience (BASE) program, a four-day event for undergraduate students. Always eager for a chance to travel, Quealy signed up, interviewed, and was accepted. That trip led to a summer internship with Boeing the following year.

In his junior year, Quealy showed up at a roundtable with P&G. “I came because I’d heard they were giving away free Tide pods,” he laughs. “We had a great conversation and they offered me an internship for the following summer.” That internship in P&G’s supply chain offices resulted in a full-time placement after graduation, where he will work as an initiative operations leader at their Cincinnati headquarters.

Quealy’s long-term goal is to become the CEO of a Fortune 500 company. “Haslam has instilled the desire in me to dream big, work hard, and strive for success,” he says.
A second annual cohort of supply chain upper-classmen traveled with John Bell and Alex Rodrigues to study logistics management at the Panama Canal this May. Students experienced canal operations firsthand and analyzed the impacts of the canal on Panamanian and North American economics.

Josiah Ogier, a junior in supply chain management with a collateral in marketing, was recently chosen as one of five American finalists to be flown to Paris for L’Oreal’s annual Hackathon. Out of 6,400 applicants globally, Ogier was one of just 39 individuals overall selected to participate in the prestigious event. His team placed second in the competition.

Student organization NeXxus named Joanne Wright, IBM’s COO and vice president of enterprise operations and services, as one of its “Outstanding Women in Supply Chain” during the institute’s fall Supply Chain Forum in November.

In February, 26 Haslam students traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the NABA Engagement Dinner at the Wells Fargo Connection Building and for visits to several business headquarters before participating in the Alumni Engagement Dinner at Rooster’s South Park.

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The Smith GLS Class of 2019 met with Knoxville mayor Madeleine Rogero to talk about the importance of business leaders becoming involved in civic engagement.
INTERIM UT PRESIDENT RANDY BOYD VISITS WITH THE NEWEST WINNERS OF HIS NAMESAKE BOYD VENTURE CHALLENGE AT THE ANDERSON CENTER BUSINESS ACCELERATOR.

ANDERSON CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

Sofia Tomov’s Qardian Labs, a medical software company, Lia Winter’s Winter Innovations, a product development company, and Erica Grant’s Quantum Lock were selected from a group of six student-business finalists and awarded a total of $25,000 in the fall 2018 Boyd Venture Challenge.

Vol Court

Kaleb Winders took first place in the spring 2019 Vol Court Pitch Competition for Rolling Storage, a mobile storage solution. Second place went to Alexander Weber and Makenzie Swicegood for Backdoor, a smartphone application to help pet owners track lost pets. Third place winner Moriah Goss pitched Maternity Muscle, a company providing fitness resources for pregnant women.

A smart lock with increased security technology created by Erica Grant won first place in the fall 2018 Vol Court Pitch Competition. Second-place winner Camille Dillard pitched Dreams by Dillard Weddings & Events LLC, a Tennessee-based event planning company. Third place was awarded to Thomas Jolley’s RentWorx, a business idea for simplifying equipment leasing.

Reid Parker, a senior accounting major, assisted Ramon DeGennaro, professor of banking and finance, with research into the use of bias response teams at universities. The research led the duo to co-author a paper that will be a chapter in an upcoming book. Parker presented their findings at the Association of Private Enterprise Education Conference in the Bahamas this April.

Haslam marketing students taking a class on corporate social responsibility worked with AT&T to survey regional and national businesses in researching how the organizations pursue sustainability. They identified key insights about how AT&T can support other companies’ sustainable business projects and shared these in presentations to AT&T and other companies.

PhD candidate Riley Krotz participated in the graduate schools’ 3MT® Final Competition 2019.

Haslam students enrolled in Ernie Cadotte’s Innovation and New Product Development class collaborated with ORNL and the City of Knoxville on a mechanism that more efficiently and effectively regulates brine distribution on roads during winter snows.

Selin Anitsal, a marketing major with an entrepreneurship collateral, received the “Outstanding Undergraduate Abstract” award at the Atlantic Marketing Association conference in September.

FIFTY-NINE STUDENTS IN 29 TEAMS OF TWO STUDENTS AND ONE SINGLE STUDENT PARTICIPATED IN THE SPRING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SALES FORUM. AMONG THOSE TAKING HOME AWARDS WERE:

First Place: Meghan Griffin and Abby Panter
Second Place: Andrew (Drew) Arnett and Drew Driscoll
Third Place: Stephen Oliver (solo)
Champion Style Creativity: Phebe Peake and Haley Rust
Dynamic Deal Closer: Allison Herring and Ariana Macioce
Incredible Needs Identification: Gary (Paul) Hopson
Outstanding Objection Handling: Zack Beeler and Spencer Chamberlain