

MEET YOUR President

Dr. T.C. Branch
Birmingham, AL

What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

Growing up I had a dachshund who thought he was a German Shepherd. He was severely injured after he was attacked by some larger dogs. After surgery and his recovery the seed was planted.

What type of veterinary medicine do you practice and why did you choose it?

I have practiced zoo and exotic medicine that has now transformed into a primarily companion animal practice.

Where did you study?

My veterinary studies were at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University).

Who is your role model/mentor?

Many individuals instilled a sense of service and knowledge in me. My parents and family sacrificed much, giving me the opportunity to pursue and achieve my goals.

What advice can you offer someone coming into this profession?

Become involved in your professional organizations. They have much to offer. Veterinary medicine is one of the most challenging and most rewarding career choices you will experience.



What do you enjoy most about your job?

Every day I get to interact with clients and their animal companions and play a part in their health and well being.

Why would you recommend that someone join ALVMA?

This is your ALVMA. There are many benefits ranging from excellent continuing education, free webinars, just to name a few. We are actively pursuing some new member benefits that we hope to announce soon.

How did you get involved with the ALVMA?

Upon graduation it was expected to become a part of my professional

organization. It is a relationship that I have continued and have enjoyed since graduation.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Walking the tightrope between career and family is a challenge, also dealing with the grief that comes with the loss of a beloved companion animal.

What is the most memorable experience of your career?

Veterinary medicine is a memorable experience every day. I have extracted polar bear teeth, played with lion cubs, used my track and field skills to escape bodily harm, and sewn up a stuffed animal that a dog was jealous of.

What do you think has been the most significant change/ advancement in veterinary medicine?

Many forms of technology have allowed veterinary medicine to advance by leaps and bounds. The advancements in 3-D printing will revolutionize veterinary medicine as we know it.

How has being a member of ALVMA helped you professionally?

Our members are passionate about the ALVMA. Being a member has allowed me to interact with some of the finest people you could ever meet.

What is the last movie you watched?

I think it was probably "Finding Nemo."

When I'm not working, you'll find me...

working on an unfinished project on my to do list.

What was the last song you sang?

The Sound of Music was recently here at the theater. The Do-Re-Mi song is contagious.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I will still be passionate about veterinary medicine.

Where would you go if you could go anywhere? Why?

I would tour the USA to enjoy the history and nature of our country.

If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want to have?

Many things come to mind, but a good book, music and fire would make my time there bearable.



What accomplishment are you most proud of?

The fact that my wife said yes and our family.

What is your favorite quote?

There are so many. Certainly the golden rule comes to mind. Another is "Make sure your words are sweet; One day you may have to eat them."

What is your simplest pleasure?

Enjoying time with family and friends.

What makes you laugh out loud?

The antics of pets and children playing is entertainment that can't be beat.

If you could meet anyone (dead or living) who would it be and what would you ask them?

I have always admired the discipline of George Washington Carver and his commitment to his students and research. He achieved so much with so little. I would love to talk to him about his inspirations.

What book are you reading?

I am re-reading "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck

What other hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy playing the drums in my spare time and tinkering around with my guitar. Most of my life I've played in different bands and music was my college major. We had a traveling percussion ensemble that exposed a lot of youth to the joys of music.

What five adjectives best describe you?

Trustworthy, reliable, considerate, committed and disciplined are some that come to mind.

Professionally, if you could change something, what would it be?

I would address student debt and I would be thrilled if all veterinarians would engage in organized veterinary medicine.

When was the last time you did something for someone else and what was it?

Just a few days ago at a McDonalds drive thru, I paid for breakfast for the individual in the car behind me.

I still want to learn how to...

Play golf.