

Dear **Veterinary Medical Alumni Association** at ISU Members and Potential Members,

Even though we are still battling the challenges associated with COVID and its new variants, we are returning to more “normalcy” in our lives. And boy does it seem like we are busy!!! So, I thought it would be appropriate to draft a quick newsletter to keep our alumni up to date.

On August 6<sup>th</sup> I had the honor to present two members of the CVM Class of 2024 with their white coats. This White Coat Ceremony replaced the one that was cancelled last year. The anticipation and excitement in CY Stephens during this event made me realize once again what a great profession we have. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, I will go to Ames again and participate in the White Coat Ceremony for the CVM Class of 2025. Did you know that YOUR VMAA dues make it possible for the VMAA at ISU to provide financial support for the White Coat Ceremony? Thank you for your continued support!

Have you received your registration information to attend the 2021 IVMA Annual Meeting that is scheduled for September 29 – October 1? Please plan to join us for the VMAA at ISU Annual Meeting which will be held during the noon luncheon on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Business will include awarding the VMAA Outstanding Service Award and VMAA Outstanding Mentor Award to two deserving veterinarians, voting on changes to amend the VMAA at ISU By-laws and reporting the findings of the 2020 financial audit.

Perhaps the most exciting news to share is that the VMAA at ISU is hosting Homecoming 2021 on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>! We are working in conjunction with the ISU CVM to welcome all ISU CVM alumni and their families to a Homecoming tailgate party prior to the game against Oklahoma State University. One of the benefits of being a VMAA at ISU member is the opportunity to purchase Homecoming football tickets at a reduced rate. Tickets will be limited this year so be sure to watch for ISU Homecoming details from the VMAA at ISU in early September. Letters or emails will be sent to all members as well as non-members in reunion classes. All alumni can check our website for order forms. Dr. Grooms shared that a new disc golf course is available on the vet school grounds, so come and check it out! Go Cyclones!!!

Once again, I encourage you to renew your membership or become a new member of the VMAA at ISU. The VMAA at ISU Board has great ideas for more ways we can support the mission of our organization. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so ASAP. Our membership numbers are slowly increasing each year but the potential for new members is tremendous. Please take time to return your \$50 membership payment today, remember, our programs are totally funded by membership dues. To learn more about the VMAA at ISU go to <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association>

Lastly, I have both bittersweet and exciting news to share. Marta Burkgren, our excellent, dedicated VMAA Association Director for the last 21 years, has announced her retirement. Marta has been the solid foundation that keeps the VMAA at ISU on track. She will be greatly missed. However, I am pleased that the VMAA will be in the very capable hands of Sara Isaacson, who accepted our offer to become the new VMAA Association Director beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. She and Marta will be working together to ensure a smooth transition. Marta, THANK YOU for your years of dedicated service and Sara, we look forward to working together for the continued success of the VMAA at ISU. Watch for more information about Sara in the future.

For those who use social media, stay connected with the VMAA at ISU through Facebook. Be sure to “like” our page and watch for updated information or just some unique stories about veterinary medicine. Recent posts include pictures of the DVM class of 1921 and the White Coat Ceremony. You do not have to be a member of [Facebook](#) to see the posts. <https://www.facebook.com/Veterinary-Medical-Alumni-Association-at-Iowa-State-University-110951733831513>

Thank you to all for your support of YOUR VMAA at ISU!!! Go Cyclones!

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