

December 2020 Newsletter

The VMAA at ISU Board of Directors would like to take a moment to say “THANK YOU” to the dedicated members that helped us endure the challenges of 2020. I know of numerous organizations that were so looking forward to 2020 by planning exciting and stimulating meetings and events while using titles that were a play on words relating to “2020 vision”. We were going to have all the answers in 2020 “clearly” in our sights. Instead, we relied on conference calls, Zoom meetings and other methods of social media to stay connected and conduct business throughout the year. Many organizations, including the VMAA, were successful in 2020, because of their ability to be flexible, resilient and creative in managing day to day activities.

Before we look forward to 2021, I want to congratulate Dr. Fred Sick and Dr. Doug Quam who were recipients of the VMAA Outstanding Service Award and the Outstanding Mentor Award (new in 2020), respectively. Both are very deserving of the recognition as they share their passion for our profession. Thank you to Dr. Rachel Allbaugh for her leadership as VMAA President in 2020. Dr. Paul Armbrrecht will be our VMAA President during the 2021 year. We also want to welcome Dr. Jeff Cornick to the VMAA Board of Directors. I also want to thank Marta Burkgren for all of her efforts coordinating the changes and “firsts” that the VMAA endured due to COVID-related changes. I encourage all alumni to reach out to the VMAA Board of Directors if there is some way that our organization can support you to enhance the veterinary profession.

The VMAA Board is optimistic moving into 2021. We will continue to support and be part of key events such as the White Coat Ceremony, the luncheon at the IVMA Annual Meeting and the ISU Homecoming Celebration. We are even more committed to building relationships and providing support to the veterinary students. We will continue the Student-Alumni Connection program; drawings for Café Cash, further develop the Student Outreach Bureau and expand our contributions to help reduce student debt with additional scholarship opportunities. The students are the future of the VMAA. Any way that we can help them as students will benefit the VMAA when they become lifelong members after graduation (hint, hint).

To stay connected with the VMAA at ISU, please visit our Facebook page (Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at Iowa State University). It is a great place to share information and learn the history of veterinary medicine at ISU. Or visit our website (<https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association>) to read old newsletters and learn more about the VMAA at ISU. This is a great place to catch up on news and activities that the VMAA at ISU have been doing over the past couple of years. There is also a membership form to join the VMAA at ISU if you are not currently a member. Ms. Burkgren recently sent out VMAA membership renewal notices. PLEASE take time to renew your membership with the VMAA. ALL of our programming and student support is funded by your support through your membership dues. They are only \$50 per year. I have said this before in previous newsletters... “We have slightly over 800 members in the VMAA. We have over 5000 ISU CVM alumni. Think about all the ways we could help our students and veterinary profession if we had a larger percentage of alumni as members”. Please become one of our outstanding members!

As we move closer to the end of a very challenging 2020, the VMAA Board of Directors wishes each of you a happy holiday season. We hope each of you chooses to include the VMAA at ISU as a part of your larger plans for success as we blaze new trails into 2021!

Best Wishes. Go Cyclones! BEAT OU!

Mark Brinkman, DVM

Communications Chairperson, VMAA at ISU