



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

INTRODUCTION

HELLO! I am Jenni Stumpf (Spaulding), your 2023 VMAA at ISU president. I grew up in the small town of Rolfe, IA, which surprisingly generates a lot of veterinarians for a town of only 500. I went to Pocahontas High School and Simpson College and graduated from ISU CVM in 2016. I now own a veterinary practice in Indianola, IA, with my business partner and a fantastic team. I am blessed to be married to my high school sweetheart and a mom to a sweet and sassy 2-year-old girl.

VETERINARY MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

When Dr. Allbaugh asked me to join the VMAA at ISU executive board, I started learning as much as possible about the association. I will be the first to tell you that I only knew they gave me a free sweatshirt once. I walked into my first meeting and was immediately impressed by incredible alumni who jumped full force into the meeting with ideas on serving all of you while maintaining a budget and sticking to our mission. They welcomed my ideas and allowed me to participate in **something new and wonderful!**

The VMAA at ISU was created to provide a **fellowship for ISU CVM alumni** and promote the interests of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the profession. It provides:

- a friendly association for ISU CVM alumni
- scholarships and connections to students
- social events such as reunions and homecoming
- a way to stay connected through events and social media

The “why Not me?” Mantra

The saying, “Why not me?” has helped me in many ways throughout my career and life. As a new graduate, I had a patient with a rock GI obstruction. I hadn't performed gastrointestinal surgery yet. I had only sutured cadaver tissue, which wasn't even connected to an animal. The “I CAN'T!” thoughts started to pour into my head. But the owner trusted ME to take an obstructed rock out of THEIR pet, so I said, “**WHY NOT ME?**”. I had a passion for helping the animal and all the basic training I needed to get the job done. That pet is still alive and well today. My husband took me to a 4th of July party years later, which happened to be at this owner's house. The minute I walked in the door, he grabbed the rock from a drawer and showed it to everyone at the party. What a small world to think that owner would become my husband's golfing buddy years later!

The “Why not me?” mantra can apply to everything you do. You may want to run a marathon. Or start a new veterinary practice? Or learn a new surgery? Don't let your inner thoughts go right to “I can't” because you never know what saying, “Why, not me?” could lead to. You might save the dog of your spouse's golfing buddy or find something new and wonderful to be a part of!

Happy New Year! – Jenni Stumpf

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