Dear Members and Potential Members of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at ISU,

Last week I attended the IVMA Annual Meeting in Ames. Part of the reason for my attendance was because I am a board member of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at ISU (VMAA). In fact, I am now YOUR VMAA President-Elect. With many other associations that I belong to, the President usually writes a brief note to the membership. So, why not the VMAA too?

My morning started with a VMAA Board Meeting where we discussed the usual items such as annual budget, membership trends, ongoing programs such as the White Coat Ceremony, Homecoming celebration and student scholarships. But there was something new and exciting to discuss at this particular meeting…the Student Alumni Connection or SAC for those of you that need more acronyms. The mission of SAC is to build relationships between the VMAA and the students, while they are in school. A random, monthly drawing for 4 “Café Cash Certificates” will be given just to brighten the day of the lucky winners. Three annual scholarships will be offered to those students who just take the time to sign up to be a member of SAC. This is a great opportunity for the VMAA to reach out to the students. The students who were at the board meeting were “excited” at the thought of winning Café Cash! And with ever increasing student debt, scholarships are always appreciated.

 The VMAA at ISU got some great publicity at the IVMA annual meeting noon luncheon. My intent is to build on that publicity and encourage all of you to support the VMAA. This will be the first of my “DID YOU KNOW” features. Did you know that the lunch that you enjoyed on Friday at the annual meeting was sponsored by the VMAA? Did you know that the VMAA co-sponsors the White Coat Ceremony for every incoming student as a symbolic “welcome” into the veterinary profession? Did you know that time is running out to sign up for the VMAA Homecoming Celebration? Stay tuned for more “DID YOU KNOW?”

I encourage all Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine alumni to support the VMAA at Iowa State University and become or remain an active member. Make <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association> **a “favorite” on your web browser. Membership and Homecoming order forms can be found there. Let’s make the VMAA at ISU the “best value”, not the “best kept secret” of our profession!**

**Go Cyclones!!!**

**Mark Brinkman, DVM**

**President-Elect, VMAA at Iowa State University**