

Greetings VMAA at ISU Members and Potential Members,

While in practice, I had one client that would always say 'Greetings, Dr. Brinkman'. I came to expect that salutation every time I went to his farm or when he came into the office. The continuing uncertainties of the pandemic make me appreciate even the little things that are still predictable in our daily lives. This newsletter might be a bit different than previous newsletters that I have written. Rather than sharing my perspective on the VMAA, my goal today is to pass on more "housekeeping" information. I hope you take time to read further.

Like many organizations and events, the VMAA has also been impacted by a number of cancellations. In previous years, the VMAA has supported several CVM alumni receptions at various veterinary conferences. Many of those have been cancelled. The traditional White Coat Ceremony for incoming veterinary students has been cancelled and we are waiting to see what our role will be with providing students with their white coats. The VMAA will not be conducting its annual meeting which has typically been held during the luncheon of the IVMA Annual Meeting. And our most anticipated event of the year, the ISU Homecoming Celebration, will not be held this year.

But your VMAA at ISU is a resilient organization and is working hard to conduct business as usual hoping to provide continued support to the students, VMAA members and the veterinary profession as a whole. The board of directors has been meeting virtually via Zoom to hold our meetings. Your administrative director, Marta Burkgren, has been awesome with keeping everyone informed via emails, social media updates and personal contacts. I hope you have taken the time to stay connected to the VMAA.

One event that will be missed without the annual meeting is the recognition of the VMAA Outstanding Service Award. Starting this year, the VMAA is also presenting the Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award. These deserving award recipients will be announced on the VMAA Facebook page, in the next VMAA Newsletter, and recognized again at the 2021 annual meeting. Public recognition of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine Stange, Switzer, Lorraine Hoffman, and Young Alumni Award recipients has also been postponed until 2021.

Two years ago when I started writing the VMAA Newsletter, I focused on VMAA memberships. At that time we had over 5000 potential members and 700+ active members. Our 2020 membership is 850 strong, only a few less than 2019. I think that is pretty good for not having much "in person" contact due to the pandemic. However, as stated before, look at the impact our organization could have if everyone would join the VMAA. It is only \$50 per year and we are doing amazing things to support the students, alumni and the profession. **WE NEED YOU NOW, MORE THAN EVER!!!** Membership forms are available at <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association>

Finally, there are three things that I am asking of you. Please send your responses to Marta and she will put them on the agenda for the next board meeting. First, if you are an active member, please renew for 2021 when we contact you in November. If you are not a member, please join. Secondly, we would like any input or suggestions for VMAA fundraising ideas. Historically, we have sold shirts, Christmas ornaments, etc. at Homecoming and online to support the VMAA.

We are looking for new ideas that you think “every veterinarian cannot live without!!!” Lastly, we are looking for a new board member. Each year, one member goes off the board giving the opportunity for someone else to serve. When I was asked to serve five years ago, initially it was because I couldn’t say “no” to Dr. Lorraine Hoffman. Now as I go off the board at the end of this year, I will leave with my time serving on the board as one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling opportunities of my veterinary career. And I plan to stay involved in the VMAA at ISU. I hope you do too!

Stay safe. Go CYCLONES!

Mark Brinkman, Past President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at ISU

Additional Message from the VMAA:

On behalf of Margot Eness, we are sad to inform you that Dr. Paul Eness, DVM 1963 and former professor of clinical science, died on August 1, 2020. More information can be found at <https://www.grandonfuneralandcremationcare.com/obituary/500721/Paul-Eness/>