

Dear VMAA at ISU Members and Potential Members,

July 2022

Greetings to all! Can you believe it is already July 2022? July is one of my favorite months because we take time to appreciate and celebrate our freedom. Take a moment to consider all that we have and are allowed to do, because someone before us was willing to fight for our freedoms.

First, I want to congratulate the CVM Class of 2022 graduates and welcome them to the veterinary profession and the VMAA at ISU. Each of the graduates received a complimentary one-year membership to the VMAA at ISU. We hope that as you settle into your new jobs, you will remember that you can always reach out to the VMAA at ISU to stay connected with other ISU veterinary alumni. One of the missions of the VMAA at ISU is to encourage fellowship and connectivity between ISU veterinary alumni. We hope that you will continue to support the VMAA at ISU with your annual membership for years to come.

Sienna Piersma is our new VMAA at ISU Student Liaison. One of the missions of the VMAA at ISU is to foster a relationship with veterinary students. The VMAA at ISU continues to provide student scholarships, support the White Coat Ceremony, provide sweatshirts for every sophomore student, offer Café Cash to selected students each month, among other things. In 2022, the VMAA at ISU will also be providing some financial support for students to attend the AVMA Annual Meeting and attend conferences or preceptorships to help build their educational and professional experiences. This is one more way that your VMAA at ISU membership helps to strengthen relationships within the veterinary community.

In our last newsletter, I shared that Sara Issacson has been busy reviewing the demographics of the VMAA at ISU membership pool. As of our latest report, we currently have 883 VMAA at ISU members. Our goal for 2022 is to reach 1000 members by July 31st!!! The group of CVM Alumni that we miss the most are those that have been out of veterinary school for the first decade. We have over 5000 ISU CVM Alumni so the potential for growth is tremendous. Membership is only \$50 per year. With your support, we can strengthen our mission to support our veterinary community. There are some activities, such as alumni receptions at professional meetings, that we could possibly fund again if we had a stronger VMAA Membership. Take time to join and help us exceed our membership goal of 1000 members!

Before we know it, ISU football and Homecoming 2022 will be here. This year, ISU Homecoming is on November 5th vs. West Virginia. I predict it will be much colder than it is in July! So be sure to check out the new Iowa State VMAA Store and order your new VMAA sponsored Cyclone clothing for the game! The VMAA Executive Board is in the process of finalizing a new VMAA at ISU logo to put on all the clothing options. Watch Facebook for a new link to the Iowa State VMAA Store. Support the VMAA at ISU and the Cyclones.

While attending the ISU Homecoming event, be sure to stop in and see the new Frank Ramsey Classroom. It is a state-of-the-art classroom that was much needed for the growing student population. The room features the latest classroom technology. It also has lots of natural light that is great for student wellbeing. It was a difficult decision to convert the former Frank Ramsey Alumni Room into the new classroom. But I am sure that Dr. Ramsey would approve of the facility upgrade to benefit the educational opportunities of the future veterinarians.

Watch for more VMAA at ISU news and updates on Facebook. We have many activities and opportunities planned for the remainder of 2022. Get connected and stay involved with the VMAA at ISU. Go Cyclones!

Mark Brinkman, DVM, Communications Chairperson for the VMAA at ISU