

Dear Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at ISU Members and Prospective Members,

Can you believe that 2021 is nearly “in the books”? Many successful businesses spend November and December evaluating how the previous year went and formulating a plan for continued success in the upcoming year. The VMAA at ISU Board of Directors and staff have been doing the same. With their guidance, good things will come in 2022 and beyond.

Your VMAA at ISU continues to foster a growing relationship with the veterinary student body by providing “Café Cash” to several lucky students who are SAC (Student Alumni Connection) members each month. The sophomore students received their complimentary VMAA sweatshirts. Many VMAA Alumni participated in TWO White Coat ceremonies as we welcomed the ISU CVM Classes of 2024 and 2025 into the first phase of becoming members of the veterinary profession.

The combination of a strong partnership between the VMAA at ISU, the ISU CVM, and the IVMA, along with detailed planning, led to a great ISU Homecoming event. Many VMAA members enjoyed a meal hosted by the ISU AABP Grill Team, an awards program to recognize the achievements of some of the best of our profession, and fellowship to further build relationships with our veterinary community. Thank you to Sara Isaacson, VMAA Association Director, for her planning expertise and all the volunteers who helped make the 2021 ISU Homecoming Celebration a success. We sold nearly 270 football tickets for \$45 – great value! They have set a date for our 2022 Homecoming for Saturday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - ISU vs. West Virginia.

The VMAA at ISU has recently established a position of Student Liaison for the VMAA at ISU. We welcome Melissa García Rodríguez as the first student liaison, and her role will improve communication and sharing ideas between the veterinary student body and the VMAA at ISU. The VMAA Board feels this is essential to building a lifelong, valuable relationship between our association, students, and alumni. Check out a Nov 16th, 2021, post on our [VMAA Facebook](#) page to learn more about Melissa.

On behalf of the VMAA at ISU Board and members, I would like to take one more opportunity to thank Marta Burkgren for her years of dedicated service to the VMAA at ISU. We wish her the best in retirement and hope that Dr. Ron will bring her along to enjoy future VMAA events “from the other side of the table”! Good things are on the horizon with Sara Isaacson’s capable support and leadership.

The VMAA at ISU Board has already given me ideas for future 2022 newsletter topics. So stay in touch through the newsletter, email, [Facebook](#), other social media venues, and at in-person conferences and meetings.

Finally, you should have received your VMAA at ISU membership renewal notices. Please fill those out and return them to continue your ongoing support. I have shared previously that only approximately 18% of ISU CVM alumni are members of the VMAA at ISU. Imagine what we could do if 25% or even 30% of our alumni chose to be active members.

***This year, I want to challenge/encourage you to get every other ISU CVM Alumni within your practice or organization to become members of the VMAA at ISU.*** Bring out your competitive Cyclone spirit! Your membership will be a win for the VMAA at ISU and all that we stand for. More members equal more opportunities!

In 2022, I challenge you to connect and stay involved with the VMAA at ISU. Go Cyclones!

<https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association>

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