



September, 2023 Newsletter

Hello! My name is Chuck Toben, and I am a new VMAA board member. I graduated with the class of 1986 and currently practice in Glendale, Arizona. Working with other volunteer VMAA board members has been a pleasure as we promote and support our world-class veterinary school, our alumni, and our current veterinary students.

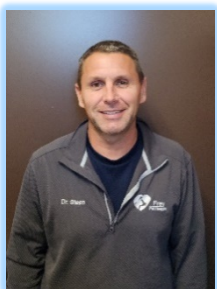
Summer is slowly winding down across the country (except in Arizona!), and the fall season is approaching. I hope you had time this summer to get away and relax. My wife and I traveled to Alaska to remote locations without cell service. Initially, I was lost without my ability to check the weather, receive client updates, check blood work results, monitor clinic issues, etc. After a few days of cell phone weaning, I realized I could and did survive and had an amazing trip. Technology can be the best and worst thing for us and our practices!

The VMAA at ISU helps plan several events throughout the year. The major event for the fall season is Homecoming!! Homecoming will be held on Saturday, November 4th this year. Events planned include student-led tours of the vet school, a delicious catered lunch, the Kansas-ISU football game, and a chance to catch up with classmates and friends.

Football game and luncheon tickets are now available on a first-come/first-serve basis. You should have received an email from Sara (our VMAA executive director) in late August and early September with all the information regarding Saturday's events. The luncheon will be held at the vet school before the game, and the start time will depend upon the football game's start time, which will likely be known a few days before game time. Football tickets are discounted for current VMAA members...even if you haven't yet paid your 2023 dues (\$50), you can pay them now and still get the football ticket discount. Advance tickets are required for the football and luncheon tickets. The deadline to purchase these tickets is October 20th, 2023. Stay tuned for further emails from the VMAA office. You can also access this information and purchase tickets at <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/> under the Veterinary Alumni Association section and updates on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/vmaa@ISU](http://www.facebook.com/vmaa@ISU). We hope you can attend and catch up with classmates and friends.

### **Congratulations!**

The VMAA has selected two award recipients for this year.



Dr. Ryan Steen, owner of Frey Animal Hospital in Cedar Rapids, has been selected as the Outstanding Mentor of the Year. Dr. Steen (2000 graduate) has held several offices in the IVMA and has volunteered with many activities in his community. He spends most of his time managing his small animal practice with eight veterinarians and 55 employees. His primary medical focus is orthopedic surgery, and he especially enjoys spending time with pre-vet and veterinary students who volunteer, intern, or shadow at his hospital.

He has mentored many current and past veterinary students at ISU. Alene Scallon, VM2, nominated Dr. Steen for this award and shared that he always gives her great advice and directs her in the right direction. She stated, "Dr. Steen's senses of outstanding knowledge, kindness, responsibility, and motivation are wonderful traits of a fantastic mentor." Congratulations, and thank you, Dr. Steen.



Dr. Paul Armbrecht from the Rockwell City/Lake City area has been selected as the recipient of the VMAA Outstanding Service Award. He is a 1971 graduate of Iowa State. He has been practicing veterinary medicine since graduation (and after a two-year military stint) throughout the Midwest, treating mostly swine, cattle, and an occasional small ruminant. He has volunteered for many local, state, national, and international projects throughout his career. He has received many honors and awards (including the William P. Switzer award in 2013 from the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine and the IVMA Veterinarian of the Year award in 1990). Dr. Armbrecht states his favorite groups to assist are 4-H and FFA students. They always seem grateful for the help and often connect with him later, thanking him for his time and guidance. His favorite vet school memory is also his least favorite memory! He notes that every school lecture and lab was alphabetically based on the last name during his four years of school. With his last name starting with an A, he was always placed in the front row. Those front-row students always got called on first and had to be ready at any time to answer a question from the professor while the students in the back were snoozing! This preparedness has helped him throughout his veterinary career. Congratulations, and thank you, Dr. Armbrecht, for your years of service!

Hope to see you at Homecoming November 4th!! Go Cyclones!!

FYI—Did you know there are approximately 6400 graduates (about 5400 living) from the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine? This equates to each graduate comprising 0.016% of the total graduates. We are spread out across each of the 50 states and 12 countries and territories.

FYI—Did you know that member dues comprise the majority of the VMAA income? You will receive an email/letter soon with your renewal notice. If you have an email, let us know, as this saves time and postage expenses. Thank you for supporting our association. A big shout-out to Dr. Ryan Steen at Frey Animal Hospital. He includes VMAA dues for all his staff veterinarians as an employee benefit. Thank you, Dr. Steen and your staff, for your support!



FYI--The VMAA at ISU Facebook page is a great place to catch up with our students and see where they are going for externships and meetings.

**Veterinary Medical Alumni Association  
at Iowa State University  
PO Box 1726, Ames, IA 50010  
515-233-5183 vmaaisu@iastate.edu**