Dear VMAA at ISU Members and Potential Members,

I hope that each of you is enjoying your summer as much as I am. It seemed like the warm weather would never get here back in May. But now as we celebrate the Iowa State Fair and get ready to return to school and ISU Football, the warm Iowa weather is upon us. Great golfing weather!

2019 has been an amazing year in my opinion. We have been paying tribute to two monumental events that occurred in history 75 and 50 years ago. 75 years ago many of our fathers and/or grandfathers were involved in D-Day and the invasion of Normandy. 50 years ago, we all watched Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. I recall watching the moon landing with my father while listening to Walter Cronkite on the CBS news. I even had aspirations of being an astronaut myself; until I discovered I got nauseous on rides that spin too much! While I was watching a history documentary on TV recently, it occurred to me that both of these events were the result of people throughout the country and the world coming together to accomplish an amazing feat. Without the sacrifice, desire and ingenuity of all involved, we may never have won our freedoms or reached the dreams of setting foot on the moon. I believe the VMAA can also bring people together to do great things.

Last month Dean Grooms attended our VMAA board meeting. It is very evident to me that he has the vision and desire for the College of Veterinary Medicine, the faculty, staff, students and alumni to unite and work together to make both the CVM and the VMAA, stronger organizations. Sharing our resources and getting more active members involved will help build relationships and make stronger programs that can support our mission toward the continued betterment of the veterinary profession.

Later this month, the students will return to classes at the CVM. The VMAA is committed to support the wellness room, scholarships, café cash and other activities that benefit the students. On September 13, 2019, we will host the Friday noon luncheon at the IVMA Annual Meeting. We hope you will plan to join us. On October 26th, the VMAA will host the annual Homecoming Open House at the college where College of Veterinary Medicine alumni and their families can gather to reunite, socialize and cheer on the ISU Football Team. We are also working on developing a speaker network that the students can access when they need an “expert” in their area of interest.

So 2019 has been an amazing year for the VMAA also. We are getting closer to a record membership of over 900 alumni members. We have over 5000 ISU CVM alumni that could be VMAA members, so we have tremendous potential to do so much more as an organization. Think of the difference we could make if we had a larger membership to fund and support the VMAA mission and programs. It may not be as monumental as “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”. But I guarantee you that it will make a difference in the life of the veterinary students, the VMAA and the veterinary profession. Again, please join us at the IVMA Friday noon luncheon and consider becoming a member of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. Membership is only $50 per year. It is a great opportunity to make a difference. Marta will be waiting to sign you up!!!! To join now, go to https://vetmed.iastate.edu/alumni-giving/alumni/association.

Go Cyclones!!!

Regards,

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