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SAVMA Symposium Evening Activities

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SAVMA Symposium Evening Activities

BARBARA HIPPIE

After long days of challenging wetlabs, stimulating lectures and greuling competitions, all of the guests at Symposium gathered on the floor of Hilton Coliseum for an evening of fun and relaxation. The first evening was a “Beach-Luau” theme hosted by Purina. Guests were encouraged to come dressed for the occasion and enjoy the “Hilton Beach” (complete with sun, sand, toys, lounge chair and a pool!) while dancing to the tropical sounds of our DJ, Al. The highlight of the evening had to have been the “Reverse Bikini Contest.” Quite a few of the brave male veterinary students donned bikinis of some fashion to impress the crowd. The winners, by popular audience vote were “The Boys from Illinois.” In a great team effort, four classmates from Illinois took on the rest of the competition.

The second evening, sponsored by Hill’s Pet Food and the ISU CVM, was also a theme party. What would a trip to Iowa be without a visit to the state fair?! All the stops were pulled on this one! The guests spent the evening strolling through our midway playing games and feasting on all their state fair favorites: caramel kettle corn, cotton candy and ice cream bars. There was even a dunk tank for people to take out some of their school frustrations and soak some cooperative volunteers. Sweetwater Band gave the crowd a good dose of country music to go with the fun. Partway through the evening, the music stopped for a few minutes while the band refereed the tug-o-war finals. This definite crowd-pleaser ended with the University of Illinois taking home yet another honor for the weekend.

The final evening was a chance to wind down after the hectic weekend and have a relaxing dinner with friends. Hill’s and Bayer sponsored a seated dinner served at Hilton Coliseum, followed by a stimulating talk by Dr. Lowell Catlett. Dr. Catlett entertained the crowd with his dynamic style and had some interesting points that made everyone stop and think for a moment. Following the awards presentation ceremony, guests returned to Hilton to dance away the final night with new and old friends.

*Barbara Hippie is a third-year veterinary student at Iowa State University.