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SCAVMA Scamper —
The Race is on.

Deborah Sheaffer*

While the ISU Veterinarian enjoys its 50th anniversary edition, another ISU tradition commemorates a landmark. The annual SCA VMA Scamper celebrates its 5th running this spring.

The Scamper, organized by the ISU Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA), is a combined 10-kilometer road race and 5-kilometer fun run held each spring. Its purpose is to raise funds to defray expenses of ISU veterinary students attending the annual national SAVMA Symposium. The symposium is an exceptional educational opportunity for veterinary students, and each year ISU’s attendance ranks among the highest of all veterinary colleges.

Joy Dvorak ('86) and Jim Delano ('87) were directors of the first SCA VMA Scamper held on April 15, 1984. It was a great success and the largest first time race ever held in Iowa. Over 400 runners participated, and funds raised for the symposium fund exceeded $3000.00.

Each of the ensuing SCA VMA Scampers held annually since 1984 was also successful. The 1985, 1986, and 1987 races each attracted around 300 runners (including some on four legs!) and brought in over $2000.00 per year. Directors of the 1985 SCA VMA Scamper were Rose Drapcho ('88) and Dan Clifton ('88). Dan again oversaw the event in 1986. Sara Matthews ('89) and Craig Harms ('89) directed the 1987 SCA VMA Scamper. This year Polly Crisman ('89) and John Weiner ('89) accepted the task of directing the race. We are pleased to announce Cyclone Football Coach Jim Walden as the special guest starter for this spring’s Scamper.

The Scamper’s reputation has grown over the five years since its inception. There is increased publicity as well as more awards for participants. A new computer program has been added to compile race results. The 10-kilometer course is now certified and sanctioned by The Athletic Congress (TAC).

This year’s race should be even more profitable than previous years. One of the race sponsors, Hill’s Pet Products, donated the 1988 Scamper commemorative t-shirts. The shirt cost has historically been the highest expense of putting on the race so this year the SCA VMA Scamper should contribute even more money to the Symposium Fund.

Without the generous contributions of its sponsors, the SCA VMA Scamper would not be celebrating its success on its 5th anniversary. Members of the ISU SCA VMA would like to thank this year’s sponsors: ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, Pfizer, Hills Pet Products, Inc., Beecham Labs, Vet-A-Mix, SCHERING Animal Health, Norden Labs, Upjohn, and Ceva.

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