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## SAVMA Symposium Academic Competitions

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# SAVMA Symposium Academic Competitions

CHRISTIAN TAYLOR†

Fifteen schools had students competing in six different academic competitions during the SAVMA Symposium. Events held on Friday, March 9, 2001 included anatomy/histology, microbiology/parasitology, equine aging, breed identification, and bovine palpation. Saturday morning's SAVMA Challenge, the symposium's final academic event, saw six schools compete for SAVMA's biggest team trophy.

The anatomy/histology competition, held appropriately in the anatomy lab, saw the University of Missouri out-identify gross and microscopic specimens reminiscent of the long hours of our first year of vet school. They took first place. Meanwhile, a microbiology/parasitology competition was held for the second year students. The Ohio State University team had an eye for all things small as they were awarded first place for their efforts.

The team from the University of Minnesota correctly identified more of the 90 food and fiber animal images than any other school to win first place in the breed identification competition.

Using nothing but the clues offered by worn and weathered teeth and the knowledge gained in classes, the students from Washington State University easily won the equine aging contest.

In a competition where the touch of fingers is more important than what you can see, Colorado State University out-palpated the competition. By placing three of its students in the top four, CSU walked away with the top prize in bovine palpation.

Finally, six teams competed for symposium's top academic award. Texas A&M and Oklahoma State University cruised to the finals, where, in a dramatic tiebreaker, the students of Texas A&M outlasted the Okies from Stillwater and went home with first place.

Congratulations to all students and schools who participated. Six competitions and six different winning schools showed just how well the students of all schools are preparing for their future. Thanks to all Iowa State University students who helped with the competitions. They worked hard and it showed in the smoothly-run events. ♦



Fingers and brains join forces when aspiring large animal practitioners put their skills to the test in the bovine palpation competition.

Jim Fosse, ISU Biocommunications



The team from Texas A&M University was all smiles after accepting their award as the reigning SAVMA Challenge champions.

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