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A Letter of Acknowledgement

TODD WILLIAMS†

It is hard to believe that March has already come and gone. I'm sure I speak on behalf of many of my fellow students when I say that the week of March 8th, 9th, and 10th seemed like one very long, but rewarding day. SAVMA Symposium 2001 was a huge success. But, it would not have been possible without the support of a large number of people.

First of all I would like to thank the Office of the Dean. Dr. Richard Ross was very supportive of the idea of hosting the Symposium when I approached him in August of 1999. Without the availability of the college's financial and staffing support, we would never have been able to hit the ground running like we did. The efforts of Dr. Ross, Dr. Norman Cheville, and Ms. Shirley Knipfel to help us "beautify" the school were very much appreciated by the entire ISU CVM community. As a result, those all-too-familiar shades of orange and yellow are almost non-existent now. All of the classrooms, the hallways, and stairwells have been painted, and new furniture has been placed in the fish tank lobby. No longer do we feel as though we have stepped out of a time machine that landed in the 1970s.

Dr. Eldon Uhlenhopp and Ms. Lisa Brinkley (Bomberger) were our advisors for Symposium. Most importantly, the planning committee would like to thank these two for having the faith to allow this event to be genuinely student planned. Their wisdom, patience, and hours of working on our behalf are appreciated by all of us students and also by our GPAs.

I have been congratulated many times for the great job done at Symposium, and I am always quick to point out that it was actually the co-chairs who ensured that their events were ready to go. These people and their committee members spent many long hours to provide quality programs and the best events possible while remaining within budget constraints. During the planning

process, the committees considered concerns from previous symposia and did a wonderful job making sure that those rough spots would not occur at Iowa State. To this day, I have not heard of any major complaints presented to anyone. On a personal note, I am greatly indebted to all of these people for sharing my passion of wanting to host a wonderful event and for shouldering the planning process last spring and through the summer while I was trying to finish classes and spend time with my family after the loss of my mother.

The faculty and staff of the College of Veterinary Medicine were a joy to work with. As students, we are very fortunate to be involved with such a caring and supportive group. In many cases, actually most cases, these people went above and beyond what they had to do in their assistance to us. Again, their efforts not only helped to improve the quality of symposium, but helped us mentally by relieving some of the pressures that we faced. We were very excited



Jim Fosse, ISU Biocommunications

Todd Williams, who wrote and presented the original bid that earned ISU the privilege of hosting SAVMA Symposium 2001, also served as Chairman of the event.

†Todd Williams is a third-year student at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and was the Symposium Chair.

to showcase the talent and expertise of the CVM faculty and staff. We received many wonderful compliments about them.

We greatly appreciated the support we received from the Friends of Veterinary Medicine. Not only did its members provide extra staffing where needed for symposium, their financial contributions to symposium and support to other student-based projects throughout the year have been noticed by all the students.

To the student body and anyone else I have not previously mentioned - I would like to thank you for the time and effort you gave in helping us bring this event to its high level of excellence. I believe each of the 1550 participants had an enjoyable experience while they were our guests. I recall two things that I was especially proud to hear repeatedly throughout the event. First, "Wow, I wish our clinic, our barns, our library, our computer labs, our lecture halls, our campus, and our community were so nice." Secondly, I received or overheard many compliments given about the camaraderie of our student body.

In closing, I would like to share with you an insight that shows the degree of profes-

sionalism that was demonstrated during and throughout the planning stages of this event. As I was walking through the exhibit hall on Saturday, one of the exhibitors came running after me to speak to me. This person proceeded to tell me their reaction when they were contacted by a student to discuss the possibility of exhibiting at Symposium. Initially they were skeptical about coming to a student organized event with only students being in attendance. They told me that they had been attending various conventions for over twenty years. At this point I was beginning to become a little concerned that perhaps they weren't happy. In their next comment, however, they explained that from the moment they walked through the door, the events they watched unfold over the next several days appeared to be the most organized, enjoyable, and the most worth their time since they began exhibiting. Everyone who was involved with Symposium should take great pride in this statement.

Again, thank you all for your help and support. It is people like you that assure me everyday that there is no place that I would rather be than Iowa State!◆

Q. What do you think of SAVMA symposium so far?

"I like it. I remember last year at symposium that the Iowa State people were really enthusiastic so we were excited to come here."

--Julie Ann Walden, Ohio State University

"I've really enjoyed it. All of the speakers are really good, and I've had a good experience."

--Tabby Franklin, Oklahoma State University

"I'm pretty impressed at how well-organized it's been."

--Fred Robinson, Washington State University

"I attended a SAVMA symposium at Washington State, and this one is definitely above it. Everything is first class, top-notch."

--Jason Laramore, Washington State University

"It's been good. We went to some wetlabs that were great...the lectures were good. We did the road race today which was very fun. We ran, saw the snow...excellent!"

--Lexi Stein, University of Pennsylvania

Right: Dr. Larry Booth, associate professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at ISU CVM instructs a student on the use of a hoof knife during the trimming and shoeing wetlab.

Below: The Ferret Handling wetlab gave students valuable experience with specialized medical procedures.



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Above: Dr. James Noxon, professor and clinician here at ISU CVM, teaches students the anatomy of the ear and proper technique during his otoscopy wetlab.

Q. Which speaker, wetlab, or event has been your favorite so far?

“Definitely Bernard Rollins.”

--Tabby Franklin, Oklahoma State University

“I really enjoyed the mountain gorilla veterinary project talk today. Yesterday, I went to hear Temple Grandin talk and I enjoyed that a lot too.”

--Julie Ann Walden, Ohio State University

“The State Fair [night] was great...it was just a good event and got people involved.”

--Lexi Stein, University of Pennsylvania:

“We enjoyed the nasogastric tubing in the equine and the endoscopy.”

--Leah Perkins, Tuskegee University

“The luau was nice. We liked the food, the atmosphere, the buffet...”

--Kim Lylie, Tuskegee University

“I really went out of my way to see the Gentle Doctor statue and take pictures of it.”

--Julie Ann Walden, Ohio State University



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Above: During the puppy handling wetlab, Dr. Rolan demonstrated different ways to hold and manipulate a puppy to help prevent it from becoming an aggressive or unmanageable dog. Later, students had a chance to practice the techniques for themselves.

Right: Dr. Craig Harms from North Carolina State University helps students unravel the “mysteries of the microscope” during the Fish Medicine Clinical Techniques wetlab.



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Above: In the swine necropsy wetlab, students learned the proper technique for post-mortem examination of a pig and what samples should be collected for laboratory diagnostics.

Right: Concentration is the key as a student practices injecting a fish during the Fish Medicine Clinical Techniques wetlab.



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