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Spotlight on the IVMA

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horse that shows a less than hospitable attitude towards its technician. This situation can translate into bumps, bruises, and nips for the vet tech. Safety is paramount at Prairie Meadows, and it is a tribute to the individuals involved that the safety record at the test barn is extremely good.

One of the greatest benefits to the students who take on the challenge of the test barn is the diversity of exposure the racing industry provides. Emily Galloway, a second-year student, stated that meeting new people and getting to know her classmates better was especially valuable to her. This sentiment is echoed by almost all of the students who participate.

This job also comes with extremely challenging hours. Many evenings are spent at

the track when friends are out enjoying themselves. Travel from Ames to Altoona is frustrating to students who are often pressed for time. Summer holidays are spent at the track and not on the lake. To ease the burden, the holiday barbecues and potluck dinners held at the track are a great diversion. Pizza or other foods graciously provided by supervisors, students, grooms, handlers, or the lucky winning trainer or owner help to ease the burden on the starving veterinary medicine student. While there are drawbacks to sacrificing your personal time, the rewards that being a state veterinary technician provide are numerous and invaluable to the aspiring veterinary student. ♦

Continued from page 21

Directors for Bethesda Lutheran Homes for mentally retarded citizens, and he has just joined the Story County Health Empowerment Board, which sees to the needs of Story County children under the age of five. With

his retirement, Dr. Kluge will be able to devote more time to these other activities and to his three daughters, one son, and nine grandchildren, all of whom keep him on his toes. ♦

Spotlight on the IVMA

JENNIFER SHACKETT*

Dr. Les Hemmingson (ISU '65) is keeping busy in the middle of his term as president of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. He and the other officers recently held Legislative Day and were able to meet with governor Tom Vilsack as well as the State of Iowa Senate and House. Meetings were also held with several of the legislators on an individual basis.

The professional growth committee headed by Dr. Duke Wilgenbusch is in the process of developing a mentor program that would link IVMA veterinarians with ISU College of Veterinary Medicine students. Students in their first, second, or third year will be paired with veterinarians in order to gain additional networking op-

portunities and professional guidance. The program should start next fall and will be coordinated with the dean's office at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Student interest in the program is very strong, and although twenty-five to thirty IVMA members have signed up to be mentors, many more are still needed.

Dr. Dave Wilgenbusch, president-elect of the IVMA, recently met with Patty Judge, Secretary of Agriculture, in order to develop a contingency plan in the event that foot and mouth disease would become an issue in the area. More meetings are scheduled in order to keep abreast of the potential situation. ♦

For more information, be sure to check out the new IVMA website: www.iowavma.org

*Jennifer Shackett is a first-year veterinary student at Iowa State University.