A Tribute to Andrea Bashara

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Some of you have also been tipped off to a few of my habits already. That treacherous bike ride that you call VAGBRAA—glad I made it through that one! Watching Austin Powers with the VMT's—it was much more fun than renting and watching at home! Cooking—okay, so the caramel apple thing showed my lack of prowess there (hence the development of my obscure eating habits)! Driving long distances to visit friends and family must indicate my love for travel!!

Future goals of mine include finding the right program in higher education here at ISU to expand my knowledge. I hope that students realize that my position here is to support your ideas, activities, and experiences and to facilitate a voice to faculty and administration about what your ideas and experiences are. The term ‘student services’ can sometimes lead people to the assumption that we do things for the students. I feel that the reality is that we help students to achieve the experience they want to have within the framework of their education. Or, in a word, ‘empowerment’.

Lisa Bomberger has adjusted to Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine’s community very quickly and has been a wonderful asset. I would like to welcome her and congratulate her on her first semester here. It is a relief to get that first semester under your belt whether you are a veterinary student or the new Student Specialist!

A Tribute to Andrea Bashara

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The student services office at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine is a valuable resource for the entire population at our veterinary school. The individual who is seated behind that desk has to be knowledgeable about every aspect associated with the college and must have incredible patience, organizational and communication skills, confidence, creativity, and amicability.

This past spring we said goodbye to an individual who has defined this student service specialist position and served as a wonderful resource for our entire community. Andrea Bashara first came to Iowa State in 1993. I was just starting my first year of veterinary school and she went through our freshman orientation with us. Over the next three years it became apparent that her position was the “heart” of the school. Her office was never quiet or empty. There was usually a line outside her door on any given day, but you knew it was worth the wait because your problems were solved, your questions were answered, or your concerns were heard. No matter how many projects Andrea was working on, she always made time for any individual. Her attitude was amazing. She enjoyed her work, and although her position was quite demanding, she never appeared to be stressed. Andrea also took the initiative to strengthen relations between administration and the students. She attended and frequently helped organize the student activities and meetings, and she kept administration informed on student life.

Andrea has been a wonderful asset to our college of veterinary medicine, and we are fortunate to have had those three years with her. She is currently living in Omaha, Nebraska, with her husband, Pete (ISU ’97), and she is the Assistant Director of Admissions at Creighton University School of Law.

Cathy Cunningham is a fourth-year veterinary student at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

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