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Dr. Hopkins Receives Norden Teaching Award

The 2000 Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Steven M. Hopkins. Chosen by a student vote, a recipient of the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award is recognized for his or her outstanding ability, dedication, character, and leadership in the classroom and the veterinary medical profession. As professor of Theriogenology at ISU CVM, Dr. Hopkins consistently embodies those qualities.

After receiving his DVM from Michigan State University in 1974, Dr. Hopkins spent five years as a partner in a mixed animal practice in Washington. In 1979, he left to do a Theriogenology residency in Florida and earned his board certification in 1981. In August of '81, he accepted a position at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hopkins carries a sizable teaching load, including reproductive physiology for freshman veterinary students, disturbances of reproduction for juniors, palpation lab for juniors, and several clinical theriogenology rotations for seniors, as well as helping with the labs for an undergraduate beef management course.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, Dr. Hopkins explains that he is not thrilled with the large group setting required in the underclass courses he teaches. He prefers the hands on learning atmosphere that comes with the senior year clinical rotations. Besides, he adds, "I'd rather drink coffee and watch." Dr. Hopkins' sense of humor is one of his qualities students enjoy most. He is famous for his jokes and stories and rarely misses a chance at a laugh, especially if it's directed at himself. His laid-back lecture style makes it easy to follow even difficult concepts, and students appreciate his practical, real-world approach to his subject matter. Despite his easy-going attitude, however, his tests are usually quite challenging.

When he learned of his award, Dr. Hopkins described his response as "Total shock!" He always tries to do his best at his job, but doesn't usually expect to receive any recognition. "Like most people" he explained, "I tend to be more critical of myself than others might be." Apparently, such is indeed the case. In the opinion of the students, this recognition is extremely well deserved. We congratulate Dr. Hopkins on this award and hope he continues to share his unique brand of theriogenologic wit and wisdom for many years to come.

With a smile and a characteristic chuckle, Dr. Steven Hopkins accepts the Norden Teaching Award from Dr. Karen Kline.

1Bonnie Smith is a third-year veterinary student at Iowa State University.