



APVMA Symposium March 12-14, 2010

This month's newsletter contains the long awaited information on the upcoming Symposium at Purdue University March 12-14. Page 6 and 7 has the tentative schedule and all registration information. If you or your group have ANY questions, don't hesitate to contact any of your APVMA officers or Amanda Bonert directly. All contact information is included.

I have also included letters from previous APVMA members that are now in Veterinary School. Past president Crystal Schauer and member Amanda Charney took time out of their busy schedule to reflect back on their pre-vet experience and how it compares to their life today.

We welcome any and all ideas members have to make APVMA a valuable resource. We are here for you, the member, so let us know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and even criticisms. The executive team is there for you, so use us!

Good luck if you are headed to interviews! And hang in there and start those essays if you are headed into the application process. April is not that far away!

Hope to see you all at Symposium. Again, use us! APVMA is there for you!

The American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association is a national association of students organized to promote and stimulate interest in the field of veterinary medicine, provide its members with sources of information regarding sister clubs, assist with regional activities across the nation, and hold an annual Symposium to highlight opportunities for careers in veterinary medicine.

The APVMA is:

- **Actively involved in assisting with regional activities across the nation**
- **Interactively involved at the club, regional, and national levels**
- **Committed to being a partner in the community and a resource in the veterinary community**
- **A diverse organization in respect to academic endeavors and cultural/ethnic backgrounds**
- **Committed to developing partnerships with other student and professional organizations to promote interest in and understanding of the veterinary profession**
- **Facilitating the student's ability to pursue and successfully complete the Veterinary School Admissions Application process**

Membership Benefits Include:

- **Quarterly newsletter**
- **Networking with pre-veterinary students from across the nation**
- **Meeting with representatives from veterinary schools from across the nation in one location**
- **Access to national Symposiums held annually at different colleges across the country**
- **Sharing of ideas between members and member clubs**



Do you know a college that has a pre-veterinary club that is not a member of APVMA or someone that wants to attend symposium, but they are not a member of the APVMA? If so, please direct them to the APVMA website to register or email secretary@apvma.us for more information!

Here are some fundraising ideas we received from some APVMA Member Clubs:

- Dog biscuit bake sales
- Dog washes
- Donation events— Bringing pets or exotic animals to a local business and receiving donations from store customers
- Holiday pet portraits— Allow pet owners to take pictures of their pets by a winter scene with props and then printing up holiday greeting cards for them with these pictures
- Pre-Vet Club Apparel—Selling apparel to pre-veterinary club members and earning a small profit from each sale
- Restaurant fundraising— Handing out flyers and receiving a percent of the profit when a customer brings the flyer to the donating restaurant for a meal

Let us know what else works!

Be sure to visit our website at www.apvma.us to check out our clothing line and other resources!

***APVMA Would Like to Welcome the Following
New Member Clubs:***

Grand Valley State University	Kennesaw State University
North Carolina State University	Ohio Wesleyan University
Oklahoma Panhandle State University	Pasadena City College
Portland State University	University of Florida
University of Central Arkansas	University of Guelph
University of Connecticut	University of Puget Sound
University of Minnesota Crookston	University of West Florida
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	

***Have an idea or information on an interesting case that we could all learn from? Let me know!
dbrumley@eagles.ewu.edu***

EXECUTIVE STAFF NOTES

Hello future veterinarians! I hope your Fall 2009 semesters wrapped up successfully and that vet school interviews are going well also!

APVMA Member Club Recruitment

As an organization, APVMA has been very busy since our last newsletter! We have added 15 new pre-veterinary clubs as APVMA members, as well as retained many of the same clubs from last year. Included in our new clubs are various international schools such as the University of Guelph in Guelph, Canada. We have decided to extend the membership application deadline, so feel free to share the word about APVMA with other pre-veterinary clubs!

2010 Symposium Plans

During our last three conference calls, Becky Zaremba from Purdue University has joined us to discuss upcoming 2010 symposium plans. Information regarding lodging, travel, and a brief itinerary will be up on the APVMA website (www.apvma.us) by early January. Becky is currently working with the IT department at Purdue to get the registration up and running by mid-January as well. We are all very excited for symposium next year and it sounds like Purdue is planning some amazing labs, lectures, and activities for all attendees!

2010-2011 Officer Positions

On the topic of symposium, I would also like to encourage you to consider running for a national officer position, such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Web Master. These positions are a great way to meet other pre-veterinary students and veterinarians, earn great leadership skills, and have a lot of fun in the process.

If you have any questions regarding any of the officer positions, APVMA in general, or the national symposium, please feel free to contact any of the executive officer team members. We look forward to hearing from you and working to improve the APVMA!

Sincerely,
Leah Schanz

Hello All APVMA Members! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and did well in their past classes. The officer team has been very busy. I have been working hard on getting donations for scholarships. We currently have the American Association of Bovine Practitioners as a donor. I have also been corresponding with The Royal Veterinary College on a possible donation. Another thing I have been working hard on is the apparel. I hope soon that we can get pictures and order forms on the APVMA website. I will keep everyone posted on scholarships and apparel. Please email me with any questions. I hope everyone has a wonderful term. See you all at Symposium in March!

Maria Sjodin
APVMA Vice-President

This is probably the most stressful of all quarters for many of us. Not only are we trying to get back into a school routine after the holidays and (hopefully) making plans to attend Symposium, but we are either waiting to hear on our application for Vet School and/or preparing for interviews! With all of the stress surrounding this important next step in our journey, remember how far you have come to be in this position and what you have done to get there. Don't be afraid to sell yourself! Tell them just what you have done and what you are willing to do to succeed. Be confident in your ability, and show them that you have what it takes! Of course with this comes some rejection. Statistics show that the average vet student applied 1.7 times before being accepted – which means most have applied at least twice! Hang in there and know that the road is long for something worthwhile. You learn more from mistakes and will at least know where to go from where you are now.

A good friend (and fellow APVMA member) sent me a link to a video on YouTube that says it all (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tjYoKCBYag). Check it out.

Hang in there, keep plugging away, and hope to see you at Symposium!!

**Dar Brumley
APVMA Secretary
dbrumley@eagles.ewu.edu**

Hey everyone! I hope you are all ready for a new year and a new semester to begin! We are getting closer to this year's symposium by the minute and it's going to be loads of fun. There will be many new additions to the APVMA website coming soon. We have implemented a new design to the Member page as well as added some helpful links on our Links page. I have also completed a database of core academic requirements for veterinary schools in the US as well as some international schools. This file can be found on the Veterinary Applications page. We will soon have forms up for purchasing APVMA paraphernalia as well as a page dedicated to information in regards to this year's symposium!!!! If you have any problems accessing anything on the site or you see something that needs to be updated, please do not hesitate to let me know! Thank you all and Happy New Year to all of you!

~AJ Jacobson, Webmaster~

APVMA Symposium 2010 Information

Registration:

Registration will be as follows:

\$100.00 for APVMA members

\$125.00 for non-APVMA members

***If you are not sure if you are a member or not please speak with an officer of your Pre-Vet Club and if that is not an option please contact the APVMA Treasurer, Dillon Harvey at dillonharvey05@hotmail.com, in order to become a member.

Lodging:

Everyone who calls in must say that it is under **Pre-Vet Symposium OVGR**. There are 50 rooms blocked at each hotel and everyone must have a debit or credit card in order to hold a room! Information for the following hotels can be found at these sites:

Holiday Inn: www.hicclaf.com

University Plaza Hotel: www.uphwl.com

Purdue Union Club Hotel: <http://www.union.purdue.edu/Html/UnionClubHotel/>

***The first two hotels will run about \$89/night and the Union Club Hotel has different prices depending on the type of room. If there are any problems or questions please contact Amanda Bonert at abonert@purdue.edu.

Transportation:

Those who need transportation from Indianapolis International Airport (**IND**) to Purdue University on Friday, March 12, 2010 need to contact Chelsea Noffsinger at cnoffsinger@purdue.edu. There will be a small passenger bus or van that will be at the airport every hour from 3pm to 7pm to pick up groups.

Please send the following information in the email:

- School
- Number of students that need transportation
- Hotel you are staying at
- Time of arrival

The buses will be picking students up at the ground transportation center at the airport and will be labeled so they can be recognized as from Purdue. These buses will transport you to your respective hotels in West Lafayette and Lafayette. We will also be providing transportation back to the airport on Sunday March 14, 2010 until 1 or 2 in the afternoon, **so please include the time of your departure.**

Symposium 2010 Schedule (Tentative)

Friday March 12th, 2010

2 pm-6 pm	Airport shuttles from IND to hotel ***
4 pm- 7 pm	Registration Check-In Union Building next to ballroom
7:30 pm-9:30 pm	Welcome dinner BBQ Buffet in Union Ballroom
10 pm- 12 am	Pre-Vet Olympics—Union Ballroom

Saturday March 13th, 2010

6:30 am-7:45 am	APVMA/Pre-Vet Officer Meeting *** Stewart center
6:30 am- 7:30 am	Late Check- In Lynn Hall by Vet Vittles
7:00 am- 8 am	Bus Rides to Vet School***
8 am- 5 pm	Lectures and Labs –Lynn Hall (Vet school) **Labs (1 hr 50 min) Lectures (50 min)
12 pm- 1 pm	Lunch Catered by Moe's in Lynn Hall
7 pm- 9 pm	Dinner Italian Buffet in Union Ballroom
9:30 pm- ???	Semi-formal dance Union Ballroom (Safari theme/DJ music)

Sunday March 14th, 2010

8:30 am- 9:30 am	Bus rides to Union Building
9 am-10:30 am	Breakfast Buffet in Union Ballroom
9am- 2 pm	Airport shuttles from Purdue to IND *** Leaving from Union Building

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

- Saturday's breakfast will be catered by Einstein's Bagels and we will provide assorted juices.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner menus will include vegetarian meals which you will choose on the registration website.
- We will be paying for your transportation costs for the airport shuttles and to and from your hotel so we would appreciate it if you could schedule flights as close as possible to the times provided.

Reflections from Past Members

Hello, again, APVMA! As your past president, I was glad to be asked to talk about my experience in vet school so far! I'm happy to report that I was able to muster through my first semester, and I'm even still breathing! Seriously, though, as difficult as vet school is, it's just as rewarding, too. As scary as I might make it out to be, or any other vet student might make it out to be, take confidence in knowing that you'll be able to handle it! I hope you can learn some tips and ideas from my experiences that I share below.

Looking back, I can hardly believe that one semester of school is already over. It went really fast—faster than any college semester has before. Though it went fast, it was also very memorable. I learned so much!

First, I learned that, in order to be successful, one must study---a lot! By a lot, I mean studying nearly every free moment of every day. The material is not necessarily hard, there is just a ton to know for each class, and in order to keep up, you need to be reviewing, reading, and studying constantly. One such class in which repetition worked well for me was anatomy. Anatomy was coined as the most difficult class by upperclassman. So, I went into it expecting more out of myself. Because of that, I made it a point to go to the anatomy lab every morning at 7 am before class to review my group's dog (each group of three students receives one dog at ISU to dissect). By going in every morning at 7 am, I was able to not only review the hard material, but review the basics, like the names of each of the parts of the bones, and make sure that I kept those fresh in my head, as things are easy to forget when you are constantly learning new and more complex topics with each exam. Going in on the weekends and studying with my study group also proved to be extremely helpful in helping me seal my "A" in the course.

Secondly, I learned to just keep going, no matter what. Each exam in each course seemed to get harder and harder. No matter how hard an exam was that I was about to take, I was always worried about the next exam being harder. But I learned to not get bogged down in that. I learned to take one exam at a time and one semester of veterinary school at a time.

I also learned just how much the veterinary profession has to offer! I went into veterinary school wanting to be a small animal veterinarian. Now, I am considering several options like maybe attending law school for agricultural law after veterinary school, becoming board certified in Emergency and Critical Care, becoming board certified in Animal Behavior, or pursuing advanced education in Canine Rehabilitation. The possibilities in the veterinary profession are endless, and that in itself excites me.

The best part of veterinary school so far has been learning why everything is done in the clinic. Before starting veterinary school, I could understand what the doctors were talking about but I did not understand the reasons for the treatments. Now, when I am listening to the doctor's rounds at the emergency specialty center I work at, I can understand why and how the treatments prescribed are working. It is VERY exciting to me. I also enjoy being able to learn hands on in the anatomy lab. Learning hands on has helped me to be more in-tune to both my own dog's ailments, and those of my hospital's clients when I am doing TPRs. (cont.)

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In conclusion, veterinary school was definitely as hard as I was expecting, but I worked hard and I received the results I had hoped for. Though it is hard, it is also very rewarding when you can understand treatments when working at the veterinary clinic and be more cognizant to illnesses that your own pet has. As a result, I am very excited to be a veterinarian and am eager to see what the next three-and-a-half years of veterinary school has in store for me!

If anyone has any specific questions about veterinary school or the application process, I'd be glad to answer them. I can be reached at cschauer@iastate.edu.

Have a great time at Symposium!

**Crystal Schauer
Iowa State University
Class of 2013**

As with many professions, being a student in veterinary medicine has its stereotypical stages. We spend our undergraduate years working our tails off, no pun intended, to enter this wonderful and competitive field. We conquer the endless applications, interviews and stresses, and with hard work, finally enter one of the few institutions that teach veterinary medicine. As first years, we "join the club," as they say, by surviving our first exam. This turns into surviving the first semester, and then the first year, in what seems like a flash. Then you realize that you've made it to second year, the stage of vet school that we hear be-moaned the most by those students that have come before us.

I have to say however, that for me, second year has not been the nightmare and social life stealer that some would make it out to be. If anything it's a breath of fresh air to finally know how to work with the massive study loads, to be able to find time for things other than school, and to bond with my classmates. First year more than provided the tools that I needed to do that. Don't get me wrong, the second year of vet school is by no means easy. There are definitely evenings when memorizing an endless list of microbes is the very last thing in the world I would want to be doing. When you put it in perspective however, second year, like all stages of veterinary school is merely temporary. It is also exciting, as it finally provides a chance to dust off what we've learned in first year and apply it to new material, to further practice our knowledge on a field that we all love.

Additionally, I feel that my classmates are just as important to success, as a great work ethic is. While it sounds cliché, they truly are your support system. When you consider the situation, who is better equipped to understand your triumphs and hardships than another student in your position? I've found that classmates are more than willing to send out their homemade study guides to the whole class, just as I send mine out to them. Forming study groups is incredibly helpful as well, and then there are times when you need another classmate just to vent to on the current situations at hand. Whatever the circumstance, your classmates are indispensable in making it through second year, and through any other year of your education and professional life for that matter.

So when you make it to your second year of vet school, as you inevitably will, keep in mind how much you are learning about this field you've fought to enter. Keep in mind that while it is hard, it is also exciting, and is the next step toward the privilege of working with animals. Keep in mind that you are not alone on your journey. Remember to look to your classmates for support and finally, remember that as with all stages of vet school, second year is only temporary.

**Amanda Charney
Michigan State School of Veterinary Medicine (2nd Year)**