Hello APVMA members! We want to continue to congratulate those who have received acceptance letters, as well as interview offers from DVM programs. We are only two months away from the National Symposium hosted by Penn State University! We are very excited for this amazing event to take place. Reiterating last months news, each of us has developed a 'Standard of Operating Procedure' (SOP) document regarding each executive board position. These are posted on our website. If you plan on running for an executive board position, please be sure to check them out! Furthermore, if you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact your respective position. Our emails are also posted on the APVMA website. To continue, we will be accepting orders for graduation cords until March 26, 2019.
Letter from the president

Hey everyone,

I can’t begin to grasp that I only have about 6 more weeks to serve all of you as your APVMA President for this 2018-2019 term. For those of you that don’t know my story, I’d like to tell you a little bit about how I got to where I am now. I never wanted to be a veterinarian. I always had a passion for animals and wanted to help mostly through volunteering at humane societies and other shelters. I never thought I could have the emotional stability it takes to be able to leave work at work and not let it follow me home. It took a few years of self-reflection to really nail down what I wanted to do with my future and once the decision was made, my world was turned upside down. I moved halfway through the year to Auburn University to pursue my dreams of one day becoming a vet. I knew nothing about what undergraduate degree I should pursue, the application process, or what to even expect if I got into vet school. I plugged in with PVMA at Auburn and before I knew it, the members of the chapter had become my family. I learned so much about what I was getting myself into that I almost walked away from the dream all together — but I chose to press on. Within 3 short months, I was elected Vice President and the following year I became President. That year, we had been working diligently in preparations for Auburn to host the 2018 APVMA National Symposium. After months of consideration, and a final decision to run for APVMA National President, I bit the bullet and decided to run for the position.

I still can’t believe that was almost a year ago. Having the opportunity to serve as the APVMA President this past year has taught me so much about myself and how a leader should handle situations I thought I would never have to face. I’m not going to sugar coat things; I was absolutely terrified when I was elected. I didn’t think I had the capability to be the kind of President that the APVMA needed in such a critical time of growth. I learned very quickly and after walking through some vital learning curves, I was able to serve the way the rest of the Executive Board, the Advisory Board of Trustees, and I strived to serve the members of the APVMA.

The past 11 months have been so rewarding. As we come up on the 2019 APVMA National Symposium at Penn State on March 8th and 9th, I urge all of you who have considered running for an Executive Board position, whether Nationally or locally, to do so. The connections and the friendships that I have made are irreplaceable and I wouldn’t trade my time serving all of you for the world. APVMA both on the National level, and at Auburn University, have shaped me into the woman I am today. I wouldn’t be writing this letter to all of you if I had not taken a giant leap of faith almost a year ago. I hope all of you will do the same and I promise you won’t regret it.

Loyal,
Mary Ann McDougal
Interested in Running for an APVMA Executive Position?

Interested in running for an APVMA Executive Board position? If so, GREAT! If not, you should be! Running for a National position is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Throughout your year if elected, you can look forward to building relationships with students from all over the country and you will have the opportunity to work alongside the best advisors who will never steer you wrong.

Elections for the 2019-2020 APVMA Executive Board will take place over the 2019 APVMA National Symposium at Penn State over the weekend of March 8-9. You must be in attendance at the President’s Meeting on Saturday morning of the Symposium and be nominated by an advisor or club member. Upon acceptance of the nomination, you will meet with the current officer of the position on what to expect. That night, you will present a short 1 minute speech to the attendees at the symposium and voting will occur shortly after. If elected, you will have a quick meeting with the outgoing officer to receive more information and begin the exciting journey of serving on the APVMA Executive Board.

If you have any questions about running or elections, please email americanpvmapresident@gmail.com, or the current officer in the position of choice.

For more information about expectations and responsibilities for each position, please view the documents available here: http://www.apvma.org/executive-board-roles--election-info.html
Hello APVMA Members!

With a little over a month until the 2019 National APVMA Symposium, we wanted to give you a preview of some of the exciting lectures our schedule has to offer. We have been working diligently to provide you the opportunity to listen to some fascinating and unique lecture topics. We hope you are just as excited about them as we are!

One exciting set of lectures are the two on Asian Elephant Medicine given by Dr. Erica Ward. Dr. Ward became a full-time veterinarian at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand upon graduating from vet school. She has always been very passionate about conservation and veterinary medicine and is now the Academic Director of Loop Abroad. Her two lectures, titled “The Elephant in the Room” and “Operation Dumbo Knowledge Drop” will cover various aspects of working with Asian elephants, such challenges associated with caring for these large animals and common diseases she has seen. To learn more about elephant medicine and studying abroad, make sure to attend her lecture and speak to her at the Loop Abroad table on Saturday!

Another unique lecture is called “Investigating Animal Crime Scenes: Veterinary Forensic Pathology” given by Dr. Jason Brooks. Dr. Brooks is a faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University and a veterinary pathologist that works in the Animal Diagnostics Laboratory. He attended the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary school and went on to earn his doctorate in pathology here at Penn State. He is now the head of the pathology and parasitology sections in the lab and part of the Forensic Investigation Unit that deals with animal abuse cases. He will be discussing some of what this job entails during the lecture and going over some case studies. Dr. Brooks is also teaching the Forensic Pathology wet lab for the Symposium. Make sure you don’t miss out on this sure-to-be interesting lecture!

An additional lecture is “Wound Healing and Reconstructive Surgery”, given by Dr. Dino Bradley. Dr. Bradley is the Associate Director for Jassen’s LAM at J&J Spring House. She works as the Attending Veterinarian and the Supervisor for LAM Clinical Veterinarians, model development, and study support. Dr. Bradley received her DVM from Ohio State University, a Masters in Veterinary Surgery and Medicine from Auburn University, and a PhD in Biomedical Science (Wound Healing) also from Auburn University. She will be presenting her insight on her specialization in wound healing and reconstructive surgery. To learn about this intriguing specialization, be sure to sit in on Dr. Bradley’s lecture!

This is just a snapshot of a few lectures being offered at this year’s Symposium. Be sure to check out the various other lectures that range in topic from various specialties and One Health to the research and business side of veterinary medicine! As a reminder, the updated schedule is on our website and we hope to soon release descriptions for them so that you can have a good idea of which lectures you want to attend before you arrive.

We are excited to have you all!
Have you had a chance to read the SOP's for each E-board position?

Click on a position to review the SOP

President SOP

Vice President SOP

Treasurer SOP

Secretary SOP

Webmaster SOP
FUN FACT OF THE MONTH

Did you know... a gecko "drops" its tail to get away from its predators?

The process by which they "drop" their tails is called Caudal Autonomy which is Greek for self-amputation. The dropped tail will continue to move and wiggle in order to distract the predator and giving the gecko the time to escape. There is specially designed connective tissue in the tail that creates a "weak spot" where the trail will break off. The blood vessels to the tail will constrict and very little blood loss will occur. The gecko may or may not grow a new tail depending on the species.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8th-March 9th
2019 National APVMA Symposium at Penn State Univeristy

The Penn Starter Hotel and Conference Center
215 Innovation Blvd | State College, PA 16603
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