

Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching Award

Eric Olson[†]

Dr. Monica Howard is the 1998 recipient of the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. The Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award is given to outstanding teachers who through their ability, dedication, character, and leadership contribute significantly to the advancement of the veterinary medical profession. Dr. Howard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology. In addition to teaching, she serves on the Academic Standards Committee and is the chair of the Academic Advising Committee.

Dr. Howard received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Bachelor of Science degrees from Tuskegee Institute. She was accepted as a resident at Oklahoma State University where she earned a Doctorate in Veterinary Pathology.

Dr. Howard joined the faculty at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990 as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology.

Since her arrival, Dr. Howard has involved herself in many student oriented activities. In addition to teaching, she serves on the Academic Standards Committee and heads up the Academic Advisor Committee.

Dr. Howard assists veterinary medical students through her teaching, in her role as an academic advisor, and as an advisor to the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Howard's commitment to the process of education has been recognized repeatedly. During her academic career she has received a number of awards. As a resident and doctoral candidate at Oklahoma State University, she was honored with the Outstanding Young Women of America Award and was selected for a Minority Postdoctoral Fellowship. Since her arrival at Iowa State University, Dr. Howard has received commendation as Outstanding Advisor of the Year



Dr. Howard graciously accepts the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award through tears of joy and overwhelming thanks to the students and faculty.

(1993-1994), the SCAVMA Teaching Award (1994-1995), and now the Carl J. Norden Teaching Award (1998).

Dr. Howard's attitude towards teaching may well explain her success. She considers learning to be life-long pursuit, and that the participants, students and faculty alike should challenge one another to excel both academically and personally. She sees teaching not as unidirectional, but rather as a "continuous cycle between student and instructor; a symbiotic relationship in its truest form." Dr. Howard subscribes to the African proverb that states, "*It takes a village to raise a child.*" "We are *all* villagers here and we all should contribute to each others' growth", she says.

The students of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine are fortunate indeed to have such a committed faculty member in their midst. ♦

[†]Eric Olson is a first-year veterinary student at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.