

1999 SCAVMA Awards

BONNIE SMITH[†], ERIC VYMSLYCKY^{**}, AND LISA TIEBER^{***}

SCAVMA Basic Sciences Teaching Award: Dr. Ronald Griffith

The 1999 SCAVMA teaching award for basic sciences was presented to Dr. Ronald W. Griffith, DVM, Ph.D. Dr. Griffith is an associate professor in the department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He came to ISU in 1977 with a DVM from Michigan State University and four years of private practice experience. He earned his Ph.D. in 1983.



BMC

Dr. Ronald Griffith,
Associate Professor
of Microbiology

Dr. Griffith's professional teaching career began in 1979 when he was put in charge of his first course at ISU CVM, Clinical Microbiology. Currently, he teaches a course on Veterinary Pathogenic Bacteriology and Mycology to second year veterinary students. As an instructor, he believes the most important thing is to help students maintain a good attitude about what they're learning. In addition, he tries to stimulate them to think. Certainly, these are not small tasks with a group of VM2's halfway through their fall semester. "If students decide that a subject is worthless, it is ten times more difficult for them to learn it," Dr. Griffith commented. How does he do it? Between sips of Dr. Pepper, he explained that he tries to view students as equals and to encourage them to focus on things that are of particular interest to them. Mini-breaks, personal stories, and a light-hearted atmosphere make his lectures much more bearable than most classes.

[†]Bonnie Smith is a second-year veterinary student,

^{**}Eric Vymyslicky is a third-year veterinary student, and

^{***}Lisa Tieber is a third-year veterinary student, at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Although he keeps quite busy with his diverse research interests, four children, 100 cattle and about 320 acres of farmland, Dr. Griffith's dedication to teaching is evident in his willingness to find time to meet with students, answer their questions, and have review sessions outside of class. Despite some reluctance to accept recognition for his teaching accomplishments, Dr. Griffith said that he thinks the teaching awards are good because they not only allow students to recognize their instructors, but they help the students by encouraging the faculty to become better teachers.

SCAVMA Clinical Sciences Teaching Award: Dr. Joanne Graham

Dr. Joanne Graham, DVM, MS was awarded the 1999 SCAVMA Clinical Sciences Teaching award, in recognition of her excellence in teaching. Dr. Graham was at Iowa State since 1993 as assistant professor and staff oncologist in the Teaching Hospital, and taught oncology as an elective course for second, third, and fourth-year students. She also taught a senior clinical rotation.

Dr. Graham is a 1982 graduate of the University of Illinois, where she received her



Biomedical Communications

Dr. Joanne Graham (left) is presented the SCAVMA Clinical Sciences Teaching Award by former SCAVMA President Alicia Wisniewski.

BS in Microbiology. Returning to the University of Illinois soon after, she also received her DVM, MS, held her residency there, and received board certification in the ACVIM.

Dr. Graham is a member of the AVMA, AAHA, and is active in the Veterinary Cooperative Oncology Group, which focuses on clinical research. Dr. Graham has been published extensively, and her work includes chapters in Saunders' Handbook of Small Animal Veterinary Medicine, the Five Minute Veterinary Consult, and Feline Internal Medicine.

While at Iowa State, she enjoyed working with students, and was Omega Tau Sigma advisor for one year, and SCAVMA advisor for two years.

Her reception of the SCAVMA teaching award this spring was bittersweet however, as she left ISU in June to move to suburban Chicago. "Thank You," she exclaimed as she excitedly accepted the award, "I'm going to miss you all very much."

Dr. Joanne Graham is currently a veterinary oncologist for VCA, at a referral clinic in Franklin Park, IL. She plans to continue working in referral practice, clinical research, and private practice. This fall she was invited back to ISU to lecture for the third-year small animal medicine class, on the subject of oncology. Dr. Graham plans to continue teaching as much as possible, and remain involved at Iowa State University despite her distance.

SCAVMA Outstanding Service Award: Lisa Bomberger

Lisa Bomberger, Student Services Representative for the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, was awarded the SCAVMA Outstanding Service Award at the 1999 awards ceremony. The SCAVMA Outstanding Service Award is given to a non-faculty employee of the college each spring. The objective of this award is to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to supporting student learning or the college experience.

Bomberger's position as Student Services Specialist consists of a variety of duties related to the programming of student



Lisa Bomberger (left) is presented with the SCAVMA Outstanding Service Award by former SCAVMA President Alicia Wisnewski.

affairs. She not only coordinates orientations and the Veterinary Ambassador tours at the college, but also helps set up tutoring and counseling for current students. She informs students of job opportunities, outside scholarships, and is also involved with the Entrepreneur Club. Furthermore, she is involved in outreach programs where she goes to local high schools and speaks to students about veterinary medicine. In addition, Bomberger is highly involved in many of the college's extracurricular activities and events, including the SCAVMA Dog Jog, SCAVMA Scamper, and VAGBRAA. She enjoys the involvement she has with the students at the college and says that working with students is not only interesting and challenging, but it is her "fuel."

Bomberger is a graduate of Mount St. Clare College, where she also worked in the Office of Admissions for over three years after graduation. Before joining Iowa State, she was Tele-Counseling Supervisor at the Drake University Office of Admissions. In this position she oversaw the daily operations of a student staff who contacted prospective students via telephone.

Lisa Bomberger is a very deserving recipient of the SCAVMA Outstanding Service Award. Students are very fortunate to have her assistance through the curriculum, and she is an invaluable staff member of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. ♦