

Outstanding Advisor Award 1994 College of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Monica O. Howard

Lisa Hingtgen*

The recipient of the first annual Outstanding Advisor Award for the College of Veterinary Medicine was Dr. Monica O. Howard, D.V.M., Ph. D. Dr. Howard received her D.V.M. from the Tuskegee Institute in 1982, and in 1990 she received her Doctor of Philosophy in Veterinary Pathology from Oklahoma State University. She then began her current position at Iowa State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology.

Since its inception, Dr. Howard has been a part of the advising program at the College of Veterinary Medicine. It is set up as a volunteer program. Faculty who volunteer are assigned a certain number of students based on the amount of time they've indicated they are willing or able to spend as an advisor. There are no guidelines set up that stipulate how much time or effort an instructor must put into his or her advisory position.

As evidenced by this award, Dr. Howard takes her advising responsibility very seriously. Her dedication to students is clear, and her reputation as a caring and helpful instructor and advisor is well known. She currently advises 15 students, ranging from their first to third year in the veterinary curriculum. Furthermore, she is the faculty advisor for the Recreational Stress Relief Organization and for the Student Chapter of the AVMA.

When asked what she wants to accomplish as an advisor, she states that she wants students to know that "she's here to work for them," whether it be an academic problem that she can help them sort out, or a personal problem, in which case she can suggest where they can go to seek help.

Dr. Howard also emphasized that she wants students to see that "people in authority are human. They're not the enemy." If a problem arises, she will be there to help her advisees, or any other student that needs her assistance, as



long as he or she is open and honest about the situation. She pointed out that many times students are far from home and that when a problem arises they need to have someone to talk to that they can trust. She's happy to be that person.

Dr. Howard says that she gains much personal satisfaction from her work as an advisor. She hopes that the advising program will continue to grow at the College of Veterinary Medicine and that faculty and students alike will take advantage of this opportunity to get to know each other.

As one of her advisees put it, "Dr. Howard is in a class by herself." She makes it a point to remember birthdays, religious holidays, and test days with either a note or a card and is always ready with a smile and some words of encouragement when needed. When asked about her kindness, Dr. Howard simply smiles and says, "It's the little things that are important."

*Lisa Hingtgen is a third year student in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University.