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NEWS & EVENTS

CVM Alumnus Selected as AVMA Future Leader

(SCHAUMBURG, Illinois) August 6, 2012 – Dr. Kelvin G. Urday, a 2011 graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, is one of 10 veterinarians selected to participate in the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Future Leaders Program.



This year-long program, created by the AVMA and supported by Pfizer Animal Health, will help develop leadership skills in the selected group of volunteer leaders for the future of the AVMA and other veterinary groups. This is the second class of 10 Future Leaders involved in the program. They were selected from approximately 60 AVMA member nominees who had graduated from veterinary school within the last 15 years.

"This program appealed to me because of the opportunity to learn more about organized veterinary medicine as well as a chance to better my communications skills," Urday said. "I also saw this program as a prospect to join a network of progressive veterinary professionals. I hope that together we can develop a program that benefits our constituents and shows our profession how beneficial organizations like the AVMA can be."

Urday is a mixed animal private practice veterinarian in Keller, Texas, and he has a long history in this style of practice. As a child in north Texas, he lived next door to a mixed animal veterinarian, where he volunteered and ultimately learned to love veterinary medicine. While at the CVM, Urday was active in the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association and also served as vice president of the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association and president of the Student Chapter of the American Animal Hospital Association.

The year-long Future Leaders Program started at the AVMA Convention in San Diego, Calif., that is currently taking place. This select group will have the opportunity to work with a professional facilitator Dr. Ken Andrews of High Impact Facilitation to receive project management and leadership training. Over the year they will collaborate on a project to provide the AVMA with solutions to help increase the leadership skills develop valuable resources for of veterinarians nationwide to use. The final results of their efforts will be presented during the AVMA Convention in Chicago, July 19-23, 2013.

"The hardest part of picking each class over the past two years has been narrowing down the list of nominees to just 10 participants, because of the qualifications, diverse interests and energy of all the outstanding nominees," said Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief executive officer of the AVMA. "Many of these Future Leaders are already leaders, having accepted leadership roles at the state and local levels, so we're excited by not only by what we can teach them but how much they'll be able to teach us. The inaugural class of Future Leaders has been inspiring and accomplished so much, so I expect a lot from the second class."

The first class of Future Leaders focused on creating a web-based Future Leader Toolkit that uses videos, instructional tools, media materials and other information and instruments that AVMA members can use to improve their leadership skills on the job or within the profession.

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