



# Virginia-Maryland VBMA Newsletter

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<http://students.vetmed.vt.edu/vbma>

Thanks to our National Sponsor:



## Recent Event: VMRCVM's Elephant in the Room World Café Discussion

On March 31, 2008, Dr. Carol Mase spoke to VMRCVM students over lunch. She highlighted some amazing women who, without typical resources, were able to make a huge difference in their communities. She urged students to find their passion and act on it in order to solve these large issues facing the future of veterinary medicine.

In the evening of Dr. Carol Mase, the facilitator of the original economic summit at NAVC, "Inviting the Elephant into the Room," facilitated our own world café discussion on important economic issues affecting the veterinary profession.

VMRCVM administrators, faculty, residents and students, along with area practitioners discussed thought-provoking questions regarding veterinary school curriculum, hospital profitability, and the profession's reputation.



Some terrific ideas were developed and aggregated by participants. The VBMA will send out a synopsis of the ideas presented, this summer.

## Recent Event: David McCormick on Practice Value

The final VBMA meeting of the Spring 2008 semester highlighted the components of a veterinary practice's true value.



David spoke on the importance of conducting business appraisals to assess the value of a veterinary practice and areas for improvement. Identifying strengths and weaknesses, as well as pricing, marketing, mission and values of a practice can increase profitability and

marketability to potential buyers. He stressed that appraisals work best as preventative measures, and waiting too long to perform an evaluation can prove to be too late.

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## Congratulations to Mike Nolan, the 2008 Simmons Educational Fund Contest Winner!

The Simmons Educational Fund (SEF) awarded Mike Nolan in VMRCVM Class of 2009, the 2008 *Business Aptitude Award*.

Mike received a cash award of \$2,000 and an engraved plaque from the SEF for his essay on this year's topic: *As a new graduate, what can I bring to a practice that will help the bottom-line?*



Mike is now eligible to win the \$10,000 National Award to be selected from the other \$2,000 award winners across the nation.

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## Fall 2008 Upcoming Events

The VBMA hopes you enjoy your summer and take a mental break from studying. But unless you're in the Class of 2008, you'll be returning this fall and are probably curious about your VBMA chapter's planned events. Mark your calendars for:

- Speed-networking event in conjunction with VVMA mentor breakfast (September 26)
- Matsco's constructing a business plan workshop(August/September)
- Managing a large animal ambulatory practice presentation (October)
- Second annual business etiquette dinner (November)
- NCVEI software training opportunity (TBD)

If there is an event you would like to see the VBMA to present, please contact VBMA Chapter President H. Groch at [hgroch@vt.edu](mailto:hgroch@vt.edu) with your ideas.

### Attention Members:

**Be on the watch for a new, more informative VBMA website!**

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## Legislative Issues in Veterinary Medicine

All information directly from the legislative section of the VVMA website:

### **HB 725, Equine Dentistry Bill**

HB 725 does not amend last year's law; rather it adds two exceptions to the law to cover apprenticeship and LVT activity. Specifically, the bill states that registration requirements for equine dental technicians shall not prevent 1) persons performing tasks related to the practice of equine dentistry under the direction and immediate supervision of a licensed veterinarian or registered equine dental technician during completion of training and experience necessary for registration for a period not to exceed 12 months and 2) licensed veterinary technicians from planing or leveling equine teeth for routine dental maintenance under the immediate and direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian, provided the licensed veterinary technician has graduated from an American Veterinary Medical Association accredited program with successful completion of coursework in equine dentistry or can document training comparable to that of an equine dental technician.

### **HB 537, Exemption of rabies certificate information from FOIA**

Due to dog owners' sensitivity about breed information on rabies certificates in a treasurer's possession, an effort was made in 2007 to exempt the information from FOIA requests.

*All information extracted from <http://vvma.wikispaces.com/Legislation>*

*Please send comments on this new section to Michelle Larsen, [mlarsen@vt.edu](mailto:mlarsen@vt.edu).*

