

Fifth Annual Animal Welfare Symposium on October 5th

HSVMA's fifth annual [Animal Welfare Symposium](#) will be hosted by the HSVMA student chapter at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine on Saturday, October 5th. There will be a full day of lectures covering topics including animal cruelty, street medicine, shelter medicine, wildlife medicine, end of life care, equine welfare and disaster response. A [RAVS](#) suture lab is also being held (currently full so no space available, sorry!). There will be several students presenting posters of their summer research and an MSU student who will be giving a lunch presentation about an equine welfare program in Mexico. Registration for veterinary students is FREE and lunch, a light breakfast and refreshments will be provided. And did we mention the raffles?! We will be raffling off a copy of Fossum's Small Animal Surgery and Cote's Clinical Veterinary Advisor for Dogs and Cats. Check out our [webpage](#) for more information and register [here](#)! This year's symposium is generously sponsored by the Kislak Family Foundation and [Total Planning Veterinary Services](#).



The 2018 Animal Welfare Symposium took place at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Congratulations to the 2019 Compassionate Care Scholarship Recipients!

This year's scholarship recipients are another group of amazing veterinary students who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to animal welfare. First place was awarded to Caitlyn Rize, a student at University of Minnesota CVM. Caitlyn has been involved with clinics that offer low or no-cost veterinary care to pets. Her background in social work has facilitated her work with communities in need. She aspires to continue to help those in the Detroit area after she graduates by establishing a non-profit in this area. Second place was awarded to Farida (Faye) Varias, a student at Western University of Health Sciences CVM. Faye has established a program on the island of Guam which brings volunteer vets and vet students to the island to perform spay and neuter services for communities in need. There were so many competitive applicants that we had a tie for third place again this year: Abbie Knudsen, a student at University of Missouri CVM, has been heavily involved in big cat welfare for many years, as staff of National Tiger Sanctuary and as a legislative advocate through her work as an HSUS District Leader. Ron Orchard, a student at Kansas State University CVM, has been instrumental in establishing the Shelter Medicine program at Kansas State and is also pursuing a Masters in Public Health. Read more about these amazing students on our [webpage](#). HSVMA plans to



Caitlyn Rize, a University of Minnesota veterinary student, is the first-place winner of the 2019 Compassionate Care Scholarship.

Photo Credit: Maegan Bartell

offer the Compassionate Care Scholarship again in 2020 so watch for our announcements in the spring. Thank you to our HSVMA leadership for making these awards possible!

Student Mentorship Directory Available on HSVMA Website

Having like-minded people to support you while in veterinary school is important to your education and your well-being. For this reason, HSVMA has a [Veterinary Student Mentorship Program](#). You can visit our mentor webpage and find a veterinarian who is willing to offer advice about future career paths, provide connections to members across the country, or just lend a friendly ear to welfare-related concerns. Each mentorship partnership will be tailored to fit the interests, needs, and availability of the participants. Our HSVMA veterinarians benefitted from mentorship during their vet school education, and now they want to offer current vet students the same compassion and support they received. Visit our [Student Mentorship Directory](#) to find a mentor today!



Dr. Michael Blackwell speaking with UC Davis students.

Photo credit: HSVMA

RAVS Informational Talks Online

'Tis the season for students to begin thinking about volunteering for a [RAVS](#) clinic (or two!). HSVMA held a free, informational webinar for students on September 18, and now this webinar is available to everyone (including non-members) on our [volunteer opportunity webpage](#). Many vet schools are also holding RAVS informational talks on campus this fall which are hosted by students who have participated in past clinics. If you are unable to attend a talk at your school, you can watch the archived version of our informational webinar [here](#). The new [RAVS clinic schedule](#) will be available in late October or early November, and the window to submit student applications will be open for two weeks. RAVS is an adventure in learning and an incredibly rewarding experience for all volunteers.



Dr. Ahne Simonsen instructing a veterinary student in surgery.

Photo Credit: RAVS