

STUDENTS LIVING **CARDINAL, GOLD AND GREEN**

Bringing out the innovator in every Cyclone, the Start Something Network provides academic opportunities specifically tailored to students in each of Iowa State University's colleges. This month, the Start Something Program in the College of Veterinary Medicine is celebrated.

Start Something College of Veterinary Medicine

Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine is ranked as the 14th best veterinary program in the country and is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. There are four options available in the program: small animal, equine, mixed animal and food animal. Each program consists of core courses to ensure a strong foundational knowledge and additional courses specific to each option. There are a variety of ways for students to [get involved with research](#) through on-campus opportunities and summer internships, and a wide range of research [centers, institutes and initiatives](#) that allow students to get involved in areas of interest.



Photo courtesy of CVM

Academic Courses

In the College of Veterinary Medicine, there are over 120 courses offered that are either sustainability focused or sustainability related. Three to highlight are Spanish for Veterinarians, Global Health, Public Health and the Role of the Veterinary Profession.

Spanish for Veterinarians (VDPAM 308) is a course "designed to meet the needs of veterinary students who will practice in an environment in which the use of Spanish for accurate client communication is essential which includes much of our food animal industry in the state of Iowa."

Global Health (V MPM/GLOBE/MICRO 360) explores human health across the world with particular emphasis on low

and lower-middle-income countries. Cause topics include colonialism, poverty, emerging diseases, climate change, biodiversity and urbanization.

Public Health and the Role of the Veterinary Profession (V MPM 388) explores public health topics like food safety, zoonotic diseases and occupational health. These are only three examples of sustainability-related courses offered by the college: to access the full sustainability course catalog for each academic year, visit the [Sustainability Courses page](#) on the Live Green! website.

Study Abroad Experiences

Opportunities to innovate are not limited to the classroom- or even the country! The College of Veterinary Medicine offers students to take their learning across borders: below are highlights related to opportunities offered in Uganda, Ecuador/Galapagos Islands and Guatemala.

The [Vet Med One Health Study Abroad in Uganda](#) offers students two weeks in the Kamuli District of



Image courtesy of Innovate Iowa State

Through connections to academic courses, study abroad experiences, student organizations and innovative connections, the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#) (CVM) boasts many opportunities for students to explore their inner innovator and become champions of sustainability in their work.

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COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
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Image courtesy of CVM

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Uganda utilizing self-designed questionnaire surveys to gather information about water, sanitation and hygiene within the district, as well as evaluate zoonotic disease awareness and prevention.

The [Veterinary Medicine in Ecuador & the Galapagos](#) program takes students to Ecuador working with wildlife and exotic animal veterinarians to gain hands-on volunteer experience at a community spay and neuter clinic, learn about the giant tortoise breeding program on the Galapagos Islands and visit the Charles Darwin Center and other research facilities. Visits to other islands also provide a firsthand perspective of farm life and practices in the region.



Photo courtesy of CVM Study Abroad

The [Wildlife Rehabilitation in Guatemala program](#) focuses on conservation medicine. During two weeks at the ARCAS (Animal Rehabilitation and Wildlife Conservation Center), students gain hands-on experience in the health and management of primates, psittacines (birds) and reptiles. Student also assist in exams,

surgery and necropsy reviews of past cases under the supervision of the three ARCAS veterinarians while abroad.



Photo courtesy of CVM Study Abroad

Additional experiences can be found on the [international opportunities webpage](#) of the CVM website.

Student Organizations

While on campus, there are also many opportunities to connect with student organizations to add additional professional and personal development and innovation experiences while honing their interests and meeting other students that share their passion for a specific aspect of veterinary medicine. One example, Veterinarians as One Inclusive Community for Empowerment (VOICE) focuses on improving the diversity of the veterinary field through increasing awareness, respect and sensitivity to differences among all those in the field—including cross-cultural competence for an increasingly diverse clientele. This organization also connects with youth from underrepresented backgrounds to foster

their interest in the field of veterinary medicine. To achieve their goals, VOICE provides promotional and financial support for educational, social, and service events that elevate the topics of diversity and inclusion in the field.

Lindsay Miller, Hannah Jorgensen and Chelsea Enright, three third-year veterinary medicine students, make up the organization's executive team. Their main goal as a team is raising awareness in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) topics in the field through hosting speakers, organizing community outreach events and hosting a semesterly book club - "Diverse Books by Diverse Voices." This year, the club pursued their goal through hosting a: panel discussion, donation drive and a LGBTQ+ alumni panel.



Photo courtesy of VOICE Executive Team

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Through their involvement with VOICE, the team shared that their experiences have prepared them to better serve diverse clients in their professional careers. They collectively note how grateful they are for faculty support in ensuring VOICE's mission. "DEI involves more than just race and sexual orientation; it also involves mental health, socioeconomic factors, home environment and much more."

To learn more about the organization and how to get involved, visit the [VOICE webpage](#) on the Iowa State University Student Organization website.

Innovation Connections

As well as academic, abroad and club opportunities, College of Veterinary Medicine students also are connected to unique innovative projects and initiatives. One example is related to sustainability efforts of pet food companies Royal Canin and Purina. This month, Live Green! had the opportunity to connect with three CVM students and learn about their innovative involvement with these companies and pet food bags.



Image courtesy of Royal Canin



Image courtesy of Purina

Caroline Hendron, a third-year in the veterinary medicine program, and Riley Beyer, a first-year, are both student representatives for the pet food company Royal Canin and, in that role, initiated a dry pet food bag recycling program this spring in support of the [company's sustainability goals](#). Royal Canin's program involves a partnership with TerraCycle - a company specializing in recycling unique materials, and a TerraCycle collection bin located at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

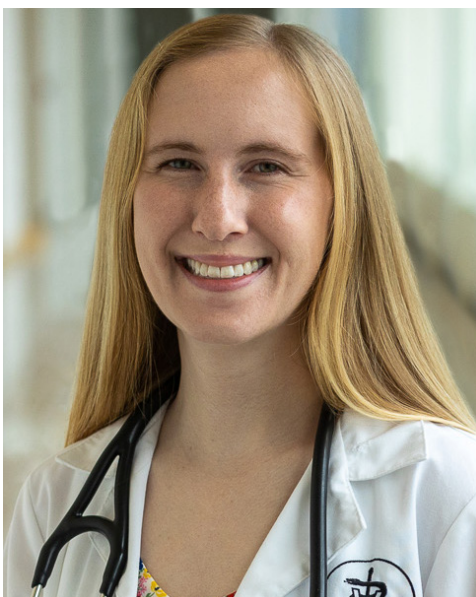


Photo courtesy of Caroline Hendron



Photo courtesy of Riley Beyer

To get the project started, Hendron and Beyer had to get the bin approved by the college, promote it to students, faculty and staff and coordinate the mailing of the collected bags to TerraCycle.

Katie Parker, a student representative with Purina, also oversees collection of pet food bags for TerraCycle recycling. She explained that, both for Purina and Royal Canin, polypropylene, the material used to make pet food bags, is difficult to recycle in normal recycling processes - however is necessary as it plays an important role in protecting the moisture and quality of the pet food. Its durability and light weight also reduces the transportation resources required to ship the pet food bags from the producers to

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retail stores and from stores to consumer homes.



Photo courtesy of Katie Parker

Many students, faculty and staff in the College of Veterinary Medicine have pets and purchase food on a regular basis. Having a TerraCycle collection bin on the college's campus offers a convenient and easy way to reduce waste and support a sustainable difference at CVM.



Photo courtesy of Katie Parker

Royal Canin and Purina pet food bags can be dropped off in their respective TerraCycle bin at any time during building operating hours. The bins are cleaned and checked regularly by student representatives;

when they are full, the bags are collected and sent to TerraCycle to be made into products including railroad ties, lumber or upcycled accessories.



TERRACYCLE

Image courtesy of TerraCycle

Launching a project like this on such a large campus is no small task- faculty and staff are an important component of students' support network, which extends to all facets of the student experience. Hendron and Beyer noted that professors' use of different teaching strategies and hands-on experiences are great examples of the College of Veterinary Medicine's commitment to innovation in the classroom, along with wet labs and guest lecturers.

They also credit the [Summer Scholar Research Program](#), which provides students with the opportunity to assist faculty in research projects and practice writing research papers, as offering relevant connections to broaden and enhance their perspectives on the role of veterinarians in medical research.

Throughout the College of Veterinary Medicine, there are

countless examples of ways that students can get involved with innovation, sustainability or both during their time at Iowa State. These experiences can be found in the classroom, after class at a club meeting, elsewhere on campus or even on an entirely different continent. Regardless of where a student's passions lie, the College of Veterinary Medicine is bound to have something to ignite their spark.

A Year of Innovation

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Live Green! Monthly has highlighted the breadth and depth of innovation happening within all seven colleges, beginning with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and finishing the year with the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Throughout the year, we have featured how each college is demonstrating unique and diversified commitment to innovation - and intertwining sustainability. Each month offered the opportunity to commemorate the impressive work that Iowa State students are doing to make Iowa and the world better and ensure new frontiers - as students and graduates. This year has exemplified true testament of collective vision, commitment and dedication to ensure a sustainable future - truly embodying what it means to live Cardinal, Gold and Green.