



Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA)

Contact:

Ken Gorczyca, DVM

info@LGVMA.org

584 Castro Street #492

San Francisco, CA 94114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA) Announces 2011 Leadership and Achievement Awards

LGVMA is proud to announce both Lisa Greenhill and Shane Snowdon as the recipients of the LGVMA 2011 Achievement Award.

The LGVMA Board voted to recognize Lisa Greenhill for her work in organizing the pioneering lecture on Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Trangender (LGBT) issues in veterinary education at the 2011 Iverson Bell Symposium, and for promoting the inclusion of LGBT questions in 2011 AAVMC's Diversity Matters Climate and Curriculum Survey. Lisa Greenhill is the Associate Executive Director for Institutional Research and Diversity, AAVMC.

The LGVMA Board voted to recognize Shane Snowdon for presenting the ground-breaking comparative lecture "LGBT Concerns in Veterinary Education and Practice: A Perspective from Medical Education" at the 2011 Iverson Bell Symposium which has encouraged deans, faculty and students to become allies and members of LGVMA and for LGBT veterinary students and their allies to create the Broad Spectrum Veterinary Student Association. Shane Snowdon is the Founding Director of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Center for LGBT Health and Equity. During her 12 years as Director, she has been a leading voice for LGBT equality in health care, education, and employment.

LGVMA Achievement Awards are presented to individuals and/or organizations at the LGVMA Annual Meeting. Recipients should evidence commitment to one or more of the following: improving the quality of veterinary services to animals belonging to the LGBT community; for bettering the professional environment for animal health professionals; for enhancing the academic learning environment for LGBT veterinary and/or veterinary technician students; and/or for contributing to the advancement of equality of the LGBT community or of the mission of LGVMA. Awards are given without regard to recipients' sexual orientation.

LGVMA is also proud to announce the Student Chapter of LGVMA/ Tuskegee the LGVMA 2011 Leadership Award. The LGVMA Leadership Award is given to individuals and/or organizations that show outstanding leadership and/or community activism within the veterinary profession.

The LGVMA Board voted to award the 2011 LGVMA Leadership Award to the Student Chapter of LGVMA/Tuskegee for their pioneering efforts in becoming the first-ever LGBT student group at Tuskegee University and for sponsoring World AIDS Day programs on December 1, 2010 at the Tuskegee Veterinary School. This year's focus was on the African-American community and One World, One Health, One Medicine. Lectures included pet-associated zoonoses risk and prevention guidelines for immunosuppressed populations, and a review of the health benefits of animal companionship.

The Tuskegee veterinary students also hosted a free on-site HIV testing by appointment for veterinary students in addition to a "lunch and learn" session with a speaker who talked about people living with HIV/AIDS and their pets. In the evening, a panel discussion with representatives from each department of the veterinary school as well as the allied health and nursing schools focused on the impacts of the virus on their field and current research being done on HIV/AIDS.

World AIDS Day was initiated in 1987 by two public health officials. The veterinary profession has played a pivotal and historic role in the AIDS pandemic as a member of the health care team. Veterinarians has participated in public health, zoonosis education, retroviral research, community practice and activism. Merial and Purina helped fund this pioneering, One Health veterinary student-run program at Tuskegee. LGVMA encourages all veterinary schools to promote World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011. Contact e-mail: tusvm_lgvma@yahoo.com

LGVMA is a global organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender veterinary professionals, students and straight allies advocating for a welcoming and inclusive environment within the veterinary profession.

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