As I approach the end of my tenure as Vice President of the AVMA, I would once again like to thank you all for the support that has led me to this position. I would not be here without you!! Secondly, I would also like to give a great deal of credit for our success as an organization to our exceptional staff. The student initiatives team made up of Drs. Caroline Cantner, Anna Reddish and Derrick Hall and the center of it all Ms. Jackie Ross. These four people are truly instrumental to the future of the AVMA.

We embarked on a new journey over the past year where we truly integrated volunteer leadership and staff expertise and leadership to create an outstanding plan. We were able to visit all of the programs in the US, add an exploratory visit with students at the University of Edinburgh, and visit our chapters at the six schools abroad. We went out with a unified goal to address the concerns seen among the students during the previous year.

As a team, we created a common presentation focused on Economics and Well-being. These had been two pervasive themes. By working together, we delivered a presentation that focused on AVMA efforts in both of these areas, as well as data to back up the concerns and information to help individuals succeed.

Each of us know that economic sustainability is a commonly-cited concern among our peers—that begins in veterinary school where students may feel that they have very little control. We talked with them about debt management, starting salary trends, and recognizing individual paths to success. We shared the AVMA economic reports on market for veterinarians and market for education. Additionally, we talked about the Personal Financial Planning tool at the AVMA website. We continue to work within AVMA and with the profession at large to help provide a more complete understanding of debt management post-graduation.

Oftentimes financial stress can have an impact on overall personal well-being. We discussed key pieces for managing stress and taking advantage of available resources in school, and among classmates and communities to combat the ever-present challenges of academic life. This allowed us to share the resources available on the AVMA website and through AVMA continuing Education at Convention and at the Veterinary Leadership Conference.

Both of these topics were well received by students at all of the institutions. I believe that this collaborative approach with volunteers and staff, as well as AVMA and other organizations is the key to a truly exceptional future for the profession as a whole!

I would like to once again thank you for your belief in me to deliver on your behalf the JOY of this profession. I would not change the past two years for anything. Well accept maybe that one flight…..

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Stinson, DVM
AVMA Vice President