

## **AAVA Conference 2023 Report:**

We had a great meeting that was filled with exciting and fruitful presentations. We welcomed everyone on Thursday with a warm reception. We all were excited to see our fellow anatomists. We started Friday with our wonderful keynote speaker presentation. It was informative, exciting, engaging, and enjoyable. We were thankful to have Dr. Morton as our keynote speaker. Presentations followed; they represented a mix of innovations in teaching anatomy, classic anatomical studies, and exotics anatomy as well as policy development. The trip to Crystal Bridges Art Museum was exceptionally enjoyable. We got to see one-of-a-kind art pieces, and we enjoyed dinner at the museum's cafeteria. It was funny seeing many people accidentally ordering the same dish! I guess anatomists have a lot in common!

On Saturday, we had a day full of more presentations. Attendees benefited from the embalming workshop and discussions. Attendees who intend to embalm got a head start. I offered onside help to whoever needed it. Attendees who have experience in embalming entertained a different perspective and walked away with new ideas. On Saturday night, we had a tasty dinner while enjoying a performance by Alexon, an incoming KSU student. The gavel was passed to me, and I officially became president then. I am thankful for the service provided by Dave Cross. He was a great AAVA president, and we will continue working together. The career opportunities workshop was beneficial to attendees. They learned that one cannot run out of job opportunities with a degree in veterinary anatomy. After the presentations on Sunday, we visited the Missouri Southern State University campus, including the cadaver lab. We ended the conference with a tour of Joplin's Kansas City University campus. It was a mistake putting this tour at the end. Whoever attended the tour stated that it was a big hit, and others missed it. We enjoyed seeing KCU's state-of-the-art buildings and equipment. The hundred thousands mannequins blow all away with their medical simulation abilities. Everyone enjoyed seeing KCU's state-of-the-art anatomy lab. The fancy cafeteria and coffee shop were closed because it was late on a Sunday. I hope everyone went home with ideas to apply in their own schools. The conference ended on Sunday afternoon. I enjoyed everyone's company and looking forward to seeing everyone next meeting.

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