

Verda A. Davis
2011 – National TBR Winner

Verda A. Davis, TBR for the KY Branch of AALAS and member of D5 AALAS is the winner of the national TBR Award. Her plaque award will be presented to her by Robert Dysko, 2011 AALAS President (also from D5) on Monday night, October 3rd during the General Membership Meeting of the 62nd national meeting being held in San Diego, CA. This award also consists of free registration, free air fare (up to \$500), complimentary hotel accommodations for five nights and \$150 in cash to assist in her traveling expenses.

Verda's accomplishments for winning this award did not come overnight. She began her membership in the KY Branch in the year 2000. Her service to the branch has been on the Education and Philanthropy Committees, being elected and serving on the Board of Directors one term, elected to Asst. TBR in 2009, followed by serving as TBR 2010-2011, President-elect for 2006 and President in 2007. She has won the Ronnie J. Willis Scholarship Award in 2004 and 2010, the Asst. LAT Award in 2001, the LAT Award and Member of the Year Award in 2004. At the district level, in 2002, she won the Asst. LAT Award and in 2006, the LAT Award at the District 5 annual meetings. In 2006, she won the annual Lab Products, Inc. Award which is given to someone who has never attended a national meeting.

Verda has also done Tech Nite presentations, most notably her "Weird and Creepy: Unusual Animal Models in Research" which she has presented not only at our branch and district, but the Tri-Branch AALAS in 2004 and at the Lab Animal Session at the AVMA Convention in 2004. At national AALAS meetings, she has participated in the Technician Fun Fair and even assisted in grading the tests. She coordinated a Tech Fun Fair in 2009 when the Ky Branch hosted the D5 AALAS meeting. Since 2006 she has been a member of Tech Talk Editorial

committee. She has spoken to vet tech programs at both Murray State and Morehead State Universities about career possibilities in the lab animal field.

Verda has not only serviced for the betterment of lab animals, but she has served her fellow citizens as well. Some of her causes have been the American Diabetes Association by running a marathon in Rome, Italy in 2003 raising over \$4500 in awareness, volunteering for WUKY Radio, American Heart Association, UK Children's Hospital and UK Women's Forum. From 2001 to the present, she has been a Mentor for Girls in Research, a summer program for teens at the University of Kentucky. Twice, in 2004 and 2008, she donated her hair to the Locks of Love.

She has been an author on three publications with a former principal investigator. She has presented posters at D5 AALAS meetings and won 1st Place in 2010 for her poster, "Resting Glutamate Levels in the Hippocampus Are Altered in a Kindled Model of Epilepsy". She has presented posters at the Spring Neuroscience Days Sessions in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Verda's future plans include being accepted into a veterinary school this fall or early next year.