

News and Comment

From President Howard Erickson

Greetings from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. We implemented a new curriculum in the College of Veterinary Medicine this fall which includes a core curriculum plus electives. In my phased retirement, I volunteered to teach an elective on the history of veterinary medicine to our first year students. I have 16 students in the class, and I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to provide them an introduction to the rich history of veterinary medicine. They are evaluated by an open book, group, exam over each lecture, an essay on the topic of their choice, and a short PowerPoint presentation to the class over their essay. I have encouraged them to submit their essays for the Smithcors Essay Contest, but it is not a requirement. I would encourage each of you, if you have an opportunity, to encourage veterinary students to submit an essay to the Smithcors Essay Contest as well.

I want to encourage you to try to attend some of the events that are being organized and sponsored by the AVMHS. On March 6, 2010, Dr. Al Moore, our Past President has organized an excellent history session during the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Annual Conference in College Station, Texas. During the AVMA convention in Atlanta, Dr. Russell Currier, President-Elect, has contacted Dr. Michael Smith in Georgia to tell us about veterinary memorabilia. Also at the AVMA convention, I will be giving a presentation to commemorate over 100 years of women in veterinary medicine. Our booth at the AVMA convention will celebrate Elinor McGrath (Chicago Veterinary College) and Florence Kimball (Cornell), two pioneer women who graduated in 1910. In the fall of next year, Dr. Currier is planning a history session at Ames, Iowa

during the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association meeting. The year 2011 has been declared Vet 2011 or World Veterinary Year to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the world's first veterinary school in 1761 in Lyon, France by Claude Bourgelat. In 2012, we will celebrate the sesquicentennial at the Ontario Veterinary College. More about some of these events are found below, or will appear in future interim newsletters.

March Meeting In Texas

The program of our AVMHS meeting at Texas A & M University on March 6, 2010 was printed in the September 2009 *Interim News & Comment*. If, like this reporter, you mislay papers, you can now find it on the Society's web site at <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/avmhs>. Further details about how to attend and where you can stay will be available in late January 2010. If you need to know sooner, please contact Immediate Past President Al Moore at (281) 852-2395 or vetal@aol.com.

Remember the Essay Contest

The J.F. Smithcors Student Veterinary History Contest is our Society's most enduring project, and it doesn't just happen each year. It takes work reaching students in their colleges, and work judging the essays submitted. For instance, Chairman Russell Currier of the current essay contest arranged for notices to go out to all campuses some time ago, but some seem to have become stuck in pipelines. As President Erickson suggested above, if you know any students or have contacts at any of the campuses, please take a few minutes to send an encouraging message about the contest. The easiest way is to point

students or administrators to the Society's website where guidance and forms are printed. Another is to suggest that a student that you know send a personal message to other students. The deadline for essays is April 1.

Heritage Practices Report

Lesley Gentry, Heritage Veterinary Practices Chairperson, sends the following encouraging news. "It is good to hear from a few State Veterinary Associations that they have received and published our information about Veterinary Heritage Practices. I have not seen the updated Registry, but I am proud to know that Kansas has responded well. If any members know of at least 50-year-old practices in their states that are not listed in the Registry yet, please let me know, and I will send information to them."

In the next few months I hope to find sponsorship for wall plaques/certificates for each of the Veterinary Heritage Practices. It is important that the communities that support these practices know of their achievements. It has been suggested that we send out press releases regarding this project. Also, I think that it would be good to contact veterinary museums and inform them of the Registry. There is much work to be done, and any direct help, advice, comments, or funding are always welcome. My address is inside the back cover of this *Veterinary Heritage*.

I would like to thank Susanne Whitaker for all her work in maintaining application files and the great input she has given to this project."

Note: Our latest entry into the Registry is The Animal Medical Center in New York City established in 1910.

World Veterinary Year 2011

Dr. Howard Erickson has already reported to the AVMA that our Society plans to contribute to the celebration of Vet 2011 by holding a special meeting at Iowa State University, the first continually functioning veterinary college in this country. In the Library there, Dr. George Beran has organized the R. Allen Packer Heritage Room by key stages in the development of veterinary medicine. Iowa State also holds our

AVMHS archive, as well as a remarkably large number of archives of other groups associated with veterinary medicine and animal agriculture. Such a venue should offer program opportunities to meet Vet 2011's aim of demonstrating how veterinary medicine and veterinary education have contributed to the health of people as well as animals. If you have ideas for such a program, please contact Dr. Russell Currier at email: ruscurreier@yahoo.com, or (515) 710-2331.

David Williams at Cambridge

David Williams, Professor of Medical Illustration at Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine, and Editor of *Veterinary Heritage*, spent a personally satisfying and professionally productive half year at the University of Cambridge in England. He was a Visiting Scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and a Visiting Fellow in Clare Hall. Following his Visiting Fellowship the Governing Body of Clare Hall elected Professor Williams into Life Membership of the College.

His research determined the history (provenance) of seven of the nine copies of Andreas Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica*, published in 1543 and 1555 that are located at Cambridge. As a result of his findings, Professor Williams was invited to present a paper at the 60th Anniversary Conference of the Medical Artists' Association of Great Britain. He called it "Vesalius at Cambridge".

Papers for WAHVM 2010, Antalya, Turkey

Lesley Ann Gentry, Liaison to WAHVM 2010, indicates that there are few places that come close to rivaling Turkey, as an East-West meeting place. The 39th WAHVM Congress program will be held on September 20-23, 2010 in Antalya, Turkey.

The main themes will be: 1) "Bridging ages in veterinary education" (with special focus on "the history of developments of scientific disciplines in veterinary education"), 2) "East meets west: the history of intercontinental veterinary medicine and animal disease", and 3) "Free communications". Preliminary information is that the congress accommodation will be Hotel Papillon Ayscha, Antalya Belek, Turkey.

Boasting not only fine cuisine and fine Mediterranean beaches between Fethiye and Antalya on the southern coast, there are over 40 important historical sites. The Roman theatre at Aspendos is one of the best preserved in the world. Antalya and surrounding areas have something that will appeal to most everyone, historians or other!

Any information regarding Call for Papers should be directed to contact person: Conference Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Tamay Basagac Gul, Phone and Fax: +90 312 316 00 82 and e-mail: tamaybasagac@gmail.com.

Frank Seaver Billings

A short biography of this especially controversial veterinarian in the latter half of the 19th century has been submitted by Philip Teigen, retired Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division, U.S. National Library of Medicine. It is a welcome addition to the slowly accumulating group of American veterinarians in the WAHVM International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography project.

—Phyllis H. Larsen, DVM, Reporter

Editor's note:

I am grateful to Dr. Debbie Tacium for editing and producing the May 2009 issue of *Veterinary Heritage* while I was on sabbatical leave at the University of Cambridge.

—D. Williams