

News and Comment

There will be two AVMHS meetings in 2009:

Kansas State University in June

Dr. "Al" Moore, President of AVMHS, reminds us that for the last few years a major topic at our annual meetings has been the sparse attendance and lack of growth. After our 2008 meeting in New Orleans Dr. Tom Murnane proposed that we consider moving our annual meeting to a university setting. As a result President-elect and Program Chair Howard Erickson has now arranged for an excellent, full day program of veterinary history at Kansas State University on June 9, 2009, during its Annual Conference for Veterinarians, June 7-10.

Papers will be presented by students and faculty members of the College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as by AVMHS members from Kansas and neighboring states. Topics will range from the story of Plum Island to Presidents' pets, and from a veterinarian who worked with famous race horses to a veterinary physiologist who has pursued the history of the Kansas City Veterinary College.

Full details, including registration forms, will be sent to members early in 2009 and will also be available on the AVMHS website. Send suggestions or offers of future locations for AVMHS meetings to President "Al" Moore at vetal@aol.com or 281-852-2395.

Seattle with AVMA in July

At least for this first experimental year the full day history program at a university will not replace our regular annual business meeting and booth during the AVMA convention, July 11-15 in Seattle. Dr.

Erickson plans also to include a limited historical program in connection with the business meeting on Monday morning, July 13. President Moore looks forward to seeing AVMHS members and others at both or whichever meeting you are able to attend.

Registration for the AVMA convention will begin online on January 15, 2009 at <http://www.avmaconvention.org> or by phone at 1-800-974-3084 or 847-996-5876.

Smithcors Student Essay Contest

Dr. Russell Currier reports that he is pleased to be selected to chair the student essay contest for 2009. Information about the contest has been posted on the AVMHS website, <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/AVMHS>, that has been revamped under the direction of webmaster Dr. Robert C. McClure. Word about the contest has been sent to deans and librarians at each of the veterinary colleges in the United States, Canada, and the West Indies. It has also been posted on the SCAVMA national list serve. The deadline for receipt of essays in 2009 is April 1, 2009.

Dr. Currier is the executive vice president of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine established in 1951 to conduct board examinations within the fields of veterinary preventive medicine and public health. His earlier career experiences included state public health veterinarian of Iowa, CDC staff epidemiologist, and briefly large animal practice in Wisconsin after receiving his DVM from the University of Minnesota in 1967.

He welcomes support from fellow members to promote interest in veterinary students'

knowledge in the history of the evolution and accomplishments in veterinary medicine and its impact on the greater sphere of medicine and public health.

Board Members for 2008-2010



Dr. Marianne Ash of Lafayette, Indiana, is a 1977 graduate of the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and currently serves as the Director for Biosecurity and Emergency Programs for the Indiana State Board of Animal Health.

Marianne feels as our profession struggles to meet the needs of a changing world, the conservation and distribution of veterinary medical history becomes increasingly important. As a profession, we must remain relevant to a society that is in constant evolution. Answers to how that might be accomplished can often be found in actions of the past; hence, her interest in the AVMHS.

Dr. Claude B. Chastain, who teaches at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, says that he is interested in most aspects of history, particularly those that involve the care, use, and contributions of cavalry horses and war dogs. Noting that the time most veterinarians can devote to history is short, he commented that reading or listening to exhaustive biographies are a luxury, nice but not frequent. When asked for suggestions for AVMHS activities, he wondered whether we could get recurring snippets of veterinary history into a box in JAVMA with AVMHS as the source of the information along with an invitation to readers to contribute further snippets. These, he suggests, might help enhance pride in our predecessors, colleagues and the profession in general.



AVMHS Members Honored

At the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando in January 2008, **Harry Latshaw**, retired Veterinary Technology Program advisor and clinical coordinator at Purdue University,

was awarded the Jack L. Mara Memorial Lecture Award. This award recognizes Mara Lecture speakers annually at the veterinary technician's portion of NAVC. A photo of Harry Latshaw receiving the award from Dr. Mary Beth Leininger appears on page 4 of the spring 2008 issue of SVM report available at <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/svmreport/index.html>.

Member Frank F. Katz, PhD, has brought to our attention that at the May 2008 meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey, **Dr. Wolfgang Jöchle** received that society's David L. Cowan Award "For Achievement in Medical History." As a member of the MHSNJ for more than 15 years, Dr. Jöchle has presented lectures on subjects of interest to physicians, veterinarians, and historians. That he was so honored indicates that society's broad view of "medical history" as well as the high esteem in which it holds Dr. Jöchle. Dr. Jöchle is a charter member of the AVMHS and most recently has shared his editorial experience by serving as a judge for its student history essay contest.

The Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association has recognized **Dr. Charles E. Eastin I** with its Distinguished Service Award. It is given to a veterinarian who has been "a conscientious, highly-dedicated, contributing member of the Kentucky VMA or AVMA or both." According to his son, Dr. Charles Eastin II, a small animal practitioner in Virginia, his father has had a longstanding interest in history, is a member of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table, and has received awards from the Kentucky Historical



Left to right, Dr. James Weber (chairman, KVMA awards nominations committee), Dr. Charles Eastin (award recipient), Dr. Stuart Brown II (president, KVMA)

Society. One of the AVMHS most loyal attendees at annual meetings, Dr. Charles Eastin I has served on its Board of Directors and has chaired its Endowment and Life Member Committee.

WAHVM Congress, Engelberg, Switzerland

Reported by Susan D. Jones, Member, WAHVM Liaison Committee and AVMHS Delegate to WAHVM, 17 September 2008.

The 38th Annual Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine was held in Engelberg, Switzerland, September 11-14, 2008. Susan Jones attended the meeting on behalf of the AVMHS. Besides Dr Jones, four other Americans presented papers at the Congress: Lesley Gentry; Brian Caton; Fred Born; and Michael Mackay. Michael Mackay won the Young Scholars Award, which included a monetary prize and expenses toward attending the meeting. Almost 100 people from 18 nations attended. 37 papers were presented in English (and four in German with English translation). There were also 16 posters displayed throughout the meeting. All of the papers were interesting and informative, with a high quality consistent within the entire program. The location of the Congress, Engelberg, is a small town in the Alps and we enjoyed looking at and walking in the mountains, hearing the Alpenhorns being played, and eating excellent food. I was surprised to see that all of the cows and sheep in the pastures wear bells (not just the "boss cow" or "bellwether"), and the pleasant clink-clink of their bells put us to sleep each night. We also toured the fabulous monastery, heard a private organ concert, and ate cheese and drank wine made by the monks. It's true: the best cheese and chocolate are found in Switzerland!

At the business meetings, several important items were discussed. Drs. Forstenpointner and Weissengruber (Austria) had served their terms, and a new President and Secretary were elected. Co-presidents for the next four years will be Susan Jones (USA) and Peter Koolmees (NL) and secretary will be Phil Teigen (USA). It was

announced that the next Congress, following the biennial pattern, will be held in Antalya, Turkey, in 2010. Tamay Basagac, the Turkish delegate, gave an excellent presentation on the venue and proposed scientific program of this upcoming Congress. The Board decided to keep the membership dues at the same level as last year. We also have several projects ongoing: working with the WVA to commemorate their anniversary in 2013; redesigning the WAHVM website to provide more communication and links to the national associations and members; and the *International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography*. The WAHVM committee responsible for this last project commended AVMHS Secretary Susanne Whitaker for her excellent work on collecting biographies of prominent American veterinarians throughout history and promoting this project among AVMHS members. Another WAHVM working group is focusing on a brief textbook of veterinary history for student use. History is taught in veterinary schools around the world much more commonly than in the United States. Turkey alone has 8 departments of veterinary history and ethics at the state-run veterinary schools with hundreds of students. I anticipate the attendance of many of these students at the next Congress. Finally, the French delegation announced an upcoming conference, "Vet 2011," to honor the 250th anniversary of the veterinary school at Lyons, France. The conference will include a number of speakers, photo exhibits and posters. The languages will be English and French, and the dates will be in January 2011.

Finally, the AVMHS will need to take action on one item. Since Susan Jones has been elected Co-President, the AVMHS will need to appoint a new Liaison to the WAHVM (since officers cannot serve as Liaisons).

The AVMHS was well-represented at the Engelberg Congress. Our international friends send their greetings to the AVMHS and wish a happy and productive year to all AVMHS members.

—Phyllis H. Larsen, DVM, Reporter