

1979

# A Capsule of Some Unique Events in the History of the Iowa State University Veterinary College

Karen H. Stuedemann  
*Iowa State University*

Carl G. Rischen  
*Iowa State University*

Jim P. Wahl  
*Iowa State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Veterinary Medicine Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Stuedemann, Karen H.; Rischen, Carl G.; and Wahl, Jim P. (1979) "A Capsule of Some Unique Events in the History of the Iowa State University Veterinary College," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 41 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian/vol41/iss1/10](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol41/iss1/10)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# A Capsule of Some Unique Events in the History of the Iowa State University Veterinary College

Karen H. Stuedemann\*  
Carl G. Rischen†  
Jim P. Wahl\*

- 1872: The first courses were given in veterinary science to the senior agriculture class during the fall term by Dr. Henry J. Ditmers, a German veterinarian.
- 1879: The School of Veterinary Science was organized, making it the first veterinary college at a Land Grant Institution in the United States.
- 1879: Classes were held in the South Hall, the president's old house, and space was shared with the Botany Department.
- 1880: A second building, North Hall, was also put into use for veterinary classes.
- 1885: The veterinary buildings, Veterinary Hospital and Sanitary Building, were built approximately on the present site of the Memorial Union at a cost of \$10,600.
- 1887: The veterinary program was extended to three years.
- 1893: Old Agricultural Hall (also called Old Botany Hall) also served as veterinary classroom and laboratory quarters until 1912.
- 1898: Millikan Stalker, 1873, Professor of Veterinary Science, was appointed the first Dean of Veterinary Medicine. He was succeeded by President Beardshear, who served as acting dean until his death in 1902.
- 1900: The faculty of the Veterinary School was increased to four graduate veterinarians.
- 1903: J. H. McNeil, Professor of Anatomy, was appointed Dean of the Division of Veterinary Medicine.
- 1903: Iowa State offered the nation's first four year program in Veterinary Medicine.
- 1906: The legislature passed an act establishing the Extension Service. This was the first legislation establishing and providing funds for a state extension service.
- 1909: Charles H. Stange, D.V.M. '07, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, began his 27 year term as Dean of the Division of Veterinary Medicine.
- 1911: Iowa State became the first Veterinary College to require a high school education for admission.
- 1912: The Veterinary Medicine Quadrangle was built for a capacity of 60 students per class at a cost of \$150,000.
- 1912: The first veterinarian was appointed by the Extension Service. His primary duty was to teach farmers about hog cholera and its control.
- 1913: A veterinary research department was developed. Concurrently, the State Biological Laboratory was established in connection with this division, resulting in a 50% increase in veterinarians on the faculty in addition to four extension veterinarians.
- 1921: The Veterinary Investigation Farm of 60 acres was purchased. It is now called the Veterinary Medical Research Institute.
- 1926: The Military Stables, including barracks and horse barn, were built at a cost of \$32,900.
- 1931: Phi Zeta, Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine, installed its Gamma chapter on the Iowa State campus.
- 1931: A one year pre-professional academic training requirement was adopted.
- 1936: Charles Murray, D.V.M. '12, head of the Department of Veterinary In-

\* Ms. Stuedemann and Mr. Wahl are second year students in the College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU.

† Mr. Rischen is a first year student in the College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU.

- vestigation, succeeded Charles Stange as Dean of the Division of Veterinary Medicine and Director of the Veterinary Medical Research Institute.
- 1938: The *Veterinary Student* began its circulation. It was the first student run publication of veterinary colleges in the United States. In 1950, it became the *Iowa State College Veterinarian* and today is still a completely student operated publication.
- 1943: H. D. Bergman, D.V.M. '10, head of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, succeeded Charles Murray as Dean.
- 1943: The Army Specialized Training Program began operation for students enrolled in Engineering and Veterinary Medicine. Two classes were admitted each year and continued military training along with their veterinary studies. This program was discontinued in August 1944.
- 1948: The pre-veterinary requirement was extended to two years.
- 1952: I. A. Merchant, Ph.D. '33, head of the Department of Veterinary Hygiene, became dean.
- 1953: Dr. W. A. Chivers and Dr. F. K. Ramsey published their findings on BVD-MD (Bovine Virus Diarrhea—Mucosal Disease). They were among the first to characterize the gross and microscopic lesions of BVD-MD.
- 1955: The Military Stables were remodeled for use by Veterinary Medical Clinics.
- 1956: The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was completed at a cost of \$553,134.
- 1961: The National Animal Disease Center began its operation in Ames. Since then the NADC and College of Veterinary Medicine have taken advantage of the close proximity by often working together to benefit their respective causes.
- 1963: George C. Christensen, Professor and Head of Veterinary Anatomy at Purdue University was appointed dean. He had been a member of the ISU faculty from 1953 to 1958.
- 1965: Durwood L. Baker, D.V.M. '43 Assistant Dean since 1964, was named acting dean. He succeeded George C. Christensen, who was appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at ISU.
- 1966: Robert L. Kitchell, D.V.M. '43, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, was appointed Dean of the Iowa State Veterinary College.
- 1972: Dr. Phillip T. Pearson (ISU '56), Professor of Clinical Sciences was appointed Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. At that time, he was the youngest dean of any veterinary college in the nation.
- 1976: B-B-Bac<sup>®</sup>, a bacterin effective in immunizing against atrophic rhinitis in swine, became available on the market. Because of the great economic loss atrophic rhinitis had caused, an active research campaign for an immunizing product was started in 1948 under the supervision of Dr. William P. Switzer. Four generations of graduate students were also involved: Dr. Conrad L'ecyur, Dr. Richard F. Ross, Dr. Robert Duncan, Dr. Don Roberts, Dr. Delbert L. Harris, and Dr. Daniel O. Farrington. The royalties from the B-B-Bac<sup>®</sup> patent are given to the ISU Research Foundation.
- 1976: The College of Veterinary Medicine moved into a new \$25.6 million building two miles south of campus. The area of both levels covers 12.9 acres and the building contains 1,005 rooms. With the large increase in space and modern facilities, the capacity for incoming classes was increased to 120 students. The dedication of the new building was held in October, 1976, with the President of the United States, Gerald Ford, in attendance.
- 1979: ISU is beginning its second 100 years providing the best veterinary education in the nation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Drs. M. A. Emmerston, J. S. Herrick, R. A. Packer, F. K. Ramsey, M. W. Sloss, and W. P. Switzer for their help in providing information for this article.