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Torch of Leadership Passed in the College of Veterinary Medicine

BRETT KIRCH*

As the year draws to an end, the College of Veterinary Medicine is undergoing changes in leadership. Since last February, Dean Richard F. Ross had been splitting his duties between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture. Finally, on July 1, 2000, Dr. Ross left the College of Veterinary Medicine and embarked on a two-year commitment serving as dean of the College of Agriculture. Dr. Ross served as the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine since 1992 and will be missed by students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Ross, who is originally from Washington County, Iowa, grew up on a family farm. He entered Iowa State University in 1953 and graduated with a D.V.M. in 1959. In 1965, he completed a Ph.D. in microbiology. He then entered the field of research, working primarily with swine diseases. During his years of administrative duties at the veterinary school, Dr. Ross still maintained a laboratory and stayed active in research.

In the absence of Dr. Ross, Dr. Norman F. Cheville, professor and chair of veterinary pathology, has been named interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine as of October 1, 2000. Dr. Cheville, a leading innovator in the research of bovine brucellosis, was instrumental in the development of a vaccine which is being used in the effort to eradicate the disease. His work spans investigation of brucellosis transmission in the bison and elk herds in Yellowstone to brucellosis in marine mammals.

Dr. Cheville received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State in 1959 and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1964. He joined the National Animal Disease Center in 1963 and was the primary investigator and leader of the pathology department until 1989. From 1989 until 1995 he served as the research leader for brucellosis. Since 1995, Dr. Cheville has acted as the chair of the department of pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Cheville’s work has been nationally and internationally recognized. He was elected a Distinguished Member of the College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1999. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Liege, Belgium in 1986.

He is also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA in 1990. Dr. Cheville’s career is marked by numerous publications and books in the area of pathology. He is also a revered instructor and advisor by current and past students of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Although Dr. Ross will be sorely missed, the students, faculty, and staff feel that the College of Veterinary Medicine is in good hands with Dr. Cheville as it enters the twenty-first century.

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