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ISU Dedicate a new Veterinary School

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The College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University has a new home. After spending 64 years in the familiar brick buildings of the veterinary quadrangle, the school has moved to a brand new $25.7 million complex.

Dedication ceremonies for the new school were held on Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16, 1976. Many graduates, instructors, students, and others who have been involved with the veterinary school attended the two day ceremonies. The dedication was the culmination of many long years of planning that led to the construction of the new facilities.

Friday was devoted to an academic symposium at the Scheman Continuing Education Building with the twin topics of "Dimensions of Veterinary Medicine" and "Selected Advances in Medical Science." Leaders in the fields of veterinary and human medicine, agriculture, and education were featured as speakers. The symposium continued with a banquet that evening at the Great Hall of the Memorial Union.

The formal dedication ceremony was held Saturday morning on the south plaza of the new veterinary school. Dean Phillip T. Pearson, ninth dean of the veterinary college since its founding in 1879, accepted the new facilities in an hour long program. Other participants were Governor and Mrs. Robert Ray; George C. Christensen, Vice President for Academic Affairs at ISU; Durwood L. Baker, Associate Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine; Frank K. Ramsey, Distinguished Professor of Veterinary Medicine; Mary Louise Peterson, president of the Iowa State Board of Regents; and W. Robert Parks, president of ISU.

A special highlight of the dedication was the visit of President Gerald Ford to the new facilities on Friday afternoon. After a tour of the school, the President was presented with a small replica of the famous "Gentle Doctor" statue by Jack Root, president of the local Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association. President Ford also addressed a large outdoor crowd on campus that day.

The new building is enormous in conception. It covers nearly 17 acres and offers twice the space of the former overcrowded facilities on central campus. All of the veterinary functions of the university are brought together under one roof except for those provided by the nearby Veterinary Medical Research Institute. A hillside location allows both floors of the building to have ground floor access.

The various departments of the college are clustered around a central core of student-related facilities. This core includes the library, large lecture halls, locker rooms, the biomedical communications center, the lunchroom, and the college administrative offices. Within each department the undergraduate teaching laboratories, classrooms, and departmental offices are centrally located, with research labs and faculty offices on the perimeter.

The usefulness of audio-visual aids to veterinary instruction was considered in the design of the school. The biomedical communications section provides access to slides and videotapes in individual projection carrels and small group study.
rooms. All lecture rooms and most teaching laboratories are served by closed circuit television hookups. Television presentations can originate from a first floor TV studio or from various other sources such as surgery rooms, videotapes, and special television microscopes. Lecture rooms are also equipped with projection booths.

Friends and graduates of the veterinary college will be glad to know that the tradition of Christian Peterson's "Gentle Doctor" statue has been preserved at the new school. The statue has become an international symbol of veterinary medicine and was created by the sculptor while he was artist-in-residence at ISU from 1937 till 1955. Christian Peterson for many years had his studio in the old veterinary quadrangle, and the statue was probably the outgrowth of his long association with faculty and veterinary students.

Peterson also created a bas-relief panel that depicts five phases of veterinary medicine. It has been moved to the new south plaza of the veterinary school. However, the original "Gentle Doctor" statue had been seriously deteriorated by four decades of Iowa winters, and Paul Shao, an architect on the ISU faculty, was commissioned to make a bronze casting of the original. The bronze reproduction has drawn considerable praise and has been placed in the familiar position in front of the bas-relief panels in the new plaza. Peterson's original statue is being restored and will soon be placed on display at the Scheman Continuing Education Building at the Iowa State Center.

Formal Dedication Program from left: Mrs. Mary Louise Petersen, Governor Robert D. Ray, W. Robert Parks, Dean Phillip T. Pearson, Dr. Durwood Baker, Dr. Frank K. Ramsey, Dr. George C. Christensen.