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In Memory of Dr. Sloss

Dr. Margaret W. Sloss (ISU ’38), noted veterinary pathologist and parasitologist, died December 11, 1979 at the age of 78.

During her 50 years of dedicated service to ISU and the veterinary profession, she played a major role in the maturation of the College of Veterinary Medicine. She was fondly and respectfully titled “Queen of the Vet College” by her colleagues. Dr. Sloss was known as an excellent teacher who demanded quality performance from her students. While on the faculty, she taught histologic technique to graduate students, counseled and assisted graduate students on clinical pathologic aspects of their research, and taught clinical pathology to veterinary students.

Dr. Sloss was recognized around the world for her studies in clinical pathology and parasitology. She was the author or co-author of several scientific articles, and her textbook, “Veterinary Clinical Parasitology”, has become a standard in the profession. Another notable publication was the “Biography of Dr. Charles Henry Stange”, former Dean of our college and famous educator.

One of her notable and unique contributions to our college was the initiation and organization of a 10-week laboratory course for wives of senior students. The purpose of this course was to familiarize the wives with the use of the microscope and several laboratory techniques that would be beneficial to them while assisting their husbands in practice.

Dr. Sloss was the first woman to graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine at ISU, making her the 27th woman veterinarian in the nation. She was the daughter of Thomas Sloss, who was superintendent of buildings at ISU from 1909 to 1937, so she literally grew up on campus. During this time, the Sloss family lived across the street from the veterinary clinic, stimulating her interest in veterinary medicine. In 1922, she became a laboratory technician in the veterinary school, and later she enrolled as a veterinary student. Dr. Sloss’ interests were not limited to academics, as she also had an avid interest in athletics. As an undergraduate, she earned letters in basketball, hockey, and tennis.

Dr. Sloss had long played a role in encouraging women to enter the veterinary profession. She helped organize the Women’s Veterinary Medical Association in 1947 and served two terms as its national president.

In 1972, Dr. Sloss retired and was given the honorary Professor Emeritus. Many friends, relatives, and colleagues attended her retirement party, the theme of which was “This is Your Life, Dr. Sloss—Our Queen”.

The information for the above article on Dr. Sloss was compiled by Dr. Frank K. Ramsey, distinguished professor in veterinary pathology at ISU.