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Symposium Attendees Get a True
“Northwest Adventure”

JENNIFER SCHLEINING

Who ever said that ultimate frisbee and foosball aren’t contact sports? Ask any of the athletically inclined SCAVMA members who attended the SAVMA Symposium at Washington State University during spring break to show you their scars and you’ll see what I mean! Twenty-eight students found their way to Pullman, Washington, by plane, car, and one very tightly packed van driven by a true Midwestern cowboy with a crisp ten gallon green cowboy hat to experience learning made fun by a dedicated group of organizers from WSU and Oregon State University.

While there, students attended lectures ranging from EPM in horses to handling of sugar gliders. Many of the students found their way out of bed after a long night of “socializing” in time to make it to their 8:00 a.m. wetlabs which proved to be an extremely rewarding hands-on experience.

Alison Smith, third year veterinary student at ISU, commented on her laproscopic transrectal palpation wetlab, “Wow! It was awesome to actually be able to see what in the heck I was feeling!” Tammy Stevenson and Christine Bean, both third year veterinary students at ISU, attended a wetlab where they helped tranquilize a grizzly bear, milk her, and play with her cubs!

The evenings were filled with good food, loud music, dancing, and $0.50 beverages. One nighttime activity involved American Gladiator-style jousting, tower climbing, mechanical bull riding, and human foosball. The final banquet hosted nearly 800 professional veterinary students from around the country to an Italian buffet and inspirational, motivating words and song from Tom Sullivan, a blind humorist, actor, and musician.

As for the athletic and academic competitions; we came, we competed, and we...well...competed. Although we did not quite take the cake as we did in Florida last year, our competitors gave it their all and even came away with a few awards. The looks of astonishment on the faces of Kim Brewer and Julie Hansen, both second year veterinary students, were a true Kodak moment as they were announced the first place team in the dog and cat breed competition. Julie also brought home a plaque for high point individual in the contest! Matt Ritter, first year veterinary student, left the rest of the runners in his dust as he cruised to the win in the 5K race. When asked if it was a close race, he replied, “Well, I didn’t have to sprint!” What a humble guy. Our ultimate frisbee team consisting of first-year veterinary students: Matt Ritter, Sara Curry, Karla Quam, Christopher Groos, Mark Severs, Cameron Schmitt, second-year veterinary students: Liz Bares, Andrew Isaacs, and third-year veterinary students: Anne Creden, Mike Holmberg, Alison Smith, Chad Wild and Jennifer Tidball, hustled their way into third place after being defeated by an aggressive Texas A&M team.

Jennifer Schleining is a second-year veterinary student at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Drawing blood on a mother grizzly bear for a study was part of a wet lab at SAVMA Symposium, 1999.
Baby grizzly bears were handled while the mother grizzly was anesthetized.

Jennifer Schleining and Anne Creden, the ISU SAVMA representatives, were in the SAVMA House of Delegate meetings while the other students attended their lectures. This meeting was Anne's last symposium as a delegate and Jennifer was elected the United States International Exchange Officer and will be sitting on the SAVMA Executive Board and will no longer be a delegate, meaning that two new Iowa Staters will be representing the student members in New Orleans this summer when the House reconvenes at the AVMA Convention.

All in all, the trip to Washington was a great one and we hope to rally a few more students to attend next year's symposium at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine!

Dr. Reece Retires from ISU CVM Faculty

BONNIE SMITH

When William Omar Reece received his DVM from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1954, he expected to enter private veterinary practice, as did 99% of his classmates. According to him, they knew very little about alternative veterinary careers except doing meat inspection for the government. He did not expect to get a Ph.D. and probably did not expect to be looking back at 33 years of a diverse and distinguished academic career at ISU CVM. He did not know then that his life would take this path, but I think I speak for the many others who have been fortunate enough to meet, work with, or be taught by Dr. Reece when I say, we are certainly glad that it did. When I spoke to Dr. Reece this spring about his 1998 retirement, he said he has "no regrets".

An Iowa native, Dr. Reece grew up in the town of Ledyard and graduated from high school in a class of 11 students. He served in the army for two years and did two years of undergraduate study at ISU before entering veterinary school in 1950. After graduation, he went to Wisconsin where he worked in a predominately dairy practice for a year under the mentorship of Dr. Leonard Larson. Then, Dr. Reece took an opportunity to go to Chicago and work for Swift and Company in their veterinary division of research. After six years with Swift and Co., he decided that he wanted to get his Ph.D. So in 1961, he returned to Iowa State University. He must have felt quite at home, too, because after receiving his doctorate in 1965, he turned down another job with Swift and Co. to accept a position in the department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology.

Without delay, Dr. Reece began his career at ISU. He was in charge of classes in veterinary physiology for both vet students and un-