

Photography Serving Veterinary Medicine

by Patty White*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the second article in a four-part series on Biomedical communications, its personnel, and its functions.*

Since the earliest days of the College of Veterinary Medicine, photography has been used as a tool in teaching and research, and as a means of documenting the development of the school. Individuals generally worked out some means of handling their own photographic requirements. Later, central photographic services became available on campus, and many important projects benefited as a result. But, as veterinary medical education and scholarly publication became more visually oriented, the demand for photography increased. This, combined with the coming move to new facilities away from campus, led to the development of the Biomedical Communications Section. From the beginning, photography was a major part of the section's operations. Initially, photography was one of several duties handled by an audiovisual specialist, using minimal equipment and borrowed darkrooms in the Veterinary Quadrangle. Martin Meyers was the first full-time biomedical photographer to work in BMC, and he helped to plan and set up the section's photographic facilities in the new building.

In 1976, Debi Stambaugh was hired to manage the photographic activities in BMC's expanded area in the new Veterinary Medicine Building. Originally from Jacksonville, Illinois, she graduated from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California in 1976. Her major was Industrial/Scientific Photography. Having some past exposure to the medical profession, Debi decided to

become a medical photographer. After graduation, she completed a three-month internship program at hospitals in the Los Angeles area. Missing the midwest, Debi applied for her current position at Iowa State.

With a farm background, she found adapting to veterinary medicine very easy. "Iowans and veterinarians, in general, are excellent people to work with," she says. Debi has found continuing education and contact with others in the photographic profession to be important aspects of her position. In 1977, she achieved an important goal: the Registered Biological Photographer (RBP) certification. This is the equivalent of being board-certified in a medical specialty. At that time, fewer than 250 biophotographers were so certified. Being an active member of such professional organizations as the Biological Photographer's Association, Midwest In-



Debi Stambaugh making an exposure on the Leitz Photomicroscope.

*Patty White is a third year student in the College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU.

dustrial Photographers and Professional Photographers of America has helped Debi to keep up with current techniques and share ideas with others in her field.

"In this area, it's important to have a variety of equipment, but it's even more important to develop and maintain versatility in your own skills," she says. "Of course, we prefer to set up appointments for photographic work, but there are times when that's just not possible." Often, she must reschedule planned work to accommodate emergency calls, such as taking pictures in the clinic or on a farm. Shooting a wide variety of subjects throughout the complex has led to the use of a specially-adapted cart for all commonly-used equipment.

In 1979, with the support of Dr. F. K. Ramsey and the College of Veterinary Medicine and the J. E. Salsbury Challenge Fund, a Leitz Dialux Photomicroscope was purchased. This piece of equipment offers brightfield, darkfield and polarized light capabilities. The addition of phase contrast microscopy is planned for the future. The photomicroscope is housed in the BMC area to provide equal access to all departments in the college and to ensure correct photographic procedure with well-maintained equipment.

The BMC photo facility includes two darkrooms, which are set up for black and white film processing and printing. Most routine work is completed by photographic staff in the larger darkroom; the smaller one is available to faculty, staff and students for college-related photo projects. Another important work area is the photo work room, which contains the copy stand, slide sorter and finishing area. Across the hall is the studio, used for portraits, general photography and slide filing. The photomicroscope is set up in Debi's office. Not all photographic work requested of the section is completed there. Through cooperation with the ISU Photo Service, color film processing, slide duplication and some other processes are handled in their facility.

The photography done at the BMC can be divided into two general categories. As in most teaching facilities, a large amount of photography is copy work—the shooting of "camera ready" materials. These include illustrations, charts and graphs created by artists, as well as data from books, journals,

research instrument output and radiographs. The second area includes just about anything else that can be brought before a camera. In veterinary education, this can cover a wide range, including surgical procedures, gross and histological specimens, culture plates, test tubes, gels, medicines, instruments, chromatograms, a wide variety of animal species and microorganisms. The final product is usually a slide to be used for a lecture, seminar or professional meeting, or a print to be used for publication.

Although Biomedical Communications is capable of handling almost any assignment, the small staff cannot always accommodate all requests. To handle most of the copy work during the past few years, BMC has hired veterinary students on a part-time basis. Steve Hayes (DVM '78) and Martin Ficken (DVM '81) each worked in photography for over two years. In August of this year, Chuck Benn joined the staff as a part-time photo technician. He recently retired from full-time employment, after 30 years as a staff photographer with ISU Extension Service.



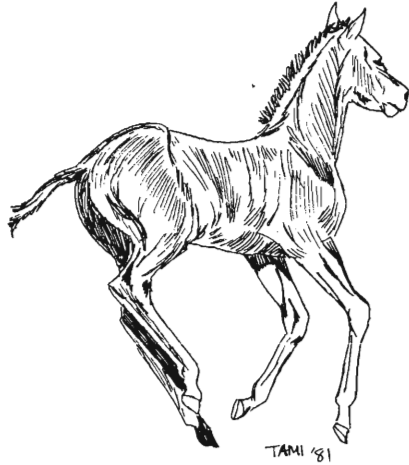
Chuck Benn at work at the copy stand.

Of course, public relations photography is also an important function. Photographs of activities, such as banquets, award presentations, homecoming, and student organization functions are recorded and filed. Portraits are taken each fall for faculty and student composite photographs. A large project completed earlier this year was the photographic history book, *"The First 100 Years of the Col-*

lege of Veterinary Medicine", co-authored by Debi Stambaugh, Dr. F. K. Ramsey, and Dr. R. A. Packer. Many of the photographs in the "ISU Veterinarian" also come from BMC's photographic unit.

Debi has found her position in the Veterinary College to be "often exciting, and always full of variety and challenges." Since she joined the BMC staff, the number and variety of photographic services have grown considerably. She plans to continue this growth by "fine-tuning" the techniques used in BMC to produce even better results. This semester, Debi is attending a class on campus, "Light and Scanning Electron Microscopy", to give her a better understanding of the microscope and the processes involved in preparing a histology slide.

Asked what she liked best about her job, Debi replied, "The fact that it's a never-ending challenge and an opportunity to learn something new, practically every day." She also added that she would like to "thank the faculty and staff for their cooperation and support," while she has been at I.S.U.



Superior *H. somnus* protection!

Somubac-P™

Haemophilus somnus
Pasteurella haemolytica-multocida bacterin

3 specially selected strains.

The *H. somnus* fraction contains killed strains isolated from respiratory tissue, the CNS and an aborted fetus—each specifically selected for its origin in the disease complex.

Greater immunity.

Somubac-P's higher potency has been demonstrated *in vivo* with laboratory animals.* Its *H. somnus* fraction gives better protection against a challenge than another commercial *H. somnus* bacterin. Somubac-P's combined fractions provide even greater immunity! Be certain your clients' cattle are fully protected from *Haemophilus somnus*. Use and dispense Somubac-P.

*Data on file at Beecham Laboratories and the U.S.D.A. The correlation between standardized mouse potency tests and clinical results in cattle has not been clearly established.

Beecham
Biologicals

Making the world a safer place.



QUALITY. The Mark Of A Licensed Vaccine

©1981, Beecham Lab., Div. of Beecham Inc.

Beecham Laboratories, Div. of Beecham Inc., Bristol, Tenn. 37620

