

# Dr. Greve Retires from ISU CVM

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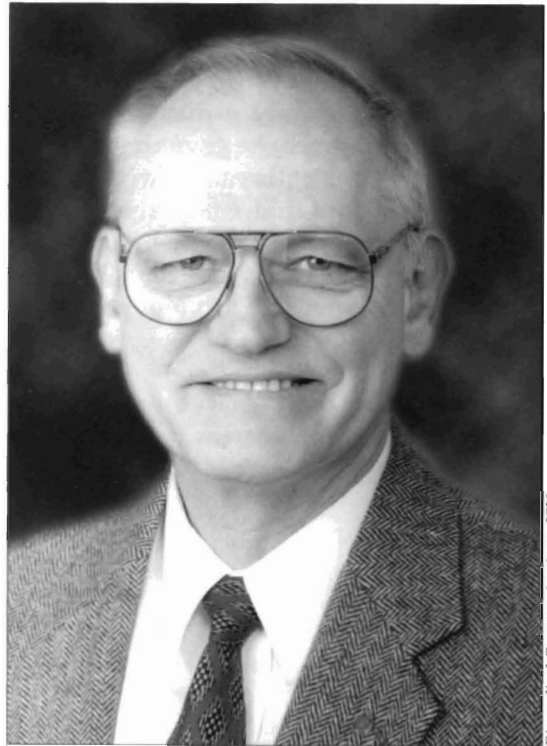
After over thirty six years of distinguished and commendable service to Iowa State University and its students, John Greve, DVM, MS, Ph.D., has decided to retire in June, 1999. Dr. Greve is professor of parasitology in the Department of Pathology at the College of Veterinary Medicine. He has been with the college since January, 1963.

Dr. Greve's alma mater is Michigan State University, where he graduated with a DVM in 1958. Asked why he pursued parasitology in his career, Dr. Greve chuckled and said, "Why do I love parasitology? Why does one fall in love with a woman? There's a million reasons, and you can't put your finger on just one." Clearly passionate about his work, Dr. Greve says that his interest in parasites occurred quite by chance. In search of a job during his sophomore year in veterinary school, and having no prior knowledge of parasitology, he began working with a parasitologist at MSU. His interest in parasites grew and he wished to pursue his interest in graduate studies. However, finding a good opportunity in poultry pathology instead, Dr. Greve continued his post-graduate education and received his MS from Michigan State in 1959.

Given the chance to return to studying parasites, Dr. Greve moved on to Purdue and earned his Ph.D. in 1963. He came to Iowa State University that same year to fill a teaching and research position that had become available and he has taught parasitology to sophomores ever since.

Pleased with his new position, Dr. Greve's popularity among the students grew instantly. Within two years, he had been awarded the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. He then won the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1972, and he was honored with the Faculty Citation in 1978.

Besides the well-deserved teaching awards, Dr. Greve says involvement in both professional and student activities has been



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**Dr. Greve's passionate and often amusing enthusiasm for teaching has been a highlight for almost four decades in the curriculum of veterinary students.**

very important to him. Along with being the faculty advisor to the *ISU Veterinarian* for 30 years, he has been faculty advisor to Omega Tau Sigma and has been the vice president of the National Grand Council for six years. He enjoys working with students. He has been an academic advisor to students since 1965 in addition to being faculty advisor for SCAVMA for numerous terms, most recently in 1993.

Professionally, Dr. Greve is member of AVMA, IVMA, and the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists, in which he served as president from 1968 to 1970. He has been president of Phi Zeta twice and Gamma Sigma Delta once in 1974.

His research is mostly non-funded. Dr. Greve's work has been published in several journals. The highlight of his research career includes describing two new species of parasites, including a *Strongyloides* species

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in African elephants and a stomach worm of lizards in the Caribbean. He has contributed to several textbooks, most notably a chapter in *Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine* by Murray E. Fowler.

Teaching has been most important to Dr. Greve, however, during his tenure at Iowa State University; he spent close to ninety percent of his time focusing on that part of his career. Dr. Greve feels no regret for spending less time in research. "I'm definitely going to miss the interaction with students the most," he says.

Dr. Greve has taught parasitology, senior necropsy technique, and in the 1980's, he developed the "Words For Nerds" elective in medical terminology, now a common favorite among freshmen. Soon after that class took off, Dr. Greve helped develop another elective, this time on the parasites of laboratory and exotic animals.

In the future, Dr. Greve sees parasitology gravitating away from traditional study and focusing more on the molecular biology involved in parasitism. He feels that finding out what is happening at the molecular level at the host-parasite interface is going to lead to exciting new control methods. By understanding the molecular details of parasitism, vaccines may be developed that were previously thought impossible for many protozoa and even ectoparasitic arthropods such as ticks. Dr. Greve, however, says the veterinary profession should not hold its breath for a heartworm or hookworm vaccine any time soon. "There was hope for a heartworm vaccine a few years ago," he says, "but the worms have much better defenses, and preventing them with vaccines would be difficult."

Most veterinarians are doing a good job focusing on parasitology in the general practice and Dr. Greve is pleased with the growing awareness that he has seen during his tenure. For the production animal veterinarian, economics are the driving force behind parasite control. Large animal veterinarians must continually ask themselves if the treatment is economically feasible and what the maximum tolerated number of parasites is in any situation. "There's no sense in treating a parasite if clinically they do no harm," Dr. Greve comments. For

companion animal veterinarians, Dr. Greve says that public health issues are important in parasite control, as is owner pride and care for their animals. He says that most veterinarians are doing a good job of client education, but he used visceral larva migrans of canine ascarids as an example where veterinarians could better stress the importance to their clients.

After his retirement, Dr. Greve still plans to keep active with students and remain in close proximity to the college by continuing to live in Ames. That way he can maintain social contact with the university. He plans to stay involved in OTS, where he is still vice president. He is considering writing a book, but says that for his first year of retirement he wants to remain unattached and just relax. When asked what he will do with his spare time, he responds, "I'm hooked on crossword puzzles." Slowly, he will add more activities to his schedule on a volunteer basis.

Overall, Dr. Greve is looking forward to retirement, though sometimes he has bad days and questions if he has made the right decision. "This is not an easy decision. There isn't one single reason why a person would want to retire . . . I'm going to miss that connection with students and my colleagues. How can I just turn that off after forty years? But a lot of the decision was the calendar. I'm 65, and for everyone at this age that's something you start thinking about," Dr. Greve says. He wants to leave while he still knows he has been "on top of his game" and would hate for his efforts to slip before retiring. He will enjoy getting out from under the responsibilities of administration and from some of the chores that go along with his position. "I'll enjoy not having to grade papers," Dr. Greve confesses with a smile.

Dr. Greve says that throughout his career he has always wanted to be the best teacher and the best parasitologist he could possibly be, and that was the driving force for him. And after nearly four decades, Dr. Greve hopes that the values he passes on to his students are honesty, hard work, a joy of life, and the ability to laugh at oneself. We all wish Dr. John Greve good luck! We are all going to miss a great friend, mentor, teacher, and comedian. ♦