



Tammy Stevenson, VM3, ISU

Baby grizzly bears were handled while the mother grizzly was anesthetized.



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At the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the Caring Call Statue is the equivalent of our Gentle Doctor Statue.

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 del-

egate, 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-

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dergraduates, advised pre-vet students, publishing research, presenting at national meetings, and was the proud father of five children. In 1967, just two years after starting, he won the CVM's Professor of the Year award. In 1970, he received the Iowa State University Outstanding Teaching Award. Ever since, the list of Dr. Reece's accomplishments continued to grow. His family continued to grow too with the addition of two more children. In addition to his teaching responsibilities and research in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, Dr. Reece held offices and served in a plethora of professional and scientific societies, University committees, and College of Veterinary Medicine committees, as well as being active in his community and church.

Since a complete account of Dr. Reece's many achievements would take much more room than I have, I decided to concentrate on what he sees as the highlights of his career. When I asked Dr. Reece for his best memories of ISU, he replied without hesitation, "The most satisfaction has been through my teaching activities and my contact with vet med students." With each graduating class, he said that he feels a certain amount of pride in the small part he played in helping them to succeed. He greatly enjoyed the chance to get to know students personally as an academic advisor and as faculty advisor to the ISU Pre-Vet club. His genuine love for people is very evident to me as he recalled by name many of the students he knows from past and present years. He also feels very fortunate to have known Dr. H. Hugh Dukes quite well, and proudly showed me the 1st Edition copy of *Dukes' Physiology of Domestic Animals* that was given to him by his own physiology professor, Dr. L. C. Payne.

When asked what part of his life he is the most proud of, however, his firm answer was "my family". He commented, "What has been most important to my career is the support of my fam-

ily and my wife." As far as his veterinary career, Dr. Reece is proud of his teaching record and his writing, which includes authoring *Physiology of Domestic Animals*, a book for undergraduates, and co-editing the 11th Edition of *Dukes' Physiology of Domestic Animals*, along with his many research publications. He also initiated a student exchange program between ISU CVM and universities in Glasgow and Dublin. He spent a two-year sabbatical as the acting chair of Veterinary Physiology at Tuskegee University and initiated a cooperative graduate education program between the two vet schools. He is also very pleased with the improvements made in the Academic Advising Program at the ISU CVM when he was its coordinator from 1993 to 1998.

So, I wondered, as most of you probably are, with so much behind him, what new endeavor will this kind, intelligent man with sparkling eyes undertake

in the next phase of his life? As usual, my question was answered with a smile. Currently, Dr. Reece is working to finish the editing for the 12th Edition of *Dukes' Physiology of Domestic Animals*, as well as the third edition of his own textbook. He also has to write up some of his previous research. When I asked him what type of recreation activities he enjoys in his free time, he remarked, "It's never been a big deal to me, not to say that I'm a nerd either." It was my turn to smile. He told me that he does enjoy gardening, working on his brother's farm, and just being with and caring for his family. With that goal in mind, he and his wife plan to spend much of their extra time traveling to visit their children and grandchildren, as well as some inviting destinations abroad.

In summary, although we do not get to see Dr. Reece's friendly face around ISU CVM as often as we used to, his presence will continue to be felt for years to come in the work he did, what he has accomplished, and in the lives that he has touched. ♦



Dr. Reece retired in June, 1998.

Biomedical Communications, ISU