American Veterinary Medical History Society
“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT
August/September 2023
Susanne Whitaker and Helen Wojcinski, reporters

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AVMHS Annual Meeting Program
The evening of Thursday, July 6, welcomed a highly informative and enjoyable presentation by Dr. Susan D. Jones. She is currently Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Program in the History of Science and Technology, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is also past president of AVMHS (2001-2002) and former board member.

Introduced by Program Chair Dr. John de Jong, Dr. Jones’ talk on “Global Aspects of the History of Veterinary Medicine” was well received by more than 40 members and guests in attendance.

--- Highlights on Global Veterinary History
Using a series of colorful slides, Dr. Jones described several patterns, outcomes, and results to emphasize a global approach to the history of veterinary medicine and point out how changes have happened worldwide.

Related to the connection, aspiration, and synthesis of natural histories, she mentioned trade, war, and the activities of common people and cited various outbreaks of rinderpest as an example. Another pattern concerned the different types of systems for animal healing prevalent through the ages, such as in India and China. Also, as addressed by RH Dunlop (see reference below) was the disparity between Claude Bourgelat and Philippe-Étienne LaFosse as the French model of veterinary education spread over the past 200 years. Because of the lack of veterinary school graduates, animal healers typically filled the gap by providing needed medical care services in communities.

Representative illustration from Dr. Jones’ talk showing burning of animals killed by rinderpest, Japan, 19th century.

She also spoke about a further trend concerning “who was first,” particularly for women in veterinary medicine, which has resulted in a modern change in gender balance. Furthermore, milestones in microbiological studies and therapy have played a significant role. Increased understanding of contagion grew out of the germ theory in the 19th century followed by expanded knowledge of viral diseases. More research is needed on veterinary medicine’s contributions to history.

Dr. Jones said developments in biomedical technology (microscopes, antibiotics, imaging) undoubtedly have had a tremendous impact. Dr. Jones predicted further advancements would continue in the future as old and new intersect and combine.

Finally, from Virchow’s pronouncement of a One Health concept, today’s environment increasingly reflects the need for attention to both human and animal health. She feels veterinary medicine will continue to advance in a changing world as history provides the lessons.


Members who could not join in on July 6 may wish to listen to the audio recording of her presentation by contacting Dr. Zbig Wojcinski zwwojcinski@gmail.com

The AVMHS Annual Business meeting was convened during the next hour.

### 2023 AVMHS Annual Business Meeting

The 2023 AVMHS annual business meeting immediately followed Dr. Jones’ presentation from 8pm to about 9:45pm EDT. President Dr. Marianne Ash (marianneyash@gmail.com) welcomed all 38 members who attended the Society’s fourth virtual annual meeting, a very desirable number.

As required, progress and status reports were provided by officers, committee chairs, and project leaders, including those representing Membership Committee, Student Veterinary History Essay Contest, Veterinary Heritage, News & Comment newsletter, Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices, Time-Bites Project, Oral History Committee, Veterinary Museums Committee, Website, and *Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals* publication.

At the point of electing incoming officers, lengthy discussion ensued, and motions were made related to increasing the number of at-large board members from 4 to 6. Review after the business meeting revealed the necessity to conduct a follow-up election to conform to Bylaws and Rules of Order.

Copies of the 2023 Minutes are available upon request from the Secretary-Treasurer.

### 2023-2024 Offices and Board Members

The following slate of AVMHS officers and at-large board members was approved for 2023-2024 by those present at the meeting by ancillary e-mail ballot. This year’s Nominating Committee was composed of Drs. Helen Wojcinski, Zbig Wojcinski, and Susan Aiello.

**2023-2024 AVMHS Board of Directors**

**President**

Dr. John de Jong (Newton, MA)

**President-elect**

Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Brosnahan (Scottsdale, AZ)

**Past President**

Dr. Marianne Y. Ash (Lafayette, IN)

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Susanne Whitaker (Ithaca, NY) (continuing)

**Board members-at-large**

- Diane Fagen (Rockford, IL)
- Dr. Shannon Greeley (Burbank, IL) (continuing)
- Dr. Mary Beth Leininger (Lawrence, KS)
- Dr. G. Sierra Schneider (Terrabonne, OR)

More information about our newest board members will appear in the next newsletter.

### 2023 Smithcors Student Essay Contest

Essay Contest Committee Chair Dr. Martha Littlefield (drmartha@icloud.com) is happy to announce the following winners of the 2023 Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place ($1200)</td>
<td>Emma Gildner ’25</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place ($1000)</td>
<td>Reese Bailey ’25</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place (tie) ($800)</td>
<td>Carlie Dill ’25</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place (tie) ($800)</td>
<td>Mahala “Haley” Furman ’24</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Place ($500)</td>
<td>Courtney Labé ’25</td>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
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In addition to acknowledging our essayists, we wish to thank our panel of 3 blinded judges: Dr. Pat Kennedy Arrington, Dr. Jessica Garrett, and Dr. Russell Currier.
All 26 essays submitted this year were carefully read and ranked by the judges.

Each winning essay will be published in forthcoming issues of *Veterinary Heritage*. Students who want to get a head start in thinking about a possible topic of their choice for 2024 or 2025 will find a list of all essays since the contest was established in 1992 on our Society website at https://www.avmh.org/essay-contest.

| 2024 Essay Contest Deadline is April 15, 2024 Details are available at https://www.avmh.org/essay-contest |

**Recognition for Student Essayists**

It is always gratifying when our student essayists receive recognition for their winning papers at their colleges and other honors.

Reese Bailey and Carlie Dill were both given recognition for their 2nd and 3rd place winning history essays respectively in the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine *CVM Newsworthy Information* announcement for July 3, 2023.

Courtney Labé who was awarded 4th place in 2023 received acknowledgement by the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum in Saint Paul at https://hist-vetmed.umn.edu/smithcors-student-essay-contest-winner-cvm

Danielle Keerbs’ 2022 Honorable Mention essay appears in the July 2023 issue of *Veterinary Heritage*. This past spring, she was one of three veterinary students honored by the VIN Foundation for her first-place paper entitled “Obsolescence vs Adaptability: An Analysis of the Veterinary Clinical Education Paradigm.” It was entered in the Foundation’s 7th annual *Solutions for the Profession* competition. See DVM360 news notice at: https://www.dvm360.com/view/3-veterinary-students-recognized-for-winning-solutions-for-the-profession-competition https://vinfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/VIN-Foundation-Solutions-for-the-Profession-2023-1st-Place-Danielle-Keerbs.pdf

**Informal Gathering at AVMA in Denver**

To supplement our virtual Annual Meeting, the AVMA Convention in Denver offered another opportunity for interested members to get acquainted informally. Serving as coordinator, President John de Jong reported that a few members tried to assemble despite busy schedules. Nevertheless, short of a small group get together, he said several met to chat with him individually along with exchanging greetings in passing.

**AVMHS Members Recognized at AVMA**

During the successful AVMA Convention in Denver on July 14-17, several AVMHS members were elected or received accolades and other well-deserved honors. Congratulations to the following:

Life member Dr. Robert Knapp (rhk@knappvet.com) was elected vice chair of the AVMA Board of Directors at their Sunday meeting as reported in July 17 *AVMA Convention News*.

As AVMA Board vice chair, Dr. Knapp will substitute for the new chair Dr. Charles Lemme as needed. Dr. Knapp joined the Board in 2019 representing District V which covers Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

He currently owns the seven-associate practice Knapp Veterinary Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, which was started by his late grandfather Dr. John Knapp in 1945. As a multi-generational veterinary family, his father Dr. Paul Knapp also worked at the practice until retirement.

AVMHS member Dr. Ruby L. Perry (rperry@tuskegee.edu) was one of two leaders honored for their contributions toward advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the veterinary profession during the President’s Reception at AVMA Convention 2023 in Denver as noted in the July 14 *AVMA Convention News*. 

Dr. Charles Lemme and Dr. Robert Knapp (right) were elected 2023-24 AVMA Board of Directors chair and vice chair respectively, on Sunday. (Photo by R. Scott Nolen)
Dr. Perry is dean and professor of radiology at Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine where she has held a number of department and management positions since 2007. She is presently 2023-24 president and board chair of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), making her the first African American female president of the AAVMC.

Dr. Perry is also the first African American female, board-certified veterinary radiologist in the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR).

AVMHS past president Dr. Gary A. Vroegindewey (drvroeg@gmail.com) accepted the AVMA Public Service Award at a reception following the Global Health Summit at the AVMA Convention as noted in the July 17 AVMA Convention News.

Presently, Dr. Vroegindewey is a professor as well as director of the One Health Program and the Center for Animal and Human Health in Appalachia (CAHA) at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to developing and teaching courses on One Health, he has overseen CAHA research and outreach programs and supported several international collaborative programs for LMU, including with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the University of Pretoria.

Current AVMHS president Dr. John de Jong (drjdejong@comcast.net) and AVMHS member Dr. Ronald D. Warner (Ronald.warner@ttuhsc.edu) were inducted as new Honorary Diplomates of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society (AVES) on July 17 at the AVMA Convention in Denver. In addition to announcing two Gold Headed Cane Awardees at that meeting, the membership voted to change the organization's name from AVES to the American Veterinary One Health Society (AVOHS) to better reflect their vision, mission, and goals.

New Curator at Minn Vet Historical Museum
Paul Maravalas who had been curator of the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum for many years retired in January 2023. We enjoyed working with Paul, appreciate all he has done for the museum, and wish him enjoyment in continuing other avenues related to history.

In April, the museum was pleased to welcome its new curator, Marisa “Mari” Kuennen. She had recently been an intern in collections at the Minnesota Historical Society and an animal technician with the Animal Humane Society. Mari is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Art History at the University of St. Thomas along with a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies.

More information about Mari is available at: https://hist-vetmed.umn.edu/our-new-curator
See also the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum at https://hist-vetmed.umn.edu/

Update on Veterinary Ornaments
As you remember last fall, charter member Dr. Fred J. Born (fjborn@att.net) produced a unique set of historical wooden ornaments for the 2022 holiday season.

Dr. Born now reports, "After the successful sale of the first five American veterinary school ornaments last year, we have several remaining sets. They are now on SALE for $25 per set. The price includes postage and handling of these five wooden engraved ornaments. A brief history of each school is enclosed with each
ornament written by Dr. Howard Erickson, emeritus professor at Kansas State University.

Ordering details can be found on the AVMHS webpage at https://www.avmhs.org/ornaments

New History Time-Bites Stories on VIN
Dr. Susan Aiello (susan@words-world.net), our Time-Bites Editor, reports some new short historical stories have recently been published on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), a membership-based veterinary community. They also appear on its associated Veterinary Support Personnel Network (VSPN) platform. They include:

“Eradicating the Parasitic Screwworm.”
Florida and Texas, U.S.A., 1938

“Openings and Wages for New Graduates.”

“Spokane’s Last Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak.”

More topics and potential “writers” are always needed. Any subject related to veterinary history is appropriate for these brief stories of 500-1000 words accompanied by source references and several representative illustrations. Contact Dr. Aiello at any time with your ideas and suggestions.

AVMHS members who do not belong to VIN may request copies from Dr. Aiello or the Secretary-Treasurer. The current list of published topics is posted on the Society’s website at https://www.avmhs.org/time-bites Several Time-Bites have also appeared in recent issues of Veterinary Heritage, including the latest one on handling heat exhaustion in urban working horses in the July 2023 issue.

Volunteers Needed for Vacancies
Whenever possible, AVMHS members are encouraged to participate in Society activities according to their interests and as personal schedules permit.

The Society currently has two vacancies for 2023-2024. They are the chair of the Smithcors Veterinary Student History Essay Contest and Coordinator of the Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices.

Anyone interested should contact President John de Jong drdejong@comcast.net or call 617-968-0809 by September 15. We will be happy to send a brief list of chronological functions and duties for each of these positions.

New Webpage for JAVMA News Reports
As an affiliated organization, the Society forwards a summary report of its activities during the past year for publication in JAVMA News. Previous reports appeared as convention news in a fall issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Since 2020, these reports have been posted online on a JAVMA News page. Convenient links are now available on our website by clicking on “JAVMA News” at https://www.avmhs.org/reports-in-javmanews

In Memoriam: Mrs. Ann Smithcors

It is with great sadness to report the passing of Mrs. E. Ann Smithcors on April 21, 2023 at age 89 due to complications from COVID. She was the devoted life partner of AVMHS founder Dr. J. Fred Smithcors (1920-2006). A memorial service was held in Santa Barbara on June 17th attended by hundreds of her many friends and associates.

Unfortunately, most members today have never met Ann or been touched by her enthusiasm and genuine kindness. She was a loyal friend of history and accompanied Dr. Smithcors to earlier AVMHS meetings. Ann also actively assisted him in the task of cataloging his veterinary rare book collection that was donated to Washington State University. The catalog was published in book form in 1997 and is accessible online at http://ntserver1.wsulibs.wsu.edu/masc/onlinebooks/VetMed/contents.htm#contents

Ann was such a lovely person and will be truly missed. We extend sincere condolences to her son Mark Hunt and daughter Lynn Fortner. An obituary can be found at https://www.independent.com/obits/2023/04/26/ann-smithcors/
New AVMHS Members (as of Aug 31)
We are pleased to welcome:
A.Paige Adams, PhD, DVM (Olathe, KS)
Robert T. Callahan, DVM (Davis, CA)
Hans Coetzee, BVSc, PhD (Manhattan, KS)
Lauren Thomas, DVM (Springdale, AR)

New AVMHS Life Members (as of Aug 31)
We are pleased to welcome:
Dr. M. Sawkat Anwer (Shrewsbury, MA)
Dr. Jessica Garrett & Dr. Stanton Garrett (Elkhart, IN)
Dr. Mary Beth Leininger (Lawrence, KS)
Dr. John Mattoon (Pullman, WA)
Dr. Carol McConnell (Oceanside, CA)

New Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices
We are pleased to welcome:
Knapp Veterinary Hospital (Columbus, OH) Estab. 1945 by Dr. John Knapp
Meyerland Animal Clinic (Houston, TX) Estab. 1962

Meeting and Event Calendar
2023
Sept tba AVMHS Board of Directors Meeting
Sept tba AVMHS Museum Committee Meeting

2024
Apr 15 Student History Essay Contest Deadline
Tba AVMHS Annual Program and Business Meeting
Tba World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) 46th International Congress

New Books


Chesterton, Sandra. Lame Stories from the Vet from Inglewood. [New Zealand]: Xlibris NZ, 2023. ISBN: 9781669880493


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Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to Dr. Helen Wojcinski helenwojcinski@gmail.com, or to AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email skw2@cornell.edu or avmhs.info@gmail.com.

“The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”

*Sir Winston Churchill* (1874-1965)
Recent Journal Articles and Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.


Noble CP. Automata, reason, and free will: Leibniz’s critique of Descartes on animal and human nature. Studies in History and Philosophy of Science. 2023 Jun 20;100:56-63. doi: 10.1016/j.shpsa.2023.06.001.


