

College of Veterinary Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

2006 Alumni Reunion
honoring the
Class of 1956



June 3, 2006

Alumni Reunion Day June 3, 2006

Class of 1956 Bio's

**Enclosed are the biographies from
the College of Veterinary
Medicine's Class of 1956 at the
University of Minnesota.**

**We have only included the
biographies that were provided.**

**In addition, we have provided
contact information for everyone in
the class to the best of our
knowledge.**

**For questions or comments, please
feel free to contact the CVM
Development Department at:**

**612.624.3391 or
vano0038@umn.edu**

Alumni Reunion Day June 3, 2006

Dr. Richard Baus '56

Richard lives with his wife Carol in Redfield, SD. They have 5 children, 2 of which became veterinarians. They also have 12 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren!

Richard practiced primarily with large animals as well as Llamas and Buffalos.

Richard's hobbies consist of antiquing and reading. Carol enjoys Swedish weaving and braiding rugs.

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Dr. Ruth Krueger Blackburn '56

Ruth lives with her husband Mont in Thermopolis, WY. They have 3 children (1 son and 2 daughters)

Ruth was in mixed practice for 11 years in Utah and another 11 years in meat and poultry inspection. She practiced small animals for 1 year. Ruth retired in 1985.

Ruth and Mont spend lots of time performing in Rodeo's and Ruth also enjoys showing dogs.

Ruth said she also enjoys sewing and quilting.

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Dr. Stanley Diesch '56

Stanley is married to his wife Darlene and they live in Roseville, MN. They have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Stanley owned and operated mixed animal practice in Iowa. He also spent most of his career as a public health veterinarian both at the University of Iowa as well as at the College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health. During this time Stanley also developed Apache Animal Hospital in northeast Minneapolis.

Stanley enjoys hunting, fishing, golf, music, wetland restoration.

A typical Monday morning for Stanley these days consists of mowing the lawn, golfing, or going to the farm.

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Dr. John Gratzek '56

John lives with his wife Kathleen in Athens, GA. They have 4 children.

John was the head of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. During his 30 years as a faculty member & dept. head, John was engaged in administration, taught virology and Aquatic Animal Medicine. His research was largely devoted to the study of fish diseases.

John was honored to be chosen as President of the American College of Vet. Med. Microbiology as well as President of the Intl. Assoc. for Aquatic Animal Medicine.

John enjoys traveling, reading, gardening—complete with Koi Pond, tennis, and aviation. John is an instrument rated pilot and he owns an aircraft with three associates.

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Dr. Orville Hanson '56

Orville lives with his wife Adah (whom he met in High School) in Sioux Falls, SD. They have 1 daughter and 1 son.

Orville had a mixed practice in Sauk Center, then later sold the practice and moved to Sioux Falls and bought into a small animal/equine practice.

Orville's hobbies include hunting and fishing - he is an avid outdoorsman. His favorite trip was a moose hunting trip to Canada. (and yes, he got his moose)

Not many people would guess that Orville loves to dance. He loves to swing and two-step.

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Dr. Edward Holland '56

Edward died in 1960. He was married to his wife Lavona. They have 4 boys. They were wed in 1974 in Moose Lake, MN.

After graduating, they moved to Caledonia, MN and basically 'put out a shingle; and put an ad in the paper.' They were very busy favoring a mixed practice. Edward's practice was short - only 3 years. In that time Edward was happy and it was a good life.

Lavona said that Edward once told her 'if I die on these winding country roads you'll know I died happy.'

Sadly, that's exactly what happened. Edward was killed in a car accident on those very roads on Nov. 19, 1960.

Edward loved nature, hunting, and fishing.

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Dr. Carl Jessen '56

Carl and his wife Marge live in St. Paul, MN. Carl has 3 children and his wife Marge has 3 of her own. They also have 11 grandchildren and are fortunate to have many live in the Twin Cities area.

Carl practiced for 8 years and then went back to the College of Vet. Med. and graduated from the class of '64 with a Ph.D.

Carl began serving as a faculty member in 1969 as a radiologist, served as a ssociate dean for 20 years and the director of the VMC for 12 years and finally retired in 2005.

Carl still participates three days a week helping the Veterinary Clinical Sciences department with statistics.

Carl enjoys hunting, fishing, and traveling. Marge enjoys flower gardening.

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Dr. Vernon Karli '56

Vernon and his wife Betsy live in Bella Vista, AR. And they have 3 children - 1 son, 1 daughter, and 1 deceased daughter.

Vernon was in general practice for 23 years and worked in large animal. He also spent 9 years in regulatory work with the USDA.

Vernon retired in 1988.

Vernon's hobbies are fishing, wood working, gardening and just enjoying life.

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Dr. George Lakes '56

George and his wife Arline live in Oxnard, CA. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

George practiced in Small Animal, he was on the Board of Directors for Pet Emergency Clinics in Ventura and Thousand Oaks.

George spends his days now playing on the computer and he is also an organist.

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Dr. Edward Larson '56

Edward is married to his wife Anne Marie and they live in Watertown, SD. They have 5 wonderful children, one of which is serving in Iraq, and several grandchildren.

Edward has been practicing veterinary medicine in Watertown, SD for 49 years and is still doing so. Disciplines include large animal, small animal, and equine.

Edward enjoys playing the accordion for dances and senior events.

If Edward wasn't working on a Monday morning he would first get the paper, do the crossword puzzle, and then take his dog for a long walk.

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Dr. Robert Martens '56

Robert is married to his wife Carol and they live in Madison Lake, MN. They have 4 sons and 13 extended family members.

Robert started working in Nicollet, MN and then expanded to New Ulm, MN. Finally, he expanded his practice into Mankato, MN where he finally retired. While working in New Ulm he mainly practiced large animal and small animal medicine.

Robert was voted by his peers to the Veterinarian of the Year in 1982 and was also the Mayor of Nicollet, MN for 10 years.

Robert now enjoys golfing, fishing, and traveling.

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Dr. Charles McPherson '56

Charles has been married to his wife Lillian for 50 years and they live in Raleigh, NC. They have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

Charles' discipline was Laboratory Animal Medicine. He worked at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland and was faculty at North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine. Charles retired in 1992.

From 1992-1998, Charles served as the Executive Director of American College of Lab Animal Medicine.

Charles enjoys golfing, traveling, and reading.

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Dr. Richard Nolden '56

Richard is currently married to his wife Georgia and they are celebrating 53 years. They live in Detroit Lakes, MN. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

Richard began veterinary practice with Dr. Westlake for a few years and then worked for the USDA for 33 years and has now been retired for 14 years.

Richard enjoys the outdoor sports - hunting and fishing.

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Dr. Harvey A. Olson '56

Harvey is married to his wife Delores and they live in Enid, OK. They have 7 children and 51 grandchildren and great-grandchildren combined! Their eldest son is a veterinarian and other children carry on his legacy of healing in other professions.

Harvey's small animal practice is located in Enid, OK and he also took care of animals in the local zoo.

Harvey's hobbies are golf, travel, and playing with the grandkids.

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Dr. Rodney Revsbech '56

Rodney was wed to his wife Nancy who has passed away. Rodney lives in Minnetonka, MN. They have 1 child and 1 grandchild.

Rodney started small animal practice in Chicago and has worked in several animal practices in the Twin Cities.

He worked as a private contractor testing cattle, and has been in every county in MN visiting every farm!

Rodney has completed a number of research projects including a disease recording process for large animal and is a process that is still used today.

Rodney is an avid outdoorsman. His personal highlight was that he got a moose in 1996.

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Dr. James Shultis '56

James is married to his wife Millie and they live in Reedsburg, WI. They have 4 children - 2 sons and 2 daughters.

James was in mixed animal practice but practiced mostly large animal.

James always enjoyed gardening, fishing, and working in his shop doing carpentry and welding.

James now has Alzheimer's and is living in a nursing home where his wife Millie visits several times a week.

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Dr. Wayne Sletten '56

Wayne is married to his wife Karen and they live in Faith, SD. They have 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

Over the last 50 years Wayne has worked in the "cow, calf practice in a short grass ranching country."

Wayne loves to travel. His most exciting travel spots have been Kenya, Africa and Israel.

Wayne and his wife Karen are looking forward to visiting their granddaughter working in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua over the summer.

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Dr. Robert Stahnke '56

Robert was married to his wife Lila Jean in 1957 and they currently live in Madison, WI. They have 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Robert began working for the USDA on June 11, 1956 (probably the Monday after graduation) as a Veterinary Meat Inspector in St. Paul. He finally retired on September, 30 1997 finishing up as an area supervisor responsible for the 3 state area including Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Robert and his wife Lila Jean enjoy collecting and refinishing antiques.

After 35 years of living in their home in Madison, they are building a new condominium in Madison to enjoy retirement.

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Dr. Milton Stensland '56

Milton and his wife Jaci currently live in Austin, MN. They have 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Initially, Milton practiced small animal in White Bear Lake, MN. Then he moved into a solo practice for large animals in Grand Meadow, and then into a group practice in Austin, MN for 27 years. 20 of these years were spent in small animal and some large animal practice.

He is a past president of the state association, and has served on many committees within the state association.

Hobbies are tennis and golf. He and his wife Jaci also enjoy traveling.

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Dr. Douglas Swacina '56

Douglas is survived by his wife Henrietta and their 2 children. Henrietta lives in Springdale, AZ.

Douglas thoroughly enjoyed the University and strived to encourage veterinarians to keep up their education and professionalism. He initially started out in a large animal practice in Wisconsin. He was in large animal for 12 years, after which he joined the area of food safety and inspection service, and rose through the ranks to become the first trainer of poultry veterinarians.

Douglas and Henrietta enjoyed model cars, and were members of the Pontiac Car Club and the Model A Car Club.

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Dr. Raymond Swanson '56

Raymond and his wife have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past June, 2006. They currently live in Stillwater, MN and have 6 children and 22 grandchildren.

Raymond made his internship after his graduation in Springfield, MA. He returned to Minnesota to open his first clinic in St. Paul. He then went to Lake Elmo, MN where he practiced until his retirement.

He started the Veterinary Hospital Association and continues to work there part time since his retirement from full time practice.

Raymond enjoys stamp collecting as a hobby.

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Dr. Robert Westlake '56

Robert is survived by his wife Joan and their 2 children. Robert died on December, 24 2005. Joan continues to live in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Robert was a very learned and intelligent individual whose interest in the medical diseases of turkey's and mink's led to help in this area and across the nation as well as on an international level.

Robert practiced both small and large animals, minks and turkey's for 45 years in Detroit Lakes.

In 2000, he was presented the Ranelius award from the MN Turkey Growers Association, which is their highest honor.

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Dr. John Williamson '56

John met his wife on campus while she was a student in international relations. They live in Clintonville, WI and they have 4 children.

John went into practice with two of his classmates: Peter Oberhauser and John Dahl.

He practiced primarily with large animals.

John is now retired and enjoys competing in curling and is in the Curling Hall of Fame!

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Class of '56

In memory of our classmates who are no longer with us...

Dr. Francis Bilkovich

Dr. William Byron

Dr. Robert Caldwell

Dr. Herbert Hohenhaus

Dr. Edward Holland

Dr. Douglas Swacina

Dr. Robert Westlake

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The College of Veterinary Medicine improves the health and well-being of animals and people by providing high-quality veterinary training, conducting leading-edge research, and delivering innovative veterinary services.