

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS **Early Veterinary Colleges in Kansas City (Part One)**

BY: STEVE JOSEPH, DVM

Organized Veterinary Medicine in Kansas City began and flourished when the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) opened its doors in October 1891.

The College had a modest start with only three students in two rooms of the Schutte Building located on Grand Avenue. Twenty-seven years later when the College closed, 1,857 veterinarians had graduated and the facility had developed into one of the finest veterinary institutions in America and the world, according to Dr. Howard Erickson, President-elect of the American Veterinary Medical History Society and Professor of Physiology at KSU CVM. How did this happen and why did it happen in Kansas City? Let's explore.

In the summer of 1892, the KCVC moved from Grand Avenue to 312 East 12th Street, the second of four locations the College would call home. The requirement for graduation was changed from one to two terms of six months each with an optional third term without fee. Three years later, the College had 24 graduates or an average of four per year.

In July 1896, the College moved to a two-story building at 1404-1408 Holmes Street. The new facility had a hospital and clinic and expanded classrooms and laboratories. The course of instruction grew to a two year course, and seeing the need for more training, a three year program was inaugurated.

Two years later, ground was purchased and the final KCVC facility was erected at 15th Street and Lydia Avenue in 1903. This was a proud facility with several classrooms, a spacious library, a judging arena, a four story auditorium and a large gymnasium. In fact, the College even had a football team. Guess who they played? More about the game and further information about the KCVC and two other Kansas City veterinary institutions in the next edition of *News and Notes*.

During the KSU CVM Annual Conference in June, Dr. Erickson has organized a day long series of lectures regarding veterinary history on June 9th. He has prepared a lecture about KCVC. My thanks to him for helping with this article.

Please visit www.kcvma.com and click on "About" to read more about the history of our Association and see a special article from 1948 within the pages of *Town Pictorial Kansas City*. Our most senior Life Member, Dr. Richard Buchli (1943 KSU) is pictured. At age 21, he is one of the youngest veterinarians to graduate from the College.

