

Faithful to the Colors

Dr. Robert Gump's unusual spot in K-State history


While he was certainly a committed practitioner of veterinary medicine, the late Dr. Robert Gump of Wichita, Kan., has a unique place in K-State history for some accomplishments outside of the clinic. During his college days more than 80 years ago, Bob played football — for two different schools.

He started his athletic career at the University of Kansas, but worked in his spare time at an animal hospital in Lawrence. It was there he developed a passion for veterinary medicine, so he wisely transferred to K-State and continued playing football for the Wildcats. Dr. Gump is thought to be the only athlete to letter in football at both schools.

Dr. Gump earned his DVM in 1933. He inspected livestock for tuberculosis and practiced in Ada, Okla., where he was the only veterinarian with a degree in the southeastern part of the state. He and his wife, Edith, had a daughter and son in the early 1940s, just as the U.S. was entering World War II. Despite being older than the typical draft age, Bob felt that his veterinary skills were needed by his country.

"I had been in ROTC at K-State or they might not have wanted me at age 35," Dr. Gump recalled. "I had to report to duty only two weeks after my son, R.J., was born. What would he think if his father shirked his duties?"

Dr. Gump served a tour of duty that lasted nearly four years in China, supporting the Burma Road campaign. His only interaction with home was through correspondence and care packages. His return home at the end of the war was delayed because he had contracted dysentery and was sent to New York for several weeks of recovery. He eventually resumed his veterinary career inspecting meat for the USDA, before opening his own practice until retiring in the 1980s. His son, R.J., followed in his footsteps, earning his own DVM degree in 1969, and now operating his father's practice.

Dr. Gump passed away in 2003, but not before making a gift to K-State to establish two scholarships with a bequest of \$200,000. His passion and sense of duty were embodied by these gifts, and during this sesquicentennial celebration, we remember Dr. Gump with a tremendous sense of purple pride. 



The late Dr. Robert Gump, DVM 1933, sports his letter sweater from his days as a K-State football player. Where else did he play?

Meet two new members of the CVM development staff

Andrew Dame, associate director of development, earned a bachelor's degree in 2003 and an MBA in 2005, both from Emporia State University. His career began in the annual giving department at Emporia State. Andrew then worked for the University of Northern Colorado Foundation and the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan., as director of annual giving and director of development.



Courtney Marshall, development officer, earned a journalism degree from Kansas State University in 1996. She has worked in alumni relations in a variety of roles: executive director, member services director and annual fund manager. She is returning to K-State after working at Texas Tech, Benedictine College and the University of South Dakota; and prior to that at the K-State Alumni Association.

