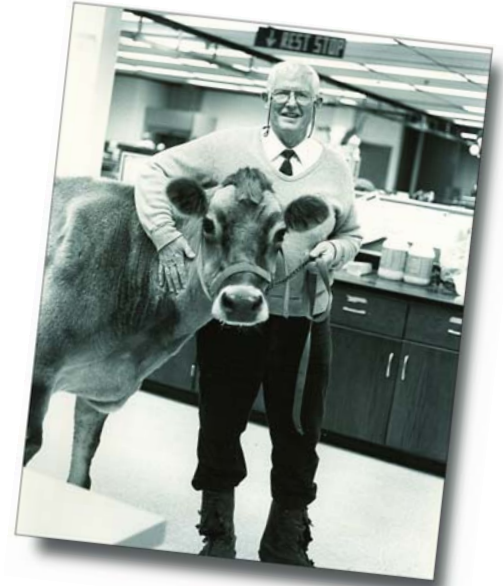


Dr. Russ Frey's Legacy of Communication



Dr. Russ Frey was a professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, dairy farmer, veterinarian and county commissioner. He was effective in reaching out to people whether it was in a county commission meeting (above), or in the classroom with his favorite cow "Nicki" (right).



"It was obvious that Dr. Frey loved this profession. His attitude was contagious, and I hope that we all continue to remember and emulate his love for veterinary medicine."

-Corbin Hodges
on behalf of the class of
2005

By Brennan Engle

Dr. Russ Frey was a veterinarian, educator and public servant who encouraged people to get together, listen to each other and trade ideas. Those who knew him best called him "a great communicator." The communication that was important to Dr. Frey, who taught 40 classes of veterinary students at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, will not be forgotten.

In April, the CVM dedicated the "Russ and Pat Frey Conference Center," a state-of-the-art multimedia facility made possible by a lead donation provided by the Freys shortly before Russ' death in 2003.

The Technology

The facility, on the second floor of Coles Hall, is equipped with a multi-

media technology system that can be controlled through the ease of a touch-screen. Without formal training, users will be able to manage video selection to a projector and LCD monitor, presentations from a laptop computer or document camera, incoming or outgoing conference calls and all room cameras.

The room will be instrumental in interfacing meetings with people in other locations for lab demonstrations, guest seminars, classes and research projects.

About Russ Frey

Dr. Frey grew up on his family's 240-acre dairy farm just north of Manhattan in the area now known as the Blue Hills. There he developed a love for animals that would lead to a long and distinguished career as a veterinarian and instructor.

He graduated the youngest in his class at the age of 22 when he received his DVM from K-State in 1952. He completed his senior year of veterinary school while serving in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corp, and worked as a veterinarian on an Air Force base in Germany for two years. After his stint with the military, he moved to South Dakota to practice in a large animal clinic.

In 1960, Dr. Frey returned to K-State where he began a 40-year career teaching nutrition, and digestive, renal and metabolic physiology. He served as head of the department of anatomy and physiology from 1975 to 1990.

A Gifted Educator

As a professor, Dr. Frey was very student-oriented. He had a keen memory and prided himself on being able to remember all of his former students by name and the year they graduated, even decades after they left K-State. He was also known for hosting a mountain oyster fry on his farm for the students called "Frey's fry."

"The students were all very important to him," Pat said. "He wanted them to get the very best education they could."

Jeremiah Nilges, a student from Dr. Frey's last class, remembers the professor's enthusiasm. "Dr. Frey knew our interest levels after lunch would not be at their best, so he would always throw humorous and personal stories into his lectures," Nilges said. "He would always ask at the beginning of class if we were 'fired up' because he was 'fired up.'"

PHOTO BY DAVE ADAMS



Dr. Frank Blecha, anatomy and physiology department head, left, with Pat Frey at the dedication of the "Russ and Pat Frey Conference Center" in Coles Hall on April 13.

Actively Involved

A great deal of Dr. Frey's professional involvement as a veterinarian focused on the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association. He served as president of the KVMA and as a liaison for the KVMA to the Kansas Legislature and a delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association House of Delegates. In 1991, he was voted Kansas Veterinarian of the Year.

Serving The Public

In 1995, Dr. Frey ventured into the public arena by running for Riley County Commissioner.

One of his goals was to find a way to build a larger law enforcement center in Manhattan. Dr. Frey's efforts to have the issue placed on the general election ballot were successful. The measure was approved by the voters, and the community received a new facility on the edge of town. Fellow County Commissioner Al Johnson fondly remembers serving with Dr. Frey. "I have a very high regard for him and always have had. He was a very intelligent man, a hard worker and an outstanding human being."

Dr. Frey served two terms as

commissioner while phasing out at K-State into retirement. During that time he also served on many local boards and as the president of the governing board of the Kansas Association of Counties.

After finishing his second term in office, Dr. Frey began working with faculty from the CVM, who saw a need for a televised conference

room, and he agreed to help solicit funding for it. Sadly, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer only months later. The conference center was such an important project to Dr. Frey that he made plans to provide the lead donation. Five weeks after being diagnosed, Dr. Frey passed away on Sept. 17, 2003, at age 73.

"No matter what he was doing, he always knew it was important to keep the communication going, whether it was in the classroom, one-on-one with a faculty member, or in a county commission meeting," said Dr. Frank Blecha, anatomy and physiology department head. "That communication is what we hope to continue and enhance with this conference facility."

Editor's note:

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Russ and Pat Frey Conference Center was held on April 13. Highlights from the event will be presented at the college's centennial celebration. Dean Richardson will acknowledge the conference center June 5 at 12 p.m. during the opening of the 67th Annual Conference for Veterinarians at the K-State Union. A tour of the college and the conference center will follow Sunday afternoon.