27 February 2019

TO ALL REGISTERED VETERINARIANS

Dear Colleagues

During 2020, the "centenary of veterinary education" that Theiler started in our country will be celebrated. The century of veterinary education started with the establishment of a veterinary faculty under the Transvaal University College, a subsidiary of the University of South Africa in 1920. In 1930, the Transvaal University College was granted university status and the faculty became part of what now was the University of Pretoria, still as a joint venture with the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute until 1973, when UP took over full responsibility for an independent faculty. This was followed by the opening of a second faculty at MEDUNSA where the first veterinary students were admitted in January 1982, and most recently the current single national faculty, under UP, which was formally opened on 10 March 2000 by Prof Kadar Asmal, Minister of Education.

We are in the process of tracing the history of veterinary education, and are keen to obtain as many old documents and photographs as possible - from formal university documents to documents linked to both sports and other clubs and societies, to information on the curriculum, academic and other awards, to photographs (class photos, sports team photos, student committee photos, etc., etc.). We would like to use the pictures in a centenary website, to create multiple collages in the Theiler Building and in an e-book.

If possible, we would like to collect documents and photographs, use the information/images in our research and donate the originals to the UP Archive where they will be available for future generations but, if you prefer, we will return the originals to you. The UP archive was made the custodian of the veterinary documentation of both the UP and MEDUNSA in 2002.

In addition, we would like to publish a collection of special stories/recollections, both of an academic, sports and social nature. You do not have to be a writer or celebrated author to write your story – where necessary, we will arrange for editing.
Please help us commemorate 100 years of veterinary education, in all its various aspects, as accurately as possible.

If you have something to contribute, please contact Mrs Rene Abernethy on rene.abernethy@up.ac.za or 012 529 8537, or Dr Paul van Dam on paul.vandam@up.ac.za or 012 529 8203

Kind regards

Vinny

Vinny Naidoo
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