

**The 2012 Bartlett Address**  
**It's all about the people**

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I would like to thank the selection committee for the great honor being selected the 2012 recipient of the Bartlett Award. I would also like to thank Dr. Augustine Peter for the nomination. When Dr. Hopper called me in February, my first reaction was “there must be a mistake”. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever be the recipient of this prestigious honor. It also made me realize I was getting closer to the “golden years”. When it finally sank in that he was serious, it made me start thinking of all the people who had influenced my life and the path to this podium, and in my professional life, many of those people have stood at this podium. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of the people who have influenced my life.

**Family first**

I must start with my family. I grew up on a small livestock farm in Missouri. My father was a true stockman. He taught me the importance of “good feed and clean water”. He also operated a livestock auction, so I had many opportunities to learn how to work around large animals. I learned how to castrate, vaccinate, dehorn, etc. while working with the veterinarians at the auction. Pregnancy examinations and testing cattle for brucellosis convinced me that I wanted to be a veterinarian. My mother made sure I did my homework and stressed the importance of a good education.

I am most grateful to my wife, Diann, who has been my rock throughout most of my life. Her love, support and tolerance have been instrumental in any success I may have experienced. We married after my second year in veterinary school and tomorrow we will celebrate our 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. I would also like to thank my daughter Mary, who along with her mother, really influenced my understanding of the human-animal bond. “It turns out that dogs can live in the house”. Attending horse shows with my mother- and father-in-law gave me my first appreciation of quality horses.

**University of Missouri**

I entered the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Agriculture in the fall of 1965. I got a job as a laboratory assistant in the Agricultural Biochemistry department and got my introduction to research in ruminant nutrition. Working with rumen fistulated cows was more interesting than cleaning lab ware and the path toward veterinary school continued.

I was fortunate to be accepted to the School of Veterinary Medicine in fall of 1967. The professors in basic sciences were excellent and gave us a solid foundation to enter clinics. The clinicians who influenced me most were Dr. C. J Bierschwal, Dr. Charles Martin, Dr. Joe McGinity, Dr. Walter Threlfall and Dr. Ed Mather. Bull breeding soundness examinations were a significant part of the caseload and we were encouraged to become members of the “American Veterinary Society for the Study of Breeding Soundness” aka the “Society for Theriogenology”. I joined the Society when I graduated in 1971 and have maintained my membership ever since. It has been one of the most important Associations in my professional life.

Dr. Bierschwal had done a sabbatical at the University of Utrecht and introduced us to the Utrecht fetotome, a very useful instrument for the type of obstetrical cases we often dealt with (a beef cow with a dead, emphysematous fetus). One of my classmates, Dr. James Snodgrass had experience as a machinist and working with Dr. Bierschwal, manufactured the Utrecht fetotome for marketing in the United States.

We did not have year round clinics in those days and I was hired as a student intern in the Food Animal Section between my third and fourth year. That gave me an opportunity to work closely with the clinicians and was an extremely valuable experience.

A Saturday morning in May, 1971 changed the course of my career. I was paged to come to the Department Head office. Dr. Charles Martin was the acting head of the Department. He said “Lock, we’ve been watching you and we think you have potential as a teacher”, and offered me to opportunity to

stay on as an instructor. That was a complete shock to me. I was a fairly average student and an academic career was the farthest thing from my mind. My plan was to go into large animal practice and I had just committed to a practice position. But that statement from Dr. Martin planted the seed of what would become the best career course I could ever imagine. I joined a very busy primarily large animal practice and learned a lot during that first year. We had a nice mix of beef and dairy cattle and horses. The most famous (infamous) animal I worked with during that year was a young Quarter Horse stallion named "Impressive". Little did I know the impact he would have on the horse industry.

### **University of Illinois**

The idea of a career in academia lingered in my mind during that year and in 1972, I accepted a position as an instructor in the ambulatory section at the University of Illinois. Illinois did not have a residency program in theriogenology but that position allowed me to enter a graduate program that would eventually qualify me to take the ACT examination.

The person who most influenced me in the early years at Illinois was Dr. Bruce Brodie. His philosophy was that a good caseload was important to a good clinical teaching program and being a clinician at heart, I was on board with that philosophy. My assignment at Illinois was to develop the equine field program and I was fortunate soon after I arrived to meet Leo Daly, who was starting a Standardbred breeding farm. He was receptive to the idea of allowing students to palpate mares. Artificial insemination was beginning to be accepted by more breeds and this association allowed me to gain a lot of experience and to teach students the "art" of rectal palpation and other procedures involved in a breeding farm operation.

Dr. Jim Eagleman and Dr. Don Lingard (large animal clinic faculty) were teaching the theriogenology course until 1975. During that year, Dr. Eagleman retired and Dr. Lingard took a position at Louisiana State University and I was asked to take responsibility for coordinating the theriogenology course. I was still working on my graduate program but this was an assignment I could not turn down. I completed my master's degree in 1976 and became an assistant professor in Veterinary Clinical Medicine.

I submitted my credentials to the American College of Theriogenologists and they were accepted and in 1977, I took the ACT Board examination. Dr. Bill Wagner proctored my examination. At that time, the examination was all essay questions and after writing for twelve hours, I was sure that I would be repeating in 1978 but was fortunate to be invited to St. Paul, MN for the oral examination. What an honor it was to become a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists!

Dr. Randy Ott had joined the faculty so Drs. Brodie, Ott, and I team taught the theriogenology course. In 1978, Dr. Borje Gustafsson became the department head and we officially formed a theriogenology section. His support for research gave the section a much needed boost in developing the residency and graduate program. Drs. Wagner and Gustafsson were instrumental in attracting the "International Congress on Animal Reproduction" to the University of Illinois in 1984.

In 1980, I was asked to serve on the ACT examining committee. It did not take very long to realize how much work had gone into the examination process. It was an honor and a great learning experience to serve with people like Drs. Stanley Dennis, Steve Roberts, Larry Evans, Don Schlafer, Larry Rice, Howard Whitmore and many more very dedicated people. Many hours were spent reading the essays of candidates and developing questions for the oral examination.

In 1986, I became secretary, so my term on the examining committee was extended another three years. The College did not have an executive secretary, so the secretary was responsible for maintaining all the correspondence with candidates and all the paperwork associated with the examination. Dr. Howard Whitmore served as secretary before me so transferred the boxes of files down the hall to my office.

A concern during that time was assuring that the examination was fair and objective, so a lot of time was spent transitioning from long essay questions to shorter and more defensible questions. The evolution of the examination process and the hard work of the committee made it possible for candidates to find out their results in hours instead of weeks.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to Don Ellerbee and Jan Weiler for their help in the logistics of the examination process. They worked out the details of room availability and many other details that made the process go smoothly.

In 1989-90, with the help of Dr. David Galloway, I was fortunate to arrange a sabbatical at the University of Melbourne, working with the McKinnon Project, a production medicine group focusing on sheep and beef cattle. It was a rejuvenating experience and gave me a broader perspective on the role of theriogenology in production medicine. I returned to Illinois re-energized and with a new appreciation for what I felt was the greatest career path I could ask for- teaching veterinary students.

### **The accidental teacher**

For a guy who had once envisioned himself in a career in private practice, I am grateful to have had the good fortune to stumble into a career in teaching. I have learned that one cannot always plan where life will take you, but the path it took me on has been incredible. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career at Illinois was seeing students develop their clinical skills. Watching the evolution of each class from the day they entered clinics to graduation was fascinating. The “chaos” of a new group of senior students early in the year learning to work as a team to make the clinic operate smoothly was impressive to watch. Leaders evolve in this process and many former students I had the privilege of knowing have gone on to make significant contributions to the field of Theriogenology.

During my term as ACT president, I was impressed by the continued involvement of the founding members. Drs. Bartlett, Roberts, Zemjanis and Parker wrote letters of encouragement and suggestion to enlarge the list of honorary membership in the ACT. It was an honor to have the support and friendship of people who I had so much respect for throughout my professional career.

The changes that have occurred in the field of Theriogenology during my career have been nothing short of phenomenal. When I graduated in 1971, “high tech” was the electroejaculator. Products and technologies that we use every day were unknown just 40 years ago. Prostaglandin F2-alpha, gonadotropin releasing hormone, sexed semen embryo transfer, ultrasound, in vitro fertilization, follicular aspiration are just a few of the advances that allow us as theriogenologists to provide high tech services to our clients. The Society and College have also undergone tremendous changes. Among the many changes, one of the most notable is in the publications. Education has always been a major focus of the Society and College and it has evolved from the early days when the publications were “the manuals” to the “Fact Sheets” and evolving to “Clinical Theriogenology”. The evolution of the Society from primarily a large animal focus to include companion animals, zoo animals, etc. has stayed consistent with the founding members’ desire to maintain theriogenology as a comparative science.

I would like to recognize Franz Management Services and Dr. Charles Franz for the service they have provided the Society and College. Their efforts have been important in giving our specialty greater visibility.

In 2005, I returned to private practice and I must admit that I have missed the daily interaction with theriogenology colleagues. I am looking forward to the meeting here in Baltimore, reconnecting with old colleagues and meeting new people who are contributing much new information to our exciting field. Theriogenology has been a major part of my life, and I cherish the friendships that I have developed over the last 40 plus years as a member of the Society and College.

Thank you for your patience in listening to the ramblings of a guy who is getting a little “long in the tooth”. I wish the younger colleagues the best as they continue to advance theriogenology. I’ll end with a quote from Garrison Keillor. “Be well, do good work and keep in touch.”