

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
RECORDS
RG #A2000**

Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana State University Archives
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2019

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SUMMARY

Size	3.5 linear feet, 2 oversize folders.
Geographic Locations	Louisiana.
Inclusive Dates	1966-1989.
Bulk Dates	1973-1989.
Languages	English.
Summary	Correspondence, financial records, printed materials, topical files, and writings pertaining to the establishment, construction, and operations of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.
Access Restrictions	None.
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries.
Related Collections	Louisiana State University Office of the Chancellor Records, A0001. Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors Records, A0003. Louisiana State University Office of Academic Affairs Records, A0100.
Citation	Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine Records, RG #A2000, Louisiana State University Archives, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	Ranges 142, 83.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1962 by a resolution of the LSU Board of Supervisors and in 1967, the Louisiana Legislature approved \$3,000,000 for funding. LSU's veterinary school was the first attempt in the United States to plan, develop, and implement a complete veterinary program in a physical plant that was specifically designed to meet the needs of that program. It is one of thirty veterinary schools in the United States and the only one in Louisiana.

In 1968, Dr. Everett Besch became the first professor and dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and immediately began working on a program requirements study: a room-by-room study of the needs of the new college building. This study was reviewed by faculty members of eighteen veterinary education programs throughout the United States and Canada and between September 1968 and March 1969, LSU inspected ten of these schools. By May of 1968, a 43.5 acre site for the school was chosen at the corner of South Stadium Drive and River Road that had formerly been used for sugar cane research.

By early 1971, the preliminary architectural drawings for the building had been approved and in the summer of 1972, the United States Public Health Service's Bureau of Health Manpower Education had approved a grant of \$10,111,115 to fund the establishment of the veterinary school. The legislature voted that same year to increase the school's state appropriation to \$6,000,000. Construction on the building began in July of 1973 and the estimate for its construction was \$18.9 million. It was scheduled for completion in 1976.

In May 1973, the LSU Board of Supervisors approved the admission of students and by August of that year, 36 students were admitted and a schedule of tuition and fees was established. The first classes were held in various buildings around campus such as Audubon Hall, Pleasant Hall, Lockett Hall, and the Life Sciences Building. An interim clinic opened in November 1975 that included examination rooms and surgeries for large and small animals, a pharmacy, exercise runs, and holding stalls. Mobile trailers were also set up for classrooms and faculty offices. The first class graduated on May 21, 1977 and they agreed to take part in the general commencement ceremonies in order to promote the School of Veterinary Medicine to the general public.

After many delays for construction issues, such as roof and window leaks, foundation settling, and difficulties with appropriate steel specifications, the veterinary school building was accepted for occupancy and approval to move in was granted on June 22, 1978. The formal dedication ceremonies were held during the week of October 22, 1978. The final construction cost was a little over \$20 million. New problems with the building were discovered, such as a susceptibility of the foundation to rise and fall with the level of the Mississippi River and high noise levels in some parts of the building. Respective solutions included relief wells to ease hydrostatic pressure under the foundation and employees being ordered to wear hearing protection.

By 1981, the School of Veterinary Medicine was awarding masters and PhDs in veterinary science and established the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, a collaborative effort with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture. The Raptor Rehabilitation Unit was also established in this period. The Equine Veterinary Research Program was established in 1985 to

develop a research program with an emphasis on equine, health, breeding, and performance problems in race horses. It was funded partially through fees collected by the Louisiana Racing Commission.

The School of Veterinary Medicine encompasses three academic departments: Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Pathobiological Sciences, and Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Other divisions include the Veterinary Medicine Library, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics, and the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Arranged alphabetically by series, this record group consists of correspondence, financial records, photographs, printed materials, reports, topical files, and writings pertaining to the construction and operation of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine from 1966 to 1989. Records include correspondence and reports on repairs to water leaks and the electrical and sewer systems, costs for these repairs, photographic evidence of their occurrences, and engineers reports. Also included are financial records and reports pertaining to utilities usage and costs, funding for new faculty and staff positions, operating budget reviews conducted by the Louisiana Board of Regents, legislative funding and acts of the legislature regarding funding for higher education in general and the veterinary school in particular, payments to architects and construction companies, operating budgets, and per diem costs of housing animals. Other records pertain to the treatment and care of laboratory animals, equipment inventories, a consent decree between the United States Department of Agriculture and the School of Veterinary Medicine regarding treatment of laboratory animals, policies on the use of animals in research, and records pertaining to the design of the LSU Medical Center in Shreveport.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I: Correspondence, 1978-1988 (Box 1)

Series II: Financial Records, 1973-1979 (Boxes 1-2)

Series III: Photographs, c. 1978 (Box 4)

Series IV: Printed Materials, undated (Oversize Folder 1)

Series V: Reports, 1971-1988 (Boxes 2-3, Oversize Folder 2)

Series VI: Topical Files, 1966-1989 (Boxes 3-4)

Series VII: Writings, 1989 (Box 4)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1978-1988.

Arranged chronologically, this series consists of letters between various LSU administrators and companies performing repairs on roof and window leaks, electrical and sewer issues, describing mechanical problems, fire protection, insulation values, and addressing excessive noise problems in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Other correspondence consists of letters between the law firm of Taylor, Porter, Brooks, and Phillips, campus officials, the state Office of Facility Planning, and architects and construction companies regarding construction work and renovations for the veterinary school building.

Series II. Financial Records, 1973-1989.

Arranged by topic then chronologically, this series contains budget information and operating budgets pertaining to the construction and operation of the School of Veterinary Medicine, claims for cost reimbursements, interim facility payments made to architects and construction companies, equipment purchases, changes to the school's funding formula, spending bills and amendments from the Louisiana Legislature, costs for energy usage, and costs related to the daily care of animals.

Series III. Photographs, c. 1978.

This series consists of images of water damage to walls, doors, and windows in the veterinary school building. These photographs became wet at some point and are permanently stuck together.

Series IV. Printed Materials, undated.

This series consists of posters advertising graduate studies, graduate fellowships, and recruitment posters.

Series V. Reports, 1971-1988.

Arranged alphabetically by topic, this series consists of waterproofing and repair reports, reports on building modifications, monthly updates on building construction, engineers' reports on subsoil conditions, water table levels, and the effects of hydrostatic pressure on the building's structure; inspection reports of laboratory facilities; and evaluations of building energy usage.

Series VI. Topical Files, 1966-1989.

Arranged alphabetically by topic, this series consists of records pertaining to building climate control issues, questions about the veterinary school building's construction from the House Committee on State Projects, audits for energy conservation, equipment inventories, records pertaining to laboratory animals resource enhancements, and records of a consent decree between the US Department of Agriculture and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

pertaining to the treatment of laboratory animals. Also included are records for the transfer of the Confederate Memorial Hospital in Shreveport to the LSU Medical Center and program requirements of the new Shreveport medical school and its buildings.

Series VII. Writings, 1989.

This series consists of a manuscript entitled *Veterinary History of Louisiana, 1789-1989* edited by Dr. W.S. Hornsby, a veterinarian from Lafayette, LA.

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Stack

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