

# Veterinary Dean Elizabeth Stone Completes Ten Years at the University of Guelph

By Dr. Donald F. Smith

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When University of California, Davis graduate Elizabeth Stone was recruited from the University of Georgia in 2005 to serve as dean of the Ontario Veterinary College, she became veterinary medicine's first woman dean of an accredited veterinary college in the United States and Canada.



Dean Elizabeth Stone (right) and OVC summer research student Beverly Goh  
(Photo provided by Dean Stone)

The Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) dates to 1862 and relocated from Toronto to Guelph sixty years after its founding. The oldest surviving veterinary college in North America, the OVC has a

rich history of educating veterinarians from across Canada as well as around the world. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, hundreds of US citizens received their veterinary degrees in Toronto.

Among the OVC's many leadership initiatives were the development of advanced farm production animal medicine in the 1960s and preventive medicine graduate programs in the ensuing decades. Three years after Dean Stone began her deanship she and Cate Dewey, Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, led the development of a Master of Public Health program that has become so popular that 300 applicants compete annually for just 25 slots. The highlight of this five-semester MPH is the three-to-four month practicum placement.

On the threshold of completing her 10-year deanship at the OVC, Dean Stone learned that the college has been ranked number four ***in the world*** for veterinary colleges by the British-based QS World University rankings<sup>1</sup> that claim to evaluate academic reputation, employer reputation, and research impact.

While the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges neither endorses nor acknowledges third party rankings in veterinary medicine, the University of Guelph is celebrating OVC's recognition as it is the highest ranking of any Canadian university program in any discipline.

"It's a great honor for our college," Dean Stone said mixing modesty with profound pride. "We feel immensely proud of the accomplishments of our people."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015 - Veterinary Science [http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2015/veterinary-science%20-%20sorting=rank+region="+country="+faculty="+stars=true+search=](http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2015/veterinary-science%20-%20sorting=rank+region=)

<sup>2</sup> Stone, Elizabeth (DVM, MS, MPP; Dean Ontario Veterinary College). Personal communication to Donald F. Smith (Cornell University), May 3, 2015.

#### KEYWORDS:

Elizabeth Stone  
Cate Dewey  
Ontario Veterinary College  
Masters of Public Health  
Production Medicine  
Preventive Medicine  
College Rankings  
University of Guelph  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

#### TOPIC:

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## Women in Veterinary Medicine

### LEADING QUESTION:

What veterinary college is the top ranked college in Canada in any discipline?

### META-SUMMARY:

Dean Elizabeth Stone the first woman dean of an accredited veterinary college in North America completes ten years as dean.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

*Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine* is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.