San Antonio is the spirit of Texas—its history runs deep; its future looks bright.

The opportunity to coordinate our meeting with that of the Society for Theriogenology allowed our members to double up on information for the future.

Dr. Deborah Stark, Vice-President put together the Pre-Convention Seminars, with input from the AABP Nutrition and Reproduction committees that started a trend designed to strengthen this part of the program for years to come, around Computer Practice Tips, E-mail and AABP Software Library to quench the thirst of the electronically adept.

The Opening Ceremony was preceded by the traditional hospitality hour. Dr. John Hurtgen, President, Society for Theriogenology, brought greetings from his colleagues. Dr Colin Whitaker, President, British Cattle Veterinary Association, invited everyone to the XIX World Buiatrics Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland on July 8-12, 1996. Dr. Willis Parker, Clayton, IN introduced two veterinarians from each of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The $10,000 AABP Research Assistantship was divided between two recipients – Dr. Steven Grubbs, University of Tennessee to study “Induction of BHV-1 and BVDV specific cell-mediated immunity in young calves” and Dr. David Van Metre, Purdue University for “Cellular immune responses to Salmonella dublin vaccines”.

Representatives of companies which had given substantial financial support for the Convention were recognized.

The featured speaker was Dr. Gary Smith, Fort Collins, Colorado, who held the Monfort Endowment chair in Meat and Animal Sciences at Colorado State University. He spoke on “The role of bovine practitioners in assuring the safety of beef”. His lecture was sponsored by Roche Animal health. (The full text of his address was published in the Convention Proceedings, p. 3-7)

After the Opening Ceremony, the AABP sponsored a reception for over 100 students. Several tours included a visit to Mission Trail, Mission San Jose with its famous “Rose Window”, a drive by Mission Conception and on to Lone Star Brewery with its Buckhorn Saloon and the Buckhorn Hall of Horns, Fins and Feather. The Heartbeat of the San Antonio tour went along the famed Riverwalk on board a river barge, a visit to the Alamo, the King William Historical District and Market Square. Other tours included San Antonio’s Green Spots, the Hill Country’s Famed Fredericksburg and Lyndon Johnson Historical Park.

The highlight Social Event, following a sumptuous Tex Mex dinner with entertainment by Baxter Black, a veterinarian who is America’s classic cowboy entertainer. Dr. Black’s appearance was sponsored by a generous contribution from Pfizer Animal Health.

The Annual Membership and Business Meeting followed a 7:00 a.m. continental breakfast sponsored in part by West Agro Inc. and Purina Mills Inc.

Dr. Robert Smith presided over the annual meeting.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Elmer Woelffer and his wife, Marian who died in an automobile accident on May 8, 1995.
Treasurer Roland Jeans presented a proposed budget of $815,750 for 1995-96. He was presented an appreciation plaque for his service as Treasurer.

Dr. Jarrett reported that we had 4,114 veterinarian members, 612 students and 167 Honor Roll members giving a total of 4,893.

Dr. Sherbyn Ostrich, AVMA President, addressed matters of AVMA-AABP relationship, especially in the rapidly developing area of food safety.

**District Directors election results**
- District 6: Dr. Mark Kirkpatrick, Ames, Iowa
- District 9: Dr. Del Miles (re-elected)

President Smith presented Dr. Andrew Overby, District 6 Director, an appreciation plaque whose term had expired. He also presented Honorary AABP Membership plaques to Dr. Doug Armstrong, Dr. L. Mac Cropsey and Dr. Roland Jeans.

**The officers for 1995-96 were:**
- President: Dr. M. Gatz Riddell
- President-Elect: Dr. Deborah Stark
- Vice President: Dr. Jim Sears (elected by mail vote)

President Smith announced a new award established by Dr. Jacob Hines, Wisconsin in memory of his wife, for “The Best Dressed Practitioner”.

Dr. Thomas Fuhrmann received the award of $100 presented by Ms. Leigh-Ann Hunt, AABP Administrative Assistant.

Before handing the gavel to Dr. Gatz Riddell, President Smith reviewed his year in office, ending with the remark, “Nothing is accomplished alone. No matter what you have accomplished, someone has helped you.” (See the Convention Proceedings for his full text.)

**Bovine Practitioner of the Year**

*Dr. Steve Connell, Fort Dodge Laboratories presenting the Award to Dr. Alvin Edwards, supported by his wife, Carma V., son Dr. Tom Edwards and his wife, Debbie.*

Dr. Alvin Edwards, Manhattan, Kansas was named the 1995 AABP – Fort Dodge Bovine Practitioner of the Year.

A native of South Dakota, he received the B.S. degree in 1956 and the DVM degree from Kansas State University in 1959. He returned to his native state to join Dr. Harold Seveson in a general practice at Winner, SD and became a partner in 1960.

In 1962, he purchased a general practice in Ainsworth, Nebraska and soon began making his calls via his Super-Cub airplane. He became known as “the flying veterinarian” of the sandhills. In 1974, he returned to KSU and joined the clinical faculty and received the PhD degree in 1979. In 1990, Dr. Edwards retired from KSU and has since been active in feedlot consulting.

*Further information on the Award and Dr. Edwards is available in the Convention Proceedings, p. xiv*
AABP Awards for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine

Beef Program Award

Dr. Terry DeGroff, Burwell, Nebraska received the MSD-Ag Vet Award for Excellence in Beef Preventive Medicine.

Dr. DeGroff received the DVM degree from Colorado State University in 1976. He is a national leader in using cow-calf records systems for herd level management decisions. Dr. DeGroff is an instructor, on call, at the University of Nebraska Great Plains Veterinary Education Center. He is a member of the Beef Cattle Practice Committee, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. DeGroff was the chairman of the cow-calf session for this Convention.

Dr. Jay Brown, MSD-AGVET representative and President Smith.

Dairy Program Award

Dr. Conner Jameson, Tulane, California was the recipient of the MSD-AgVet Award for Excellence in Dairy Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Jameson received the DVM degree from the University of California, Davis in 1968 and has been a partner in Valley Veterinarians, Inc., since its establishment in 1972. His practice is 100% dairy cattle and he has been active in the development of innovative record keeping systems for his clients. He developed Dairy Comp-305, dairy management software which has worldwide distribution with over one million cows enrolled.

(Further information on all awards and the recipients is available in the Proceedings p. xv-xvi)

AABP Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Timothy Lesch, Belleville, IL was the recipient of the AABP Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Lesch received his DVM degree from Michigan State University in 1972. Through the development of the use of the TI-59 calculator for programming rations, he brought the AABP into the field of dairy nutrition. Dr. Lesch has been active in AABP preconvention seminars and regional CE programs on dairy nutrition. He has been involved in international nutrition consulting through the American Feed Grains Council.

Dr. Lesch receiving the award from Dr. Britt.
AABP Award of Excellence

Dr. Louis Perino, Clay Center, Nebraska received the Award of Excellence, co-sponsored by Hoffman La Roche.

He received the DVM degree from the University of Illinois in 1984. He has published over 80 papers in scientific and industry journals and proceedings. He developed a computerized system to aid students in studying for the National Board Examination and is heavily involved in the Satellite delivery of course material.

Further information on the recipient was published in the Proceedings, p. xvi.