

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Richard E. Weller, DVM, of Selah, Senior Program Manager for Battelle Northwest Laboratories in Richland, is the Yakima Valley Community College Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 1999. The honor is conferred by the YVCC Alumni Association. Dr. Weller attended YVCC from 1965 to 1967.

He travels the globe for his position with Battelle but still maintains a very dedicated, local community service record. He served as president of the Humane Society for 11 years; is a teaching elder for Westminster Presbyterian Church; served on the Yakima Valley Baseball Association Board of Directors; umpired for Little League, writes a column on pet-related topics; and is a member of the Speakers Bureau for Primary and Secondary Schools, and the Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association.

After completing his degree at YVCC, he transferred to the University of Washington where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fisheries Biology in 1969 and a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University in 1973. He then served as a captain in the U. S. Army Veterinary Corps.

Dr. Weller is certified by the Board of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Internal Medicine (1980) and in Oncology (1987) and holds adjunct faculty positions in the colleges of veterinary medicine at both WSU and Tuskegee University. He is a member of local and national veterinary medical associations and many other professional organizations.

His advising and consulting work takes him around the world for the U. S. Department of Energy, the U. S. Agency for International Development, the National Institutes of Health, and the Pan American and World Health Organizations.

The lecture circuit and his work take him to many countries in Europe and in Central and South America. "Hepatitis C Vaccine" is one of his current research projects. Others include, "Cholelithiasis in the Owl Monkey," "DNA Vaccines for Avian

Diseases," "Enzyme Inhibitors of Malaria," and "Blood Virus Inactivation."

"My transition to the University of Washington and later to Washington State University was very easy thanks to the education and experiences that I gained while attending YVCC," said Dr. Weller. "Gaining that experience while living at home was a great advantage as well.

"Outstanding faculty and administrators such as Ivar Dolph, Bob Gedosch, George Millard and Charles Weedon were instrumental in my choice to major in biological sciences. I also recall dances in the HUB and the cafeteria of the residence hall along with the rivalry between the Intercollegiate Knights, of which I was a member, and other campus organizations. YVCC was a great experience for which I remain grateful."

