

## 2006 Recipient IETS Distinguished Service Award

# Victor M. Shille

Award Presentation: Tuesday, January 10 at 13:30

Victor Michael Shille was born on February 8, 1933, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. In 1950, Victor and his parents applied for immigration to the US and were accepted in April 1950. Arriving in New York on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1950 they eventually settled in Los Angeles, CA where Victor attended LA High School graduating in 1951. He applied and was accepted into the pre-veterinary program at University of California at Davis (UCD). Two years later he was accepted into the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. He graduated in 1958 and joined the small animal practice of Dr. Neil Halpin in Santa Ana, CA. One year later, Dr. Halpin suffered a heart attack leaving the young graduate to fend for himself. It was a tough time, but Victor persevered and managed to find time to meet and successfully court a tall willowy maiden who became his bride. Becoming bored with spays and anal glands, he applied to the UCD graduate school and was awarded a NIH fellowship to study reproductive pathology, physiology and endocrinology of the domestic cat. By this time he was married and had three boys. His studies were interrupted by an assignment to an USDA team to negotiate with the Soviet Department of Agriculture a cooperative US/USSR study of Foot and Mouth disease. After completing his PhD research, he spent one year of post-doctoral studies at the Agricultural University in Uppsala Sweden where he worked on effects of prostaglandin in pigs. Upon return to the US in 1978 he interviewed at the University of Florida for the position of reproductive clinician for dogs and cats. He was appointed to the College of Veterinary Medicine. As associate professor in 1980, John Kendrick, the editor of *Theriogenology*, an international journal of animal reproduction, died, leaving Victor as editor. Victor saw the potential of the journal and instituted several rules designed to encourage submission of manuscripts without sacrificing quality. "We do not reject manuscripts for language problems rather we assist authors as long as it takes to produce a legible paper." "We do not allow sarcastic reviews." His efforts were rewarded. Today the journal thrives beautifully. Meanwhile Victor was progressing and branching out in his assigned duties. Starting with dogs and cats he soon advanced to wolves and tigers through the encouragement of Professor Elliott Jacobsen. Upon retirement from clinical and research duties in 1996, Victor devoted 100% of his time to the journal. He finally completely retired in 2000, but still reviews an occasional troublesome manuscript. He received the Norden Distinguished Teacher award, the Bartlet Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine. His guiding words are: The light of love to live by, The wine of friendship for sharing, The bread of peace to nourish heart and soul, For these I give thanks each day.