



**Bind ambition**

Photo by DAVID LEYENDECKER

Ann Wooten, a junior parks and recreation major from Abilene, and Trish Blazek, right, a senior computer science major from Texarkana, attempt to assemble their tent while blindfolded. The Outdoor Education class also is practicing firebuilding and canoeing in preparation for a weekend trip in November.

**Veterinary medicine notes become book**

**A&M professor publishes text**

By DEEDEE DAMON  
Reporter

When Michael Jay Shively, a doctor of veterinary medicine, started teaching applied anatomy at Texas A&M in 1978, he had no idea that his class notes would evolve into the most concise text available on basic and comparative anatomy.

"About three years ago, I finally decided that (my notes) looked good enough that I ought to polish them up and see if I could get them published," Shively said. "I took (the collection of notes) to A&M press at that time. They said it looked like it was publishable and salable material, so I began working on polishing it up."

Shively compiled a rough draft of his textbook, "The Anatomic Basis of Veterinary Practice," and used it in his class in 1983. Students from other schools also bought the book.

"I sold over 100 of (the books) to students at Ohio State University, and a few volumes to students at various other universities," Shively

said. "Some volumes went to Cornell, some went to California and a few went to Colorado State."

Shively has since revised his book and published "Basic, Comparative, and Clinical Veterinary Anatomy."

His book is the only text in existence that covers domestic mammals, birds and laboratory animals in one volume.

Veterinary students do not have assigned textbooks and "have had their backs to the wall in trying to find books, particularly for an applied anatomy course," Shively said.

Most of the books available cover only one species and contain more information than the student needs, Shively said. Such books cost about \$60 or \$70.

"You multiply this times five or six species we have to deal with in veterinary medicine and the student can easily spend \$500 or \$600, and be paying a lot for information that he really doesn't need," Shively said. "Some of the texts that cover all of the domestic animals in one volume are very poorly done. They contain a

lot of statements that are lies or half truths.

"I think there are 23 different chapters in this book. And, what I did, at various stages along the way, was get the chapters updated and send them out to different people to review. What this amounted to was a lot of internal review. The people that were doing the reviewing were radiologists, surgeons, internal medicine men and so forth."

Shively also asked for and received input about his book from veterinary students.

"I laid it out for them exactly what I wanted," Shively said. "I told them I wanted to know everything from typographical errors to things that are in (the book) that (they) don't think should be, or things that aren't in it that (they) think should be included and things that are in (the book) that they don't think are true based on their knowledge of this point."

"So I got a lot of that kind of feedback from the students all the way through. As a consequence, I think they have really helped me improve the quality of the total manuscript."

Shively's book is illustrated with more than 140 drawings done by Sharon Ashby. Ashby is a freelance medical illustrator, working in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Shively said.

"She used to work here in the department of veterinary anatomy as a graduate student," Shively said. "We worked quite closely with her; we had other people look at her illustrations and if something wasn't quite right, we'd modify it."

Shively's two books on veterinary anatomy have not been his only literary accomplishments. Since 1977 he has been the author of the "Tell Me Why" column in "Dog Fancy" magazine. He also has written two other articles for "Dog Fancy" and one for "Cat Fancy."

In addition, Shively has had 54 scientific publications and delivered a total of 26 presentations at national and international meetings.

Shively received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Purdue University in 1975. He also received a doctor of veterinary medicine and a master of science degree from Purdue.

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