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New Leadership for Board of Overseers

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Dr. Ina Drobrinski, assistant professor of reproduction, was invited to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada as the D.L.T. Smith Visiting Scientist in March. Dr. Drobrinski presented two lectures.

Dr. James Serpell, Marie A. Moore Associate Professor of Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare, received a grant from the Humane Society of United States to conduct a study of cultural factors influencing the problem of stray dogs in Taiwan. Dr. Serpell visited Taiwan with his post doctoral student, Dr. Yuying Hsu, in April to initiate the study. Dr. Serpell received a third and final year renewal of the Provost’s Grant for the series of interdisciplinary seminars on “Human Relations with Animals and the Natural World.”

Mr. Barry Stupine, associate dean for administration and director of VHUP, was elected vice president of the Abington, PA school board.

Dr. Ronald N. Harty, assistant professor of pathobiology, received a University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation grant for his project “Budding Domains within the VP40 Protein of Ebola Virus.” He also received an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant from the University’s Cancer Center.

Dr. Charles H. Vite, post doctoral fellow in neurology, received an NIH-sponsored KO8 grant to develop magnetic resonance techniques to study disease progression of neurodegenerative disorders and to quantify response to therapy of these disorders. The research is performed in collaboration with Drs. John Wolfe, Mark Haskins and Tom van Winkle at the School; Dr. David Wenger, Jefferson Medical Center; and Drs. Jerry Glickson, Robert Lenkinski and Joseph McGowan of Penn’s School of Medicine.

Dr. Susan Volk, V’95, an intern at VHUP, received her Ph.D. in pathology.

Dr. Gerhard Schad, professor of parasitology, was a guest of the James Baker Institute at Cornell University and presented a microbiology seminar. Dr. Schad presented two seminars at the McGill University Center for Tropical Disease and the Institute of Parasitology in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Schad was named as the teacher of “the best doctoral course taken at Penn” by Ph.D. graduates. Dr. James B. Lok, associate professor of parasitology, received the same honors.

Dr. Arthur Bickford, V’60, was installed as president of the Western Veterinary Conference in February. Dr. Bickford is professor of clinical diagnostic pathology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis, and associate director of the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Dr. Cynthia Bossart, V’78, and her top-winning rough collie, Ch. Glenhill Argent Quantum Leap, are featured in a Purina ad that appears in many dog magazines.

Dr. Lili Duda, V’90, lecturer in radiology, joined the editorial board of Penn’s OncoLink. She provides information for the veterinary cancer menu on the website. Access to it has doubled since Dr. Duda joined the board.

Dr. Heather Swann, V’93, lecturer in surgery, has passed the ACVS Diploma examination.

Dr. Ralph E. Werner, V’68, has been appointed assistant professor of physiology at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Dr. Werner sold his practice three years ago and began teaching at the college as an adjunct. He then was appointed a visiting professor and now holds a tenure-track position.

Dr. Meryl Littman, V’75, associate professor of medicine, presented a paper on “Wheaton Terrier PLE-PLN” at the ACVIM National Meeting in Chicago, IL in June.

Dr. Ralph Brister, V’60, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, received the George Hammel Cook Distinguished Alumni Award from Rutgers University.

Dr. Wilbur Amand, V’66, was awarded the 1999 Exotic DVM of the Year Award by the Exotic DVM Magazine at the First International Conference on Exotics held in May at Delray, FL.

Dr. Linda Mansfield, V’86, has been appointed associate professor of microbiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University.

New Leadership for Board of Overseers

The University’s Board of Trustees appointed Ms. Christine Connelly (left) chair of the School’s Board of Overseers to replace Mr. Bill Schawbel who stepped down from the board. Ms. Lynda Barness (right) was appointed vice-chair, a position held by Ms. Connelly. Ms. Connelly, a member of the board since the early 1980s, served as co-chair of the equine committee during the School’s Second Century Campaign and was instrumental in raising funds for the Companion Animal Committee. Ms. Barness is president of the Barness Organization, a real estate company in Warrington, PA. She serves on the board of directors of a number of organizations, among them: Homebuilders Association of Bucks/Montgomery Counties and Pennsylvanians for Effective Government. Ms. Barness is a member of the Finance Committee of Philadelphia 2000 and a member of the Trustees’ Council of Penn Women.