The Great Scrub at New Bolton Center

1. Take one building.
2. Remove entire contents. Scrub and disinfect all contents and all surfaces.
3. Rinse, repeat for each building, inside and out.
Campaign Update

The summer and early fall proved to be no vacation time for the Veterinary School’s $100-million fundraising campaign, Building New Levels of Excellence. “The outpouring of support for the School is incredible. Alumni, friends, grateful clients, and others continue to come forward with gifts of all sizes to help reach the campaign’s goals,” says Mark Stuart, assistant dean for development.

Since the last Bellwether, more than $6 million in new gifts and pledges were added to the campaign totals. “In my forty years at the Veterinary School, I have never seen so many people and organizations supporting our teaching, research, and healing missions,” reports Dean Alan M. Kelly.

“All campaign priorities have seen an increase in gifts and pledges,” notes Stuart. “We hope to soon finish the fundraising efforts for the Teaching and Research Building and other physical space projects to concentrate our efforts on those areas that have not received the lion’s share of gifts, notably scholarships, faculty professorships, and annual giving,” says Stuart.

The School’s focus remains on completing the Kresge Challenge announced in June. “We will continue to bring the campaign to cities across the country to engage more individuals in the work of the School,” says Dr. Kelly. Campaign event locations include Boston, southern California, southern Florida, Philadelphia, and Philadelphia’s Main Line communities. Dr. Kelly continues, “With $14 million to go, reaching our goal, which was once a dream, is now firmly within our reach.”

Recent major gifts include:

- $1,000,000 from the Estate of Frances Chaney Glover to establish an endowment for New Bolton Center’s Field Service program. The Field Service completes more than 19,000 visits each year to farms within a 35-mile radius of Kennett Square, Pa.
- $500,000 from two foundations to support the new Radiation Therapy and Imaging Suite at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital. The Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh contributed $350,000 and the Bernice Barbour Foundation of Hackensack, N.J. pledged $150,000 to the Hospital’s top clinical need. The Facility will place state-of-art diagnostic tools (MRI and nuclear scintigraphy) and cancer therapy (linear accelerator) under one roof.
- $380,000 from the Allerton Foundation to support the Teaching and Research Building. This gift brings the Foundation’s support to $1,000,000 and will name a laboratory dedicated to comparative medical genetics in the new Facility.
- $136,000 from the Anton and Judith Musladin Charitable Trust to support the Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society (CIAS). This gift will provide funding for the Center’s staff.
- $100,000 from Eric and Caroline Moran Hasbrouck in support of the Moran Challenge issued by Elizabeth R. Moran. More than $800,000 was raised by this Challenge to the equine community to support the construction of the Teaching and Research Building.
- $100,000 from Katherine A. Houpt, V’63 GR’72, to name a seminar room in the Teaching and Research Building. The space will be named in her honor and in memory of her late husband, Richard, C’48 V’50. Drs. Houpt, who married while at Penn, joined the faculty at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in the 1970s. She is the director of Cornell’s Animal Behavior Clinic.

An Unprecedented Challenge Requires An Unprecedented Response!

In June 2004, the Kresge Foundation offered $1.5 million for our new Teaching and Research Building if the School raises $13 million for any School need by October 1, 2005.

To date, we have already raised $4 million toward the Challenge. This challenge grant comes at a pivotal moment in the School’s $100-million fundraising campaign, Building New Levels of Excellence.

With your commitment, Penn will lead the veterinary profession into the twenty-first century in areas crucial to the health and well-being of us all.

How can you respond?

Use the enclosed envelope to make a gift to any School need: scholarships, building projects, Friends of the Ryan Hospital or New Bolton Center funds, faculty endowments, etc.

Give appreciated assets like stocks or mutual funds—may avoid capital gains altogether and no out-of-pocket expenses.

Make a multi-year pledge. All pledges count toward the Kresge goal.

Please don’t delay—the goal must be reached by October 1, 2005.

To Join the Challenge, contact:

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
3800 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047
(215) 898-1480

EXCELLENCE
NEW LEVELS OF TEACHING RESEARCH HEALING BUILDING

• $86 million raised

• $100 million goal
A Message from President Amy Gutmann

As a rider and a lover of horses, I am especially pleased to be president of a university that is home to one of the world's truly great schools of veterinary medicine. In my first months here, I have learned that the one of the things that distinguishes Penn worldwide is the nature and quality of its School of Veterinary Medicine. Not only is the School one of the world's leading institutions for teaching, research, and treatment of animals, but it is also an active partner in the University's biomedical/life sciences initiatives. The historic and ongoing collaboration of clinicians and researchers from the schools of Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Arts and Sciences, Nursing, and Dental Medicine offers promise of new medical advances for "all creatures great and small."

I recently visited New Bolton Center to present faculty and staff with a "Commitment to Excellence" award from the University for their Herculean efforts in reopening the facility after the outbreak of Salmonella earlier this year. New Bolton Center will once again set the standard for care and research—a standard that so many people in Pennsylvania and neighboring states have come to rely on. While I was there, I toured the facilities and marveled at the services offered by our veterinary faculty and staff. Like any visitor, I was impressed by the diagnostic and treatment capability that rivals any human hospital, as well as what I learned about Penn's services to the agricultural industry.

I am also struck by the services offered for companion animals at our wonderful Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital: a world-class emergency service and critical care center that never closes, kidney dialysis, and an Animal Blood-mobile, which is used in the largest voluntary canine blood donor program in the nation, to name just a few. Any veterinary school would be proud to offer just one of these services, but Penn offers these services and many more that result in lifesaving treatments for our pets.

One of the most exciting developments at the School of Veterinary Medicine is the construction of the new Teaching and Research Building. I look forward to the dedication of the new building in 2006, knowing that it will enable the School's faculty to have the kind of facilities warranted by the level of their work. It is amazing to think of what has been accomplished in the current spaces and wonderful to think of what more can be done with up-to-date spaces. How gratifying to know that the Kresge Foundation recognizes the importance of the new building and has offered a challenge grant to spur contributions toward its completion. As we all know, the building is a key component of the campaign, Building New Levels of Excellence, which will enable the School to lead the way in veterinary education.

We are grateful for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's magnificent support of the new building, as well as for the School's annual appropriation. I want you to know that I am committed to working with the governor and members of the General Assembly to maintain the School's appropriation in the years ahead. (And I am delighted that our governor, Ed Rendell, C'65 HON'00, has been a client of the Ryan Veterinary Hospital.)

As I begin to meet more Penn alumni—in Pennsylvania, across the nation, and around the world—I look forward to talking with graduates of the School of Veterinary Medicine. You are among those who have taken the University's mission of teaching, research, and service very much to heart. And in the years ahead, I will also meet a wide variety of people who have been clients of our two veterinary hospitals. I know that I will hear wonderful stories about the extraordinary care provided by our veterinarians.

I feel fortunate, indeed, to have this new association with the School of Veterinary Medicine and with all of you.

Bruce Rappoport

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

A Message from the Dean

We had two substantial events in the School this summer. The first, and most exhilarating, was the start of construction of our new Teaching and Research Building. Road realignment is largely completed and excavation started in August. As I write in September, we have a huge hole in the ground with pilings driven into the area outlining the perimeter of the building. The speed with which the construction firm is progressing is impressive, and I have every confidence that the building will be completed by August 2006. With this in mind, I felt bold enough to tell the incoming freshman class that I expect they will start using the new building in their junior year.

The other substantial event was the reopening of the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center. The multi-drug-resistant Salmonella Newport infection was the worst thing to happen to the Hospital in its 40-year history. But, as has been true from the inception of New Bolton Center, we are blessed with a remarkable group of faculty and staff. They rolled up their sleeves and set about cleaning the Hospital, turning the response into one in which we could take pride. In the end, what the staff and faculty accomplished became the most important aspect of the whole incident.

For roughly 85 days in the heat of the summer, the faculty and staff removed everything that could be moved from Hospital buildings, even the light fixtures. These were either discarded or cleaned and stored. They then donned protective gear and set about scrubbing and disinfecting the 18 buildings that comprise the Widener Hospital. They scrubbed everything from floor to ceiling, and they scrubbed the driveways around the buildings. The amount of work is staggering, and we are profoundly grateful and proud of all who participated in the process; it was a remarkable job and it saved the Hospital. A special tribute must go to Helen Aceto, V'97, and her biosecurity committee, Drs. Barb Dallap, Brett Dolente, V'96, Janet Johnston, and Kim Olson, and to Bruce Rappoport and Barry Haines. This group directed and facilitated the cleanup with just the right combination of humor and resolve.

We celebrated completion of the cleanup on August 27 with a lunch and special ceremony attended by University President Amy Gutmann. This was the first time our new president had visited New Bolton Center, and she enchanted everyone with her grace, informality, and enthusiasm. Dr. Gutmann was immensely impressed with what the faculty and staff had overcome and complimented everyone on their achievement. She also presented the Commitment to Excellence Award to New Bolton Center. This is a new University award designed to recognize exceptional service to the Institution. President Gutmann could not have chosen a better venue to introduce this award for it was so richly deserved, but she will have a hard time finding another group that emulates the standard of excellence set by the faculty and staff of New Bolton Center.

Alison M. Kelly

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine
9/11 Search-and-Rescue Dogs Exhibit Few Effects from Exposure to Disaster Sites

By Greg Lester

The search-and-rescue dogs deployed following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have not suffered either immediate or short-term effects from exposure to the disaster sites, researchers from Penn Veterinary Medicine report. The findings, presented in the September 15 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, should help relieve fears about the after-effects of working at the 9/11 sites.

For the last three years, researchers at the School tracked the health of dogs and handlers from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Fresh Kills Landfill site on Staten Island, where debris from the World Trade Center was further searched.

“Overall, the lack of clear adverse medical or behavioral effects among the 9/11 dogs is heartening, both for the animals and the human rescue workers,” said lead researcher Dr. Cynthia M. Otto, associate professor of critical care.

“Since dogs age more rapidly than humans, they can serve as sentinels for human disease. We are encouraged that we do not see significant increases in cancer and respiratory diseases.”

Researchers compared the dogs to a control group of search-and-rescue dogs that were trained similarly but not deployed.

Although there is no single registry of all dogs deployed to search the 9/11 sites, Penn researchers identified 212 deployed handlers, and 97 consented to participate.

Despite rumors of numerous deaths of 9/11 search-and-rescue dogs, only one was confirmed to have died during the search period. In addition, the study was able to demonstrate that the injuries and ill effects of the search itself were minor. After the first year of surveillance, of the 97 deployed dogs enrolled in the study, only one died. During the past three years, 15 deployed dogs have died, of which eight had cancer. Currently, neither the death rate nor the cancer rate is different from that of the control group.

“Given the mature age of these dogs and their expected lifespan, the few deaths that did occur were not statistically significant,” Otto said. “We can say that these findings preclude illness later in life, but it is clear that we don’t see any trends in the current physical or behavioral well-being of these dogs that would be cause for alarm.”

Initially, blood tests showed that the deployed dogs exhibited higher bilirubin concentration and alkaline phosphatase activity, which indicate that their livers were actively filtering toxins from their bloodstream. The serum globulins were also higher in the first year in deployed dogs, suggesting activation of the immune system. As the study progressed, however, these numbers came down to close to those of the dogs in the control group.

“Early on, it was clear that these dogs were dealing with some stress from toxins. Although we don’t currently have evidence of adverse effects, continued surveillance is still warranted,” Otto said.

Since there was a concern about airborne pollutants, such as asbestos, Otto and her colleagues also examined x-rays taken of the dogs.

The examinations showed no apparent lung abnormalities. While it usually takes humans at least 20 years to develop mesothelioma after asbestos exposure, the shorter lifespan of dogs often means a relatively shorter latency period for developing cancer.

To assess the psychological well-being of the dogs, their handlers completed questionnaires that focused on behavioral disorders, such as aggression or fearfulness, which may have arisen since 9/11. Here also, the deployed dogs seemed similar to those of the control group. An ongoing study led by Melissa Hunt of the Department of Psychology is looking at the long-term psychological consequences for the human handlers.

“Since this is the first major study on search-and-rescue dogs and their handlers, we hope this data can be used to establish a baseline for future studies,” Otto said. “Not only will it help ensure the health and safety of search-and-rescue dogs, but it will also help anticipate human disease as well.”

Support for the study came from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, the American Kennel Club, Ralston Purina Co., the Veterinary Pet Insurance Co., and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. The study also includes researchers at Michigan State University and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation and AKC Companion Animal Recovery have approved a new two-year grant, effective January 1, 2005, that will allow Dr. Otto to continue to study the health of dogs deployed on 9/11.

Pennsylvania Farm Show

The nation’s largest farm show is held in Pennsylvania. It will be held January 8 to 15, 2005 in the State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The School will have a booth in the exhibition area and also will offer programs in the Family Living Area in the complex. The dates and topics are:

January 11, 3:00 p.m. Public Health Issues Related to Domestic Pets, Dr. Gary Smith
January 12, 6:00 p.m. Biosecurity at the Farm Level, Dr. Robert Munson
January 13, 1:00 p.m. Biting the Hand That Feeds: Understanding Canine Aggression to Owners, Dr. Ilana Reiser
January 14, 4:00 p.m. The Salmonella Situation, Cleanup, and Biosecurity at New Bolton Center, Dr. Helen Aceto
January 15, 12:00 p.m. Salmonella and Food Safety, Dr. Eric Gingerich

Symposium for Dog Breeders

The School will host an all-day Breeders Symposium on campus sponsored by the American Kennel Club and the AKC Canine Health Foundation on January 29, 2005. Topics covered include the “ABC’s of Breeding,” presented in the keynote address by Claudia Orlandi, Ph.D. Penn faculty will speak about reproduction, genetics of cancer, inherited cardiac diseases, feeding dogs for health and longevity, and vaccination protocols.

Reservations and registrations for the event will be handled by the Canine Health Foundation. The complete program, cost, and other information will be on its website shortly at <www.akcchf.org>.
Class of 2008 Profile

The Class of 2008 arrived on campus for orientation at the end of August. Eighty-seven women and 21 men, ranging in age from 21 to 48 years, with a mean GPA of 3.54, are already hard at work, coping with the heavy coursework. The majority of the students, 64 percent, are from Pennsylvania, the balance are from New Jersey (8), Massachusetts (7), New York (5), Connecticut, Illinois and Virginia (3 each), international (2, Bermuda and Japan), and one each from Colorado, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, and Oregon. The School received 1,217 applications and made offers to 154 applicants.

The majority of the students’ undergraduate degrees is a BS (64); a BA was earned by 43 and BFA by one. Five students have an MS, two an MA, and one an MLAS. Eight students received their undergraduate degrees from Penn and Cornell. In all, 62 undergraduate schools are represented in this class with 35.2 percent of the students having attended top-tier (most competitive) schools, 24.1 percent second-tier (highly competitive) schools, and 21.3 percent third-tier (very competitive) schools.

You Can Go Home Again: Dr. Gus Aguirre Returns to Penn

By Susan I. Finkelstein

A couple of unpacked cardboard boxes placed neatly atop a filing cabinet are the only indication that Gustavo Aguirre, ’68, GR’75, professor of medical genetics and ophthalmology, returned to the Ryan Hospital just this July, after a 12-year stint at Cornell. Other than the boxes, the second-floor office appears never to have been inhabited by anyone else: framed covers of journals featuring Dr. Aguirre’s work adorn the walls, as do as artistic renderings of eyes in various abstract states, a needlepoint wall-hanging of dog faces, and other assorted pieces. One of the country’s foremost veterinary ophthalmological and gene-therapy researchers, Dr. Aguirre—earning his V.M.D. and Ph.D. at Penn, and serving on the faculty here for over 20 years—has truly come home.

Dr. Aguirre’s research focuses on inherited diseases of the eye, especially degeneration of the retina in dogs, humans, and other mammals. In 2001, he, his colleagues at Cornell’s James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, and researchers at Penn were the first to restore the retina in dogs, humans, and other mammals. In 2001, he, his colleagues at Cornell’s James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, and researchers at Penn were the first to restore vision in blind dogs using gene therapy:

“Lancelot,” a four-year-old briard mix blind since birth, was the first creature ever to recover sight thanks to this revolutionary work, which also holds promise for curing a similar disease in children, Leber congenital amaurosis. In gratitude, Lancelot has appeared before Congress with the Aguirre team for their testimony on the importance of increased funding for eye research to advance gene therapy—certainly an unusual lobbyist!

In the experiments involving Lancelot and three of his littermates, Dr. Aguirre and his colleagues injected a virus carrying a healthy copy of the defective gene into a part of the retina containing light-sensing cells. The virus “infected” those cells, releasing the normal gene material. Within three to four weeks, cells with the healthy copy began to produce vitamin A that, together with opsin, formed the visual pigment rhodopsin, eventually allowed the dogs to see for the first time in their lives. Work, however, remains to be done in developing and testing gene therapy applications in dogs with other congenital disorders—and, more importantly, in people. “Regardless of how successful the treatment has been for dogs, it is essential that more studies are carried out to establish the long-term safety and efficacy of gene therapy for human patients,” Dr. Aguirre notes.

Currently, Dr. Aguirre is involved in research regarding a hereditary, blinding disorder of the retina called progressive retinal atrophy, or PRA as it is commonly known. This disease was first recognized in Gordon setters in Europe in the early twentieth century, but PRA has since been identified in many breeds. In human families, the diseases equivalent to PRA in dogs are termed retinitis pigmentosa.

Siberian huskies and Samoyeds have a unique type of PRA called X-linked PRA, since it is transmitted through the X chromosome of the mother. X-linked PRA is the “most common severe, inherited disease of the retina,” says Dr. Aguirre, who has identified the genetic defect that causes the disease. The test that detects the mutation will allow breeders of huskies and Samoyeds—and eventually other breeds as well—to prevent X-linked PRA in their lines by recognizing the carrier females. Significantly, since dogs and people share such similar genetic makeups, the research has the potential to identify the causes of some cases of X-linked blindness in humans.

Given the growing attention garnered by gene therapy and the entirely new methods of treating disease it is generating, the return of Gus Aguirre to Penn has been quite a coup for the School. And the benefits are mutual: “It was great coming back to Philadelphia; my family still lives in the area,” says Dr. Aguirre—in fact, one of his sons, Dr. Geoffrey Aguirre, GR’98, M’00, is an assistant professor in the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at Penn Medicine. The two Aguirres are collaborating on a project studying the brains of dogs before and after gene therapy restored their vision.

Now, if only those last parts for Dr. Aguirre’s fluorescent microscope would arrive…. 

Promotions and appointments

Effective July 1, a number of faculty members were promoted:

Dr. Charles H. Vite to assistant professor of neuroscience; Dr. Anna S. Kashina to assistant professor of biochemistry; Dr. Amy Kapatkin to associate professor of surgery; Dr. Karen L. Rosenthal to assistant professor of special species medicine and surgery; Dr. Gabriela S. Seiler to assistant professor of radiology; Chick Weisse, V’98, to assistant professor of surgery; Dr. Wilfried Mai to assistant professor of radiology; Dr. András Komaromy to assistant professor of ophthalmology; Drs. Danian Gu, Petra Werner, and Barbara Zangerl to research assistant professors of medical genetics; and Dr. Robert Poppenga to professor of toxicology.
Oncology: It’s Not Just for People Anymore

By Susan I. Finkelstein

Cancer. The Big “C.” The very name invariably conjures fear. According to recent statistics, one of every three Americans will face a diagnosis of cancer. But what many people don’t know is that pets get cancer, too—and in ever-greater numbers. Like people, more companion animals are living longer due to better quality of life, preventive medical care, and vaccinations—and longer life translates into an increased risk of developing cancer. Over 10 percent of dogs and slightly fewer cats develop the disease each year, roughly the same rate as humans. Half of veterinary patients over 10 years of age will get cancer, and about one-quarter will die from it.

Enter the Oncology Service at the Ryan Hospital, dedicated to providing compassionate, efficient, state-of-the-art care to dogs and cats with cancer. Board-certified veterinary and radiation oncologists, residents in training for certification, and oncology nurses all are part of the Ryan team, which handled an estimated 2,800 patient visits last year. Standard cancer treatments similar to those used in people (chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery) may prolong survival and provide an excellent quality of life in many dogs and cats with cancer. Unlike with people, though, the goal of treating cancer in companion animals is not necessarily eradicating the tumors, but improving the animal’s overall comfort level.

Up Close and Personal

Pat Thatcher, associate director of Penn’s Office of Learning Resources, recently had a very personal experience with the Oncology Service: Archie the cat, her wise and devoted companion of 10 years, was diagnosed with lymphoma after two months of intermittent severe vomiting and diarrhea. After much discussion with Oncology clinicians, Pat decided to pursue an aggressive course of chemotherapy. Archie and Pat were both in the “stubborn fighter” category, and Beth Overley, V’00, lecturer in oncology, and Jen Baez, V’92, assistant professor of oncology, felt that chemotherapy could conservatively extend Archie’s life and increase his quality of life for six to nine months, possibly a year. Nineteen months later—a period that included a remission in which he did not require intravenous chemotherapy—Archie’s previously low-grade heart murmur seemed to worsen, and ultimately heart problems caused his death. He was in a treatment hiatus when he died, and technically still in a form of cancer remission.

“The entire Oncology staff, including all the interns who helped us throughout Archie’s 19-month chemotherapy saga, were wonderful,” recalls Pat. “In addition to excellent veterinary clinical training and practice, they had profound ‘people sense’ and were compassionate and responsive. . . . I have to say that the whole department had an infectious, positive attitude. Archie and I both took on their positive approach, and neither of us second-guessed or regretted our association with Oncology and chemo, even when the going got very tough.”

In February 2003, together with four others, Pat founded the Pets with Cancer Lifeline, a support system for people whose pets are being treated at the Ryan Hospital’s Oncology Service. On its website, <www.dogdoggiedog.com/PetswithCancer.htm>, the grassroots group describes itself as a “network to provide information and support to the families of the newest Oncology patients who have practical questions about pets living with cancer, or simply want to talk with someone whose pet has received a similar diagnosis.” Along with stories and photos of pets who fought cancer—and beat or succumbed to it—are names and email addresses for those wishing to contact one of the cofounders. “We can tell you that our pets have done well in treatment, with excellent quality of life and minimal side effects. We know that Ryan’s Oncology Service provides exceptional treatment. . . . We know they truly care about each and every patient.”

As Archie’s case suggests, some animals may need more aggressive treatment than the standard chemotherapy, surgery, or traditional radiation allows. Penn’s radiation equipment, now almost 40 years old, is no longer the most effective or humane cancer-treating technology available. As a result, each year the Hospital is forced to turn away or refer hundreds of cancer patients elsewhere due to lack of appropriate equipment. To ameliorate the situation, the School has launched a fundraising campaign to convert its 8,000-square-foot parking garage into a comprehensive Radiation Therapy and Imaging Facility that will house a linear accelerator (high-energy radiation), an MRI suite, and nuclear scintigraphy (bone scan) equipment—making the School the major academic referral center in the eastern United States for diagnostic imaging and treatment of companion animals.

The Research

Healing, though, is only one part of Oncology at Penn Veterinary Medicine; information gleaned from clinical research with veterinary patients provides valuable knowledge that can improve the understanding and treatment of both human and animal cancers. Because many of these trials are funded by grants, pet owners often are not charged or pay just a part of the cost of the animal’s participation.

“Clinical trials involving companion animals are often the stepping stone to clinical trials in humans,” notes Dr. Baez. The Oncology Service currently is involved in many clinical trials, a partial list of which appears below.

Feline cancer cachexia: The goal of this study is to determine the incidence of cachexia (weight loss, wasting of muscle, and general debility) among cats presented to the Oncology Service at the Ryan Hospital and to compare
the incidence of cachexia in the cats with and without tumors that are being treated here.

**Canine hemangiosarcoma:** Clinicians are examining the efficacy and toxicity of the chemotherapy drug Doxil following surgery on dogs with hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive malignancy of blood vessels and the lining of blood-filled spaces, most commonly the spleen.

**Feline mammary tumor:** This study evaluates the role that reproductive/hormonal status plays in the incidence of breast cancer in female cats. In human and dog breast cancers, studies show that reproductive/hormonal status is important in the prognosis, prevention, and treatment of disease. In dogs, a study similar showed an increased risk of breast cancer correlated with the age at which a dog was spayed. A more recent study also showed that dogs spayed around the time of diagnosis of mammary cancer enjoyed potentially improved survival rates as well.

**Canine melanoma:** This study aims to determine if the addition of chemotherapy to the treatment of dogs with early-stage oral melanoma (skin cancer) will improve survival rates. Previous studies have evaluated treatments of the primary tumor but have not addressed treatment and prevention of microscopic secondary tumors. Even with excellent local treatment and no evidence of the spread of cancer at diagnosis, most diagnosed dogs (70–85%) still die from melanoma. (Preliminary results of this study indicated a positive difference in overall survival.)

**Magnetic resonance imaging of canine splenic and liver lesions:** The effectiveness of MRI of the human spleen has been little studied due to the relative rarity of human splenic lesions. In dogs, however, splenic lesions are relatively common. Unfortunately, ultrasound, the cross-sectional imaging modality most readily available to veterinarians, cannot reliably differentiate benign from malignant splenic and liver lesions. In this prospective study, Oncology staff will perform MRI examinations on dogs with splenic and liver lesions that have been scheduled for surgery or biopsies. They seek to determine the MRI characteristics of these lesions and to correlate MRI findings with pathologic examination of the spleen, to better define the effectiveness of MRI in determining the nature of splenic and/or liver lesions in both dogs and people. This study is funded via grants from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Radiology) and Ryan Clinical Research.

**Canine lymphoma study:** In human medicine, it is well known that lymphoma is not a solitary disease but a variety of disease, each involving cancer of lymph cells. Treatment and outcome are different according to sub-type. It is also known that treatment of lymphoma with chemotherapy can effectively wipe out parts of the immune system for prolonged periods, which can affect a patient’s ability to fight off infections and other cancers. This study will better characterize the sub-types of malignant lymph cells by flow cytometry and correlate the results with standard classification schemes and treatment outcome to establish new prognostic markers in this disease. Flow cytometry is also being used to characterize the circulating normal lymph cells to elucidate the role of the patients’ immune system in maintaining remission. Thus, results will help us further understand and eventually better treat this important and relatively common canine cancer.

**Evaluation of the cancer-prevention effects of non-steroidal drug use in dogs:** Results from human studies show that chronic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) may prevent or slow development of various types of cancer. This preliminary study examines the chemopreventive effect of NSAID use in dogs, and early results indicate that NSAID use may be associated with decreased cancer risk in dogs.

**Feline large granular lymphoma study:** Large granular lymphoma (LGL) is a rare variant of feline lymphoma. This study aims to characterize clinical findings for cats diagnosed with LGL. Results to date show that feline LGL does not respond well to traditional surgical or medical treatment, with survival times of only 45 days. Future studies include evaluation of additional cases, determination of more effective treatments, and molecular characterization of feline LGL cell types.

**Treatment for canine malignant histiocytosis:** Canine malignant histiocytosis disseminate histiocytic sarcoma is a rare canine cancer with a grave prognosis. No effect treatment is known. A preliminary study determined that approximately 50 percent of diagnosed dogs respond to the chemotherapeutic agent lomustine. Current studies are under way to evaluate molecular mechanisms of drug resistance in tumors that do not respond to treatment.

These projects vary in scope and size and affect both animals and humans. The ultimate goal that underlies each study is finding out more about cancer—and ultimately about seeking its cure. In the meantime, while providing care to thousands of pets with cancer, the Ryan Oncology team continues to add to the body of knowledge that enhances our ability to control this disease, evidence once again that physicians and veterinarians are truly practicing “One Medicine” at Penn.

*Editor's note: For more information, visit Oncolink, the Internet’s first cancer resource, sponsored by Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center, at <www.oncolink.upenn.edu>.*

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**Annual SCAVMA Auction**

The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMa) will be holding its annual auction on Friday, December 3, 2004, in the E. R. Maroookian, V.M.D. Auditorium at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Come, bid, and go home with new and impressive items, ranging from home decorations to exciting vacations. The event begins with a silent auction at 3:00 p.m., followed by a live auction at 5:00 p.m. SCAVMa will also be selling Penn Veterinary Medicine merchandise while other student clubs will provide food and drinks.

Everyone is invited to support the auction! The SCAVMa auction is a popular event for the entire School community and benefits current students. Proceeds from the silent auction defray the cost of student travel to the annual National Student AVMA Symposium. In addition, the live auction proceeds help fund SCAVMa events and the SCAVMa Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships totaling $5,000 to students based on their service to the School, academic standing, and financial need.

The mission of SCAVMa is to increase the quality of veterinary student life through educational, social, and cultural extracurricular activities. Please help support this important mission. For more information on the auction or to donate auction items, contact Shannon Omlor, V’07, Auction Co-Chairperson, via email at somlor@vet.upenn.edu.
The Veterinary School’s teaching awards were presented during the Veterinary Medical Student Government Teaching Award Ceremony and Reception on April 27 at Houston Hall.

**Dean Alan M. Kelly** presented the Dean’s Award for Leadership in the Basic Sciences to **Thomas J. Van Winkle, V’75**, professor of pathology; and the Dean’s Award for Leadership in Clinical Science to **Dr. Kathryn Michel**, assistant professor of medicine.

The two Dean’s Awards honor one faculty member from the clinical departments and one from the basic science departments who have made outstanding contributions to teaching their disciplines.

**Dr. Robert Gilley** was presented the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. The Norden Award was established in 1963 “to recognize outstanding teachers who, through their ability, dedication, character, and leadership, contribute significantly to the advancement of the profession.”

The four classes honored the faculty members they considered to be outstanding teachers. The Class of 2004 presented awards to **Dr. Dean Richardson**, professor of surgery, and **Dr. Robert Gilley**, assistant professor of surgery. The Class of 2005 honored **Patricia Sertich, V’83**, associate professor of reproduction. **Dr. Amy Kapatkin**, associate professor of surgery, received the Class of 2006 Award. The Class of 2007 presented its award to **Mark Donaldson, V’93**, assistant professor in equine field service.

The Senior Class Residents Awards were presented to **Dr. Philipp Mayhew** (Ryan) and **Dr. Kathryn Worman** (Widener). Senior Class Interns Awards were presented to **Nate Harvey, V’03** (Widener) and **Dr. Todd Bishop** (Ryan). The Class honored veterinary technicians **Claire Richardson** (Ryan) and **Emily Zug** (Widener).

Other awards presented were: the Interns Award to **Dr. Stephen Mehler** (Ryan); the Resident’s Award to **Dr. Karen Rosenthal** (Ryan); the Jules and Lucy Silver Award to **Dr. Daniel Hume** (Ryan); the Boucher Award to **Amy Bentz, V’97** (Widener); the Harcum College Technician Award to **Eileen Rule** (Widener) and **Donna Sisak** (Ryan); the Gretchen Swartz Award to **Jennifer Wrigley** (Widener) and **Emily Zug** (Widener); Senior Student Patient Awards to **Simon Alexander, V’04**, **Elizabeth Appleman, V’04**, and **Oliver Morgan, V’04**; the Veterinary Medical Student Government Commendation Awards to **Sarah Whelan**, **Bobbie Jo Fettner**, and **Christen Wink**.

**New Diplomates**

A number of clinicians attained diplomate status in the American College of Internal Veterinary Medicine: **Jennifer Baez, V’92**, assistant professor in oncology, and **Beth Overley, V’00**, lecturer in oncology, in the specialty of oncology; and **Dr. Reid Groman**, staff veterinarian, in internal medicine.

**Dr. Hannah Galatino-Homer**, post-doctoral fellow, is now a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists; **Dr. Laurie Sorrell-Raschi**, lecturer in critical care–anesthesia, is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists.
Wildlife Pets

Trade in wildlife pets, helped by the Internet, has become a multi-million-dollar illegal business. It is reported that 352,000 species are traded. No federal laws prohibit ownership of exotic pets, although regulations are in place for animal wholesalers and retailers, transportation companies, and animal exhibitors. Thirteen states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming—prohibit keeping dangerous wildlife as pets. The definition of “dangerous” varies from state to state. In some states, it includes nonhuman primates, large carnivores, and venomous reptiles. In others, it may mean only large felids. A federal act restricts the importation and transportation of wildlife deemed injurious to humans, agriculture, horticulture, or forestry. Some of the “injurious” species are flying fox, meerkat, mongoose, raccoon dog, or brown tree snake. There also are restrictions on primates, turtles under four inches long, bats, civets, some Asian birds, and tenrecs (which can transmit foot-and-mouth disease).

An important consideration is the possibility of disease that might be transmitted to humans, other pets, or agricultural animals by a bite or contact. People owning nontraditional pets are often unable to meet the animal’s nutritional, housing, social, and behavioral need. Many captive wild animal pets are abandoned when they mature and become harder to manage. Accidentally released pets may thrive and cause damage to native wildlife.

Animal Welfare

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has adopted a position statement on tail docking of cattle. “The AVMA opposes routine tail docking of cattle. Current scientific literature indicates that routine tail docking provides no benefit to the animal and that tail docking can lead to distress during fly seasons. When medically necessary, amputation of tails must be done by licensed veterinarians.”

The AVMA also supports the concept of early (prepubertal, eight to 10 weeks of age) spay/neuter in dogs and cats in an effort to reduce the number of unwanted animals of these species. Veterinarians should use their best medical judgment on deciding at what age spay/neuter should be performed on individual animals.

AVMA is opposed to the removal or reduction of canine teeth in non-human primates or exotic and wild carnivores except when required for medical treatment or approved scientific research. To minimize bite wounds, recommended alternatives to dental surgery include behavioral modification, environmental enrichment, and changes in group composition.

Breed Popularity

A study to determine whether winning best in show at the annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is associated with a subsequent increase in popularity was published recently in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The study used numbers of purebred puppies registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC). The results did not support the view that there is a surge in popularity of winning breeds. It is suggested however, that in the future, high-profile televised dog shows may have a significant influence on breed popularity.

In a few instances, booms in registrations of certain breeds have been linked to media exposure such as occurred following the 1996 movie 101 Dalmatians, when registrations of dalmatians increased from 6,800 to 42,816. This popularity was short-lived—registrations decreased to 1,112 in 2003.

Only purebred dogs registered with the AKC may compete at their championship shows. At the present time, there are 153 AKC-registered breeds, with more being added as they become established in this country.

Many mixed-breed dogs may be wonderful pets. One that is increasingly popular is the labradoodle. It was developed in Australia and is said to combine the non-shedding, allergy-friendly coat and high IQ of the poodle with the gentle, eager-to-please temperament of the Labrador retriever. These dogs have become a very expensive fad and one can only hope that people will not tire of the dogs and give them up to a shelter. There is no established standard. It is conceivable that these dogs may become an officially recognized breed, but this will take many years.

The advantage of having a purebred dog is that it has a history and breed standard. One can do research before purchasing to determine which is the right breed. A breed may be energetic, sedate, extroverted, or prefer the fellowship of one or two familiar faces. Unfortunately, many people purchase a puppy on impulse, without considering eventual size, appearance, and personality.

Eadweard Muybridge

Eadweard Muybridge, born Edward James Muggeridge in 1830, in England, has been called the father of motion pictures. In 1878, using 12 tripwired cameras, he produced pictures showing that all four feet of a galloping horse may be off the ground at once. Leland Stanford, the railroad tycoon, owned the horse and track in Palo Alto, California. It is said that this was done to settle a $25,000 wager Stanford had made.

In 1879 Muybridge invented the “zooopraxiscope,” which projected sequential stop-action photographs onto a screen, creating an illusion of movement. He toured with the device in England and France, returning to the United States in 1883. He pursued his motion studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His studio was set up at the Veterinary School at 36th and Pine Streets.

The courtyard was the venue where humans and some of the animals were photographed. A tall board fence was erected for privacy. His subjects were humans, nude or draped. They were depicted in many activities—walking, running, horseback riding, etc. Athletes were depicted playing baseball and cricket and more. Artisans were shown shoeing a horse, farming, and laying bricks. Birds and animals were photographed at the Philadelphia Zoo. It was discovered that a pigeon flaps its wings 600 times in a minute.

These photographs were published in an 1887 work, Animal Locomotion, 100,000 photographs in 11 volumes. His book, The Human Figure in Motion, was published in 1901. The photographs opened the eyes of artists and scientists to the mechanics of movement.
Students and their families assembled at the Zellerbach Theatre of the Annenberg Center on May 17 for the 119th Commencement Exercises of the School.

With the Class of 2004, Penn has graduated 6,053 veterinarians, 1,987 women and 4,066 men. The Class of 2004 numbered 109 and is composed of 78 women and 31 men.

Dean Alan M. Kelly welcomed everyone and introduced the commencement speaker, Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou, associate director for science and policy, Office of Global Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the presentation of diplomas and the hooding, Dr. Kelly was assisted by Dr. Robert S. Gilley, Jr., Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Awardee; Dr. Kathryn E. Michel, Dean’s Awardee for Leadership in Clinical Science Education; and Associate Dean Jeffrey A. Wortman, V’69.

Class President Karen O’Connor presented comments and received the Class Flag from James V. Stewart, V’68, president of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society. Dr. Kelly then awarded the prizes to graduates. In this he was assisted by Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Lindback Distinguished Teacher Awardee. The Veterinarian’s Oath was administered by Michael R. Moyer, V’90, president of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.
Class of 2004

Simon John Alexander
Donna Yuako Almondia
Ellen Rachael Angstadt
Michael Joseph Anthony
Elizabeth Helene Appleman**
Aylin Atilla
Kara Ann Ballek
Mandy Marie Becker***
Allison Paige Billings
Stacia Anne Gibbons Boswell
Raúl Casas-Dolz
Adriane Cavanna***
Jennifer Helene Chachkes
Dora Louise Connelly**
Gabrielle Hansen Consolino
William Thomas Noble Culp
Dominic Mathew Dallago
Angela Johanna Davies
Daphne Alyson Downs
Patrick Thomas Dubbs
Meagan Colleen Duffy
Lori Ann Duggan
Christopher Peter Dykhhouse
Jessica Ivanne Dymun
Joshua Seth Eaton**
Holly Marie Edwards
Paul Gary Ersie
Daniel Eisenberg
Lauren Jane Entes
Katherine Stanford Gardner
Alfredo J. Geigel-Ortiz
Scott Dennis Gellman
Timothy Alexander Georoff*
Angelica Alexander Gerovasiliou
Mathieu Maniet Glassman
Stephen Mitchell Godin
Marie Haddock
Siobhan Marissa Haney
Kristen Burger Hart
Cailin Rachel Heinze***
Kathy Joe Heym
Craig Liam Hopkins
Carrie Ann Horton**
Laura Helen Javsicas**
Jennifer Anne Kaee***
Jill Ann Kalman
David Brian Kersten
Jeremy Harrison Knoebel
Michael William Koch
Kimberly Jean Kovath
Kelly Jennifer Krell
Ann Marisa Kroken***
Robert Matthew Kuhar
Mary Louisa Landis
Bjorn Armitage Lees
Christopher Telemachus Lesbies
Jinny Ann Lin
Lisa Lipitz**
Jessica Hannah Luftman
Courtney Sachiko Maeda
Megan Julia Manfredi***
Robert Louis Mankowski
Elizabeth Marie Marshall
Eric Jonathan Matkowski
Melissa Miele
Oliver David Eversfield Morgan*
Freya Lauren Moskowitz
Linda Ann Nelson
Cynthia Katherine Nigrini
James Norwell Nutt IV
Karen Ann O’Connor
Sara Beth Organist
Vivian Miyako Orita
Nancy Miyoung Park
Jocelyn Patterson
Amy Marie Pavlock
Rachel Elizabeth Pearson*
Regina Erin Pellegrin*
Amy Elizabeth Poulin
Anne Elizabeth De Boeck Prickett
Laurie Gail Prober
Christa Maureen Regan***
Rosemary Lee Riley
Lynne Ann Robbins
Kelli Nicole Russell**
Sara Jane Ryan
Michael Baldwin Schindler
Alene Beth Schneiderman*
Jenna Kirby Schoell
Wendy Suzanne Schotland
Rebecca Ingles Schrader
Jennifer Diane Seybold
James Thorpe Shissler
Michelle Kim Singer
Lori Michelle Sircus-Parker
Abigail Gray Smith*
Courtney Petit Snelham
Christine Spodnick
Sarah K. Sprague
Bridget Margaret Stewart
Lynne Alexandra Stine
Tara Anne Strawderman
Aarthi Subram
Christina Elizabeth Valiant
Kathryn Rose Vickery
Kevin Michael Wellejus
Erin Anne Wright*
Emily Grace Yau
Steven Thomas Zedler
*** Summa Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
* Cum Laude

Award Recipients

Leonard Pearson Prize
Alyln Atilla

J. B. Lippincott Prize
Mandy Marie Becker

1930 Class Prize in Surgery
Jennifer Anne Kaee

Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association Prize
Rachel Elizabeth Pearson

Faculty/Student Chapter, AVMA Prize
Joshua Seth Eaton

American Animal Hospital Association Award
Megan Julia Manfredi

American Association of Feline Practitioners Award
Alene Beth Schneiderman

American College of Veterinary Radiology Award
Oliver David Eversfield Morgan

American College of Veterinary Surgeons Prizes
Small Animal Surgery Prize
William Thomas Noble Culp
Large Animal Surgery Prize
Raúl Casas-Dolz

Everingham Prize for Cardiology
Dora Louise Connelly

Field Service Prize
Ann Marisa Kroken

The Peter Francis Anatomy Award
Mandy Marie Becker

Hill’s Award
Elizabeth Helene Appleman

James Hazlitt Jones Prize in Biochemistry
Lisa Lipitz

Large Animal Medicine Prize
Ellen Rachael Angstadt

Large Animal Surgery Prize
Steven Thomas Zedler

Merck Awards
Small Animal Award
Adriane Cavanna
Large Animal Award
Laura Helen Javsicas

1956 Class Medal for Achievement in Pathology
Carrie Ann Horton

George M. Palmer Prize
Marie Haddock

Pfizer Animal Health Small Animal Clinical Proficiency Award
Kelli Nicole Russell

Charles F. Reid Sports Medicine and Imaging Award
Amy Elizabeth Poulin

Lynn Sammons Food Animal Award
Courtney Petit Snelham

VECCS Award for Proficiency in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Medicine
Bridget Margaret Stewart

Morris L. Ziskind Prize in Food Animal Medicine
James Thorpe Shissler

Morris L. Ziskind Prize in Public Health
Tara Anne Strawderman
Gustavo Aguirre, V’68, professor of ophthalmology, is the co-recipient of the 2004 Paul Kayser International Award in Retina Research. The award is given biennially to one or more vision scientists who have made a significant contribution to knowledge of the retina or retinal disease. The award was presented during the International Society for Eye Research meeting held in late August in Sydney, Australia, where Dr. Aguirre delivered the Paul Kayser Award Lecture. Dr. Aguirre also presented lectures at the Distinguished Lecture Series, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland.

Dr. Urs Giger, professor of medical genetics, was the first keynote speaker at the inauguration of the Japanese College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Tokyo in August 2004. The college will be structured similar to its American and European counterparts.

Jessica Caverly Rae, V’96, postdoctoral fellow in medical genetics, received a three-year NIH award to study feline I-cell disease, a unique lysosomal storage disorder.

Dr. Manuel Boller, resident in emergency and critical care medicine, and Dr. Deborah Silverstein, adjunct assistant professor of critical care, received a grant from the Waltham Foundation (UK) to determine “Arginine vasopressin plasma levels in dogs with naturally occurring heart failure.” At the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium, held in September in San Diego, Dr. Boller received the Small Animal Case Report Award for his presentation, “An unusual case of abdominal distension in a cat.”

Dr. Alex Reiter, assistant professor of dentistry, is now a Dr. med. vet. In June he defended his thesis, “The Role of Calcitropic Hormones in Cats with Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions (FORL),” at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Vienna, Austria. In July he presented four lectures and a wet lab in dentistry and oral surgery at the 141st AVMA Annual Convention in Philadelphia. Dr. Reiter published a guest editorial on the etiology of tooth resorption in cats in the August issue of Advances in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery.

John R. Lewis, V’97, lecturer in dentistry, received a grant from Nestlé Purina to study the microstructure of FORL using a new technology, laser-scanning confocal microscopy, FORL is a painful condition seen in 50% of the cats that come through the Dental Service. Drs. Alex Reiter and Colin Harvey will be co-investigators.

Dr. Charles Vite, assistant professor of neurology, was appointed editor of the on-line textbook Clinical Neurology in Small Animals—Localization, Diagnosis, and Treatment, sponsored by the International Veterinary Information Service.

Dr. Vite spoke at the NIH-sponsored meeting “Lysosomal diseases and the brain” in Bethesda, Md. in May.

Dr. Gary Althouse, associate professor of swine health and production management, presented an invited talk, “Common errors associated with spermiogram analyses,” at the 4th Biannual Meeting of the Association for Applied Animal Andrology, in August in Porto Seguro, Brazil.

Dr. Bernd Driessen, associate professor of anesthesia, with colleagues from Penn and UC Davis, presented abstracts at several meetings at the ASIP Meeting in Experimental Biology 2004 in Washington in April; at the 27th Annual Shock Society Meeting in Nova Scotia in June; at 23rd European Conference on Microcirculation, in Lisbon, Portugal in September; and at the fall meeting of the Association of Veterinary Anesthetists in Vienna, Austria in September.

Dr. Andras Komaromy, assistant professor of ophthalmology, surgically placed the first cyclosporine A implant in the eye of a horse in June. This is a new and promising treatment for horses with equine recurrent uveitis (ERU, or moon blindness). ERU is the most common cause for blindness in horses. The surgery was successfully performed as part of a clinical trial in collaboration with Dr. Brian Gilger at the North Carolina State University. Because of the closure of the Widener Hospital, the surgery was done at the Equine Trauma Center in Pittstown, N.J., owned by Dr. Dennis Milne. Dr. Komaromy was awarded a K12 Clinical Scientist Development Award from the National Eye Institute. The award provides funding for five years.

Meryl Littman, V’75, associate professor of medicine, led a discussion group on the “Diagnosis and treatment of borreliosis (Lyme disease)” and presented a talk on the same subject at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Annual Medical Forum in June in Minneapolis.

Sherrill Davison, V’83, associate professor of avian medicine and pathology, completed an MBA from the Wharton School in May. She was named head of the Laboratory of Avian Medicine and Pathology, effective July 1, 2004. Dr. Davison serves as the secretary/treasurer of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

Dr. Robert Eckroade, associate professor of avian medicine and pathology, and the Mid-Atlantic Delegate for the USAHA, attended a meeting of all regional delegates in Burlington, Vt. in April. He also attended the Live Bird Market Working Group Meeting in May in Trenton, N.J. and the National Poultry Improvement Plan meeting in San Francisco. In August, Dr. Eckroade attended the meeting of the Secretary of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sue McDonnell, adjunct associate professor and head of the equine behavior laboratory, was awarded honorary diplomate status of the American College of Theriogenologists at the Society for Theriogenology Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky. in August.

Dr. James Buchanan, professor emeritus of cardiology, presented two talks at the ACVIM Annual Medical Forum in June in Minneapolis, “Tracheal signs of vascular rings in dogs, and vertebral heart size revisited.” Dr. Buchanan has developed a number of websites for practitioners and owners to provide information on some cardiac problems:

http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/cardiosf
http://www.vin.com/library/general/JWBcardio2.htm
http://www.vin.com/library/general/JWBvah.htm
http://www.vin.com/library/general/JPRAAA.htm

Dr. Thomas Nolan, research specialist in parasitology, was recently appointed to the editorial advisory board of the journal Veterinary Parasitology.

Dr. Daniel Morris, assistant professor of dermatology, is the treasurer for the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology, an association of veterinarians, that supports education, research, and collaborations in the fields of dermatology, allergy, and otology. It is open to any veterinarian with a focus or keen interest in dermatology. Any veterinarians wishing to join

Rosettes & Ribbons

some recent accomplishments of note at the School
the Academy can contact Dr. Morris by mail or fax (215-573-1789) for an application.

Dr. Karin Sorenmo, associate professor of oncology, is on sabbatical leave in Norway, where she is pursuing a project, “Tumor removal +/- ovariohysterectomy in dogs with mammary gland carcinoma.” This is a collaboration between veterinary schools in Finland, Norway, and the University of Pennsylvania. It is funded by the Morris Animal Foundation.

Dr. Ron Hardy was promoted to associate professor of microbiology. He convened the Filovirus Workshop session at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Virology in Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Kathryn Michel, assistant professor of nutrition, spoke at the AVMA meeting in Philadelphia in July.

Dr. Ina Dobrinski, associate professor of reproduction, received the 2004 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Dobrinski presented an invited talk at the Gordon Research Conference on Mammalian Gametogenesis and Embryogenesis, New London, Ct., entitled, “Transplantation of germ cells and testis tissue.”

Dr. Samuel Chacko, professor of pathology, has been invited to serve as a member of the Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Disease Subcommittee of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) for a four-year term. This Initial Review Group will advise the NIH director and the NIDDK director on the scientific and technical merit of applications for grants-in-aid for research, research training, or research-related grants and cooperative agreements, or contract proposals relating to scientific areas relevant to diabetes mellitus, endocrine and metabolic diseases, digestive diseases and nutritional disorders, and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases.

Thomas Van Winkle, V’75, professor of pathology, received the 2004 Dean’s Award for Leadership in Basic Science Education. He spoke at the ACVIM Forum in Minneapolis in June on “The histopathologic classification of liver parenchymal diseases in dogs and cats.” He also spoke at the 14th ECVM Congress in Barcelona, Spain on September 10 on “The histopathologic criteria for evaluating hepatitis in the dog.”

Dr. Wilfried Mai, assistant professor of radiology, received his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. At the ACVR meeting in Montreal in August, he presented a paper, “Effects of cardiac and respiratory motion on the spatial resolution in high-resolution imaging techniques of rodents.”


Dr. Pamela Wilkins, assistant professor of medicine, gave 10 presentations at the Society of Italian Equine Practitioners Base Course in Equine Neonatal Medicine, in February in Mornago, Italy.

Chick Weisse, V’98, assistant professor of surgery, presented two talks at the AVMA meeting in Philadelphia in July; “Veterinary interventional radiology” and “Regional tumor therapy—an approach to metastatic and non-resectable tumors.”

**Veterinary Acupuncture Clinic to Open at Ryan**

Starting October 20, the Ryan Hospital will offer veterinary acupuncture to its companion-animal patients referred by Ryan clinicians. Currently, the American Veterinary Medical Association supports acupuncture as a complementary therapy. Acupuncture, a three-thousand-year-old medical practice, has been used to successfully treat arthritis, asthma, skin conditions, diarrhea, and other conditions in people and animals. Acupuncture points are located over nerves and blood vessels. Stimulation of the acupuncture point with a thin needle brings about local and systemic reactions after the release of opioids, endorphins, and chemical neurotransmitters, which can increase blood circulation, decrease pain, and improve immune function.

Corrina Snook Parsons, V’99, will accept clients on Wednesdays from 2:00 pm until 6:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Parsons received acupuncture certification in 2004 through the American Academy of Veterinary Medical Acupuncture, at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Lindback Award for Dr. Corinne Sweeney**

Dr. Corinne Sweeney, professor of medicine, came to Penn in 1978 as an intern and joined the faculty of the Veterinary School in 1981. Dr. Sweeney is already the recipient of the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award and the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society’s Excellence in Teaching Award. The Class of 2003 honored her and her husband, Ray, V’82, by selecting them to deliver the Commencement Address at the Vet School. Colleagues praised Dr. Sweeney’s contributions by noting that “as a role model, she has balanced family and career with civic duties, such as her local school board presidency that shows her interest in education and teaching as widely distributed.” A former student writes: “Although it has been over 24 years since I have been in a classroom, I can clearly recall the infectious enthusiasm for the subject matter that Dr. Sweeney brought to her teaching. There is no doubt in my mind that the career path of many of my classmates has been influenced and altered by the distinguished teaching of Dr. Sweeney.” Her course evaluations are filled with superlatives: “the best professor I ever had,”“Absolutely love her! Can she teach all of our classes?”“Without question one of the best professors I have had at Penn,”“She is superb!” A colleague concludes, “Clearly, Dr. Sweeney has demonstrated outstanding service as a veterinary educator and is truly deserving of the Lindback Award.”
The Great Scrub at New Bolton Center

by Helma N. Weeks

From May until August, scrub brushes and disinfectants, rather than stethoscopes and scalpels, were the implements used by faculty and staff at New Bolton Center’s George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals. There were no patients—just lots of people cleaning floors, walls, and ceilings and excavating barn stalls—morning, noon, and night, day in, day out.

The Hospital closed May 10 because of an outbreak of salmonellosis caused by multi-drug–resistant *Salmonella* Newport (MDR *S. Newport*), which was first detected in January in some hospitalized patients after tests and cultures. The Hospital took immediate steps to locate the source of the bacteria and to disinfect barns and treatment areas.

Infections continued to occur. In April, Hospital administrators decided to limit new admissions to elective procedures only. The testing and cleaning was ongoing. Clay-based stall floors in one barn were dug up and replaced, but the floors remained clear of the organism for just one week. New, highly sensitive tests revealed that more areas than originally thought showed the presence of MDR *S. Newport*. To protect New Bolton Center (NBC) personnel and future patients, Dean Alan M. Kelly ordered the closure of the Widener Hospital to all patient admissions on May 10 and the discharge of hospitalized patients by May 15. This action allowed the Hospital staff to concentrate on cleaning and disinfecting the Hospital spaces so the facility could be reopened as quickly as possible.

One week after the Hospital’s closure, almost all areas had been sampled at least once. A new traffic pattern had been determined, based on the identification of “clean” and “dirty” areas. Referring veterinarians were advised of the shutdown and provided with a list of referral centers in the eastern United States. By May 26, an internal biosecurity website was up and running.

Students scheduled for Widener Hospital rotations that were postponed were directed to other schools, or fulfilled the rest of their obligations in rotations at the

Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. Associate Dean Jeff Wortman, V’69, worked long hours to ensure that the fourth-year students would be able to complete the rotations needed for graduation.

Highly multi-drug–resistant *Salmonella* Newport emerged in the United States in 1998 and has spread to many parts of the nation and to Canada. The organism causes fever and diarrhea in animals and people and is difficult to treat because it commonly is resistant to at least nine of the standard 17 drugs used in enteric bacteria testing and treatment. As is the case with all salmonel-
animals may be colonized by MDR S. Newport and can shed the bacteria in their feces, spreading the organism in barns, pastures, show grounds, and other areas.

The School’s faculty and administration were well aware of the challenge presented to the Widener Hospital and NBC by the presence of MDR S. Newport. “Our primary obligation right now is to ensure the safety of our staff at New Bolton Center and to make the Hospital safe again for patients,” said Dean Kelly. “This is no easy task and it will take time. But we shall return to providing the highest quality of care as soon as possible.”

To proceed in the most expedient way, Dean Kelly appointed a biosecurity officer and a biosecurity committee. Helen Aceto, V’97, lecturer in epidemiology and public health, was chosen as biosecurity officer, and the committee members are David Nunamaker, V’68, Dr. Barbara Dallap, and Mr. Bruce Rappoport. Their first job was to develop the protocol to eliminate MDR S. Newport from NBC while keeping the personnel safe. Establishing procedures to prevent recurrence of the organism after the Hospital reopened was another important task.

“We put together an action plan,” said Dr. Aceto. “New Bolton Center encompasses almost 700 acres, more than 70 buildings, and more than 400 employees and students. So the task was huge.” An incident command structure was created, and the Woerner Amphitheater became command central. Bruce Rappoport was designated as the official spokesperson to answer questions from the media, and a news release about the closing was posted on the School’s website. The staff and faculty were kept informed through regular meetings and the School’s internal biosecurity website. Here culture results were posted, as were safety information, details about the properties of the various cleaning and disinfection agents, frequent updates, and pictures. The limited-access website continues to be a very efficient way to reach the entire School community.

A schedule for the collection of samples was designed so that the laboratory could cope with the task, as samples had to be collected from all areas of the campus, vehicles, and animals to determine which areas were contaminated and which were “clean.” By early August, 2,400 culture samples had been processed and read. Early on, it became apparent that only a few areas in the Hospital were affected, and a map was prepared showing contaminated areas as well as “clean” zones. This resulted in new circulation patterns, and staff was careful to adhere to the new routes between buildings and around the NBC campus. Areas that had the greatest potential to impact human health were identified: the cafeteria (which was closed), student dorms (also vacated), and office, library, and research areas.
The Great Scrub at New Bolton Center

A policy was established for the handling of *Salmonella*-positive animals. Once it was determined that none of NBC’s resident animals cultured positive for the organism, the School’s carriage horses could once again participate in carriage events.

The biosecurity committee consulted with disinfection and cleaning experts and staff from the University’s Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) office. A cleaning and disinfection plan was then developed. MDR S. Newport is a tough bug. Just soap and water, even bleach, will not always kill all the organisms. In addition to being drug resistant, previous experience with cases on dairy farms indicated that this organism is resilient in the environment, so routine cleaning might not be sufficient.

“We decided to employ a multi-stage cleaning protocol that had been demonstrably effective at other institutions,” said Dr. Aceto. “It was very labor intensive and time consuming.”

While these measures were being planned, protocols had to be put into place so that the Field Service, the Georgia and Philip Hofmann Center for Animal Reproduction, and the diagnostic laboratories could keep functioning. Field Service trucks were cleaned, disinfected, cultured, and then moved to a different part of the campus, away from the Hospital. The Field Service pharmacy was relocated to a dorm room, and access to the Field Service office was changed so that it could only be entered from the southern, low-risk side of the campus.

Veterinarians could still bring diagnostic samples to the labs, but they had to leave these at a different location, avoiding traffic through the Hospital. The School’s dairy and swine units continued to operate. The poultry diagnostic laboratory also remained open, as no organisms had been found there. The Hofmann Center cultured negative and reopened at the end of May. Research continued uninterrupted in all other campus buildings, including the Alarik Myrin Memorial Research Building.

All other Hospital services were suspended. Cleaning did not just encompass the buildings; it also included all the furniture and equipment, of which an astonishing amount was located in the Hospital. Areas had to be identified where objects could be cleaned and disinfected. Then space had to be cleared where these clean items could be stored temporarily. A whole Hospital full of “stuff” had to be moved! To facilitate the process, the Outpatient Clinic was stripped and cleaned and then used as an equipment staging area. Every piece of equipment went through this area, was evaluated and either cleaned and stored or, if non-cleanable and of limited value, discarded. Stored equipment was put in rented

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55-Day Timeline for Facilities Cleanup of Barns A, B, C, D and Isolation Unit

- **Culture**
  - Positive ~48 hrs.
  - Negative 7 days

- **Sandblast**
  - 8 days

- **Patch walls and sandblast ceilings**
  - 3–4 days + 3 days’ curing to clean (30 days to paint)

- **Sand and paint bars, doors**
  - 2–3 days (Unit 3)

- **Culture**
  - Positive ~48 hrs.
  - Negative 7 days

- **Four-stage cleaning**
  - 3–4 days + drying time

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containers placed around the Hospital complex or, in the cases of expensive machinery that needed careful handling and heat-sensitive material, air-conditioned areas such as the dorm rooms were used as storage sites. During the course of the cleanup, virtually every dorm room was appropriated for one purpose or another.

Everywhere, mats soaked with Virkon, a high-strength disinfectant, appeared. Open-toed shoes were forbidden; everyone had “New Bolton shoes” and “other-world shoes”—what had touched NBC’s grounds stayed at NBC. Because the Woerner Amphitheater was occupied by command central and the Widener conference room served as central supply for cleaning equipment and supplies, most small meetings and all large-scale meetings had to take place in other buildings on campus. All meetings at other parts of NBC that involved Hospital faculty and staff were scheduled for first thing in the morning, before personnel had been to the Hospital area, and everyone had to follow specific routes to come and go from the Widener Hospital.

It was hot and humid in May and June. To clean the buildings at the Widener Hospital, staff wore protective suits, goggles, face shields, gloves, and rubber boots. In some spaces, respirators were required. A, B, C, and D barns and the isolation unit were sandblasted, cleaned, disinfected, and repainted. This process alone took about 55 days for each building. To achieve complete top-to-bottom cleaning, the staff learned to work from ladders, scaffolds, and powered scissors lifts; they learned to handle foggers; and they became experts in all areas and surfaces that could host the organism.

Cleaning involved several steps, all of which were approved and monitored by EHRS. First, a detergent solution was used to clean the surface. During this stage, it was critical that every square inch of every surface be physically disrupted; this was accomplished by using a brush “no bigger than your hand,” and was the most tedious, time consuming, and exhausting of all the stages. After a 20-minute contact time, the detergent was rinsed off. Following a drying period, a quaternary ammonium disinfectant was then applied to all surfaces; initially this was done with mops but eventually a backpack sprayer was employed to make the process more efficient. The disinfectant was allowed to dry overnight before being rinsed away. The final disinfection stage involved personnel trained in wearing powered respirators and in using a gas-powered fogging device. “Team Fogger” applied a fine mist of peroxygen disinfectant to all surfaces. Use of a hand-held fogger allowed the disinfectant to contact all the complex surfaces and every little nook and cranny in the animal-housing and handling areas.

Office spaces did not escape a scrubbing but went through a simplified process involving detergent, disinfectant, and rinsing steps. Desks, computers, and office furniture all were wiped down but, because doorknobs, light switches, and file-drawer pulls are “touch points,” they received special attention.
The Great Scrub at New Bolton Center

In one barn that usually housed orthopedic cases, the stalls had clay-based floors because they provide greater comfort and are easier on the horses’ legs and feet than hard surfaces, such as concrete. Unfortunately, however, dirt floors are completely porous and cannot be disinfected. These, and one other clay-based stall in D barn used for housing down cows, had to be dug out, a drain system installed, and concrete poured. The decision was also made to install a monolithic sealed polyurethane flooring system in these newly poured concrete stalls, as well as in all other stalls in the Hospital. This flooring material is resilient enough to cushion the patients’ feet, and it is seamless and completely bonded to the surface around drains and to stall walls, thereby providing a biosecure surface that can be cleaned and disinfected, with no nooks and crannies in which bacteria can flourish. At the same time, all old cast-iron stall drains were replaced with stainless-steel drains for maximum corrosion resistance and longevity. All these improvements have greatly enhanced both the comfort and biosecurity of patient housing, but because they also take time to complete, they extended the down time for many areas beyond the original projections.

After cleaning, disinfecting, and sandblasting, all walls, doors, window frames, and stall fronts were painted with a special sealer to eliminate recesses for bacteria to hide. This work, as well as some other tasks, was performed by outside specialist contractors. Since the barns and many of the Hospital buildings at Widener are more than 40 years old, their cleaning and refurbishment presented quite a challenge.

New Bolton Center’s staff rose to the occasion. Everyone pitched in—and cleaned and cleaned and cleaned. People donned Tyvek® suits, climbed on scaffolding, and wielded brushes or foggers. Stalls were dug out and floor tile was taken up without complaint. “Everyone knew how important it was to get the Hospital operational again,” said Dr. Aceto. “But the New Bolton staff is fantastic; they all tackled difficult tasks that were absolutely not part of their job description, and the team spirit was incredible.”

On August 2, the Widener Hospital opened its doors again to a limited equine patient load. Only scheduled procedures and outpatients were seen. The caseload was restricted because only one barn was then available to house animals. The cleaning continued, and the balance of the barns are still being finished. By the end of August, two barns were open and the Hospital began accepting emergencies again. The C. Mahlon Kline Building and the Isolation Unit were set to open at the end of September, and by mid-October a newly refurbished outpatient area (in which flooring is also being installed) and all animal housing areas except D barn and the ICU/NICU unit should be fully open and functioning. D barn, which houses food animals and has undergone major reconstruction and refurbishment, will open shortly after that, followed by ICU/NICU.

“People worked really hard,” said Bruce Rappoport. “We could never have accomplished this so quickly if the staff hadn’t been so dedicated.”

Now that patients are back at NBC, some additional biosecurity measures have been implemented to protect both patients and staff and to prevent contamination of the premises. For example, foot mats or dip buckets with disinfectant are at all entrances to animal-housing...
areas, and everyone must walk across/through these. Certain areas require dedicated footwear. Traffic patterns have changed, and barns must be accessed only from the front. When horses are moved from stalls, their feet must be picked; if animals are going to the operating room, their feet must be scrubbed. Everyone is reminded to wash hands prior to and after handling patients. Stethoscopes and lead shanks must be cleaned between patients.

All patients admitted to the Hospital are cultured to determine the presence of *Salmonella* organisms. Surveillance of patients and the Hospital environment will enable better understanding of the risks; thereby allowing us to make rational, evidence-based decisions on the structure and implementation of our biosecurity program. Clients may visit their animals—with restrictions. Owners should call ahead and must check in at the front desk. They must be escorted by staff to ensure proper use of mats at the entrance and hand washing. If the animal is housed in the ICU or the colic ward, visiting, although discouraged, must be scheduled with clinicians ahead of time. In these areas, protective attire, special footwear, and hand washing is mandatory. Children under 12 years of age are not permitted to visit in certain areas. Also, the Hospital grounds are off-limits to all pets; for example, dogs cannot be brought along while visiting or working there.

The students, too, are back at the Widener Hospital. The outbreak at the Hospital exposed them to the significance of preventive biosecurity measures. While they had heard lectures about the importance of hand washing between patients and the ease with which organisms can spread, they observed firsthand the havoc a bacterial outbreak can cause.

They and the students who follow them will receive a much larger dose of information on biosecurity as the people and animals here were and are involved in their own case study. Widener Hospital was the patient; staff and faculty worked to heal it; and now it becomes a case study, like every other fascinating patient.
New Bolton Center’s Commitment to Excellence

The School of Veterinary Medicine welcomed President Amy Gutmann to New Bolton Center on August 23. Dr. Gutmann was there to thank the staff and faculty for their incredible efforts to reopen the Widener Hospital just three months after its closure on May 10 due to an outbreak of multi-drug–resistant Salmonella Newport. During a luncheon hosted by Dean Alan Kelly, Dr. Gutmann presented the Veterinary School staff and faculty with the University’s Commitment to Excellence award—part of a new recognition program at Penn. Dean Kelly recognized the extraordinary efforts that went into eliminating the Salmonella threat so rapidly, and so the University nominated the staff and faculty for the award.
This past summer was eventful for our Veterinary School and for our future with it. Many events—some past but most still to come—will affect us as alumni.

The temporary closure of New Bolton Center was serious in its impact. Making sure that it was disinfected and Salmonella-free for its reopening was a tribute to the tenacity of the School’s faculty and staff. In a day and age when “white-wash” is a chosen color and “spin” is the explanation of choice, neither of those activities was in evidence during the closure. The spirits of honesty, truth, and candor enveloped the School, from Jacques Jenny, Bob Brody, Joan O’Brien, Bill Boucher, Eric Tulleners, and many more I never knew, smiled broadly as we did “the right thing”—and spent a lot of money doing it. New Bolton Center is back, it is better, and you should be proud of how this event was handled.

In other news, the ground has been broken, the foundation is being laid, and the new Teaching and Research Building is starting to take shape. Our ability to provide a top environment for our students and for talented teachers doing research will rise. As in the past, Penn Veterinary Medicine will draw the great young people who ensure our future as scientists, veterinarians, and animal lovers. That is how it has been and how it must always be to keep our place in the academic world of the future.

A year ago, at the beginning of this great experience as President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society, I said that I wanted the School’s interns and residents to be included in our alumni family. It is officially acknowledged they do hold alumni status. Now, we need their contact information for the School’s records. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations and many of us are trying to track them down. If you have contact information for any intern or resident, please send it to Joshua E. Liss, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, at lissj@vet.upenn.edu.

I am also pleased to share with you news that the School will establish listservs this fall for each class up to the 50th reunion class and for all alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. The listservs will allow class agents or any class member to send a message to their entire class by using only one email address. The service will be offered free, and you will receive subscription information later this fall. If the School does not already have your email address, get it to them. Life is too short not to be in contact with the people who have journeyed with us on what may have been the most formative four years of our lives. Keep in touch with your class and your School; we are all better for it.

Lastly, we still have the “money” thing. The Kresge Foundation has challenged the School’s alumni and friends to raise $13 million by October 1, 2005 to earn a grant of $1.5 million. This is an all-or-nothing challenge: one dollar short, no Kresge money is given. If you have ever considered increasing your support or even making your first donation, now is the time to do it! If your clients have ever thought of making a gift to the School, now is the time to approach them. All gifts and pledges to the School will count; will your commitment be the one that triggers the $1.5-million windfall?

Let me close by saying that I had the pleasure to address the first-year class during New Student Orientation in late August. I met many bright, optimistic, and eager young people, just like we were. I told them we knew what they were facing and would help in any way. I closed by telling them they were at the best veterinary school in the world, a legacy they should never forget. They applauded. It doesn’t get any better than that!

James V. Stewart, V68, President, Veterinary Medical Alumni Society

President’s Message

Alumni Meet the Landeau Challenge

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004, alumni rose to the generous challenge of Laurie J. Landeau, V’84 WG’84. If alumni contributed a total of $150,000 in new and increased gifts to the Veterinary Student Scholarship Fund, Dr. Landeau would contribute $150,000 to the School. In issuing her challenge, Dr. Landeau said, “Our School depends on the generosity of each and every one of us, no matter the level of our giving, to ensure that the next generation of V.M.D.s carries Penn’s excellence into the future.”

Alumni were clearly inspired by Dr. Landeau’s challenge, as 727 of them contributed more than $155,000 in new and increased gifts. Of those alumni, 472 had not made a gift to the Veterinary Student Scholarship Fund in the previous fiscal year. The new donors also included 68 members of the Class of 2004 who made a gift even before they graduated from Penn.

According to Dr. Landeau, “I was overwhelmed not only by the warm response from our alumni, but also by the reaction of current students. It is astonishing how many of the senior class came through with personal donations. Numerous students from all classes have stopped me to tell me personally how much they appreciated having someone offer this opportunity both to raise awareness of the critical need for more tuition aid and to increase the level of alumni generosity at the same time. One, a first-year Phone-a-thon caller, told me that being able to use the Landeau Challenge made her job so much easier—but she wanted to know where we would find someone to offer a similar challenge in the new fiscal year! Fortunately, we do have a challenge to encourage even more involvement via the recently awarded Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant.”

Dr. Landeau, chair of the School’s $100-million fundraising campaign, Building New Levels of Excellence, is optimistic that the response of alumni to her challenge bodes well for the School in meeting the conditions to earn the Kresge challenge grant of $1.5 million for the new Teaching and Research Building. As of August 31, to obtain the grant funds, the School must raise $10 million for any initiative or priority from its alumni and friends by October 1, 2005.
Society has engineered the practice of veterinary medicine as far back as the scripting of the Code of Hammurabi, which set forth certain practices for the profession. While veterinary medicine has had an impressive run over the 40 centuries that have followed, it’s been a marathon—evolutionarily speaking—compared with the sprinter-paced changes of the past half century.

Three alumni celebrating reunions in 2004 discuss the transformations and trends they have witnessed in their field since they graduated 50, 25, and 10 years ago, respectively. They also reflect on their own careers and postulate on future directions for veterinary medicine.

**Robert D. Flowers, V’54,** is a retired small-animal practitioner from Mechanicsburg, Pa. A Philadelphia native from a broken home, he was sent at the age of nine to The Church Farm School in Paoli, Pa., a boarding school, where he became instantly drawn to working with animals. After finishing in the armed services in 1946, Flowers enrolled in Pennsylvania State University’s pre-veterinary program. He entered mixed-animal practice shortly after veterinary school, but eight years later switched to small-animal medicine. He sold his practice four years ago at the age of 75.

**Joan Regan, V’79,** is a staff radiologist at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. Though an English major at Mount Holyoke College, she enjoyed biology and thought veterinary medicine would be a nice alternative to publishing. Regan graduated from Penn Veterinary Medicine’s first class to be comprised of equal numbers of men and women. She completed a field-service internship at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, and then spent 11 years in mixed-animal practice in Massachusetts. At the age of 40, Regan launched a new career path, returning to Penn for a residency in radiology. After completing her residency, she remained at Penn for two years as a lecturer before going to Angell.

**Steven P. Cudia, V’94,** owns a mobile surgery practice in Toms River, N.J. Growing up the son of a physician father and a mother who nurtured her boy’s love for animals, he majored in biology at the University of Scranton. After earning his veterinary degree, Cudia started out in mixed-animal practice. Shortly afterward, he completed an internship at Penn followed by an emergency-medicine and surgery internship at Garden State Veterinary Specialists in northern New Jersey before going to work for a large referral practice nearby. Cudia began his mobile practice five years ago. His caseload, which consists primarily of advanced surgeries, is heavily weighted toward orthopedics.

**All three comment on their career choices:**

Flowers, like most of his classmates, started his own practice shortly after graduating. He worked seven days a week and was always available for emergencies. “When you’ve chosen general practice,” he reasons, “it becomes a large part of your life.” Given it to do over, he says he would change nothing.

Regan says she left mixed-animal practice after more than a decade largely because it became tedious to her. Also, she grew impatient with noncompliant owners. Influenced by both veterinary (W. Harker Rhodes, V’55 GV’58) and human radiologists whom she’d befriend-ed, Regan, an admitted “detail person,” pursued a specialty in radiology. “I decided I’m much better ‘behind the scenes.’”

She says if she could relive things, she would have pursued veterinary radiology from the start.

Cudia took his love of surgery to the hilt by mastering complicated procedures and making them his life. “I figured that knowing a little about a lot was not going to be enough in today’s society. I wanted to know a lot about a little.”

He enjoys the independence and flexibility of his mobile practice, which serves six or so core clinics within a one-hour radius of his home. Working Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., he says, “I make my own schedule and I make my own rules.”

Though he’d once considered a career in emergency medicine, Cudia, whose father was an obstetrician/gynecologist, decided that it would restrict his personal life too much. “The old, ‘Where’s Dad?’ phrase kept running through my head,” says Cudia, who is married with three children. “I knew I wanted veterinary medicine to be part of my life but I knew I didn’t want it to be my life.”

**On how their eras impacted the veterinary profession:**

A self-described “Depression child,” Flowers says very few small-animal practices were around in the 1930s and ’40s. The veterinary profession existed mainly to serve agriculture. But right after World War II, people began moving from farms to cities. As society became more affluent, families brought pets into their lives. “This,” he recalls, “was the revolution of small-animal medicine.”

He adds that the veterinarians of his time worked hard to combat public ignorance of pet health. “Our generation really educated the public about good veterinary medicine. When I started in practice, the number of people who didn’t take their pets to the vet far outnumbered those who did.” By educating pet owners about veterinary-health measures like vaccination (he estimates that fewer than 10 percent of pets were vaccinated when he started out in practice), he says, “We made a lot of money for the veterinarians of today.”

Cudia says that a new class of customer, armed with information sources like the Internet, provides fresh challenges for veterinarians. “People have really come to demand a lot from whatever service they are patronizing, whether it’s the department store, the gas station, or the veterinarian.”

Add to this the fact that pets have become a bigger part of people’s lives: “All the expectations they have for their child’s welfare and medical care they also have for their pet’s.”

**…On how the practice of veterinary medicine has changed during their time in practice:**

“When I started school, I didn’t even know they treated small animals. If a dog got sick, they just wormed it,” says Flowers.

Medical advances kept pace with society’s...
increasing willingness to participate in their pets’ healthcare. Flowers says that throughout his career, the rate of progress ushered in major advances every five or so years.

“The time I left practice,” says Flowers, “we were doing things that we couldn’t possibly do when I first graduated.”

He recalls learning how to run EKGs in school, “but we were told we would probably never have to use them.” Gas anesthesia was unavailable. ACL ruptures were managed by “firing the knee” with a hot rod rather than performing surgical repair.

Regan says new diagnostic technologies brought unprecedented sophistication to veterinary medicine. Whenever she peruses old films filed at her hospital, she says, “I’m reminded how much easier it is to make diagnoses now than when we didn’t have ultrasound or CT. If you have a more accurate diagnosis, you can treat it correctly rather than just wing it.”

The biggest change Cudia has seen since he graduated ten years ago is the greater accessibility of specialty care. “People used to struggle to find places to have radioactive iodine treatment for their cats. Now they can drive 30 minutes for this. They can get an MRI any day of the week and they can see an oncologist 24/7.”

…”On specialization:

Though it seems to have hit our profession with hurricane force, the trend toward specialization was actually very plodding. It’s a development that Flowers first took notice of in the 1960s. “We gradually started to see specialists—owners or owners—some have been initiated by Mother Nature.

For instance, notes Flowers, “We learned about heartworm in school, but we were told it was a tropical disease.” And it very well may have been, then.

Distemper, on the other hand, ran rampant. Yet by the time Regan graduated 25 years later, it had been nearly eradicated through vaccination programs. Parvo, however, was coming of age. “One virus goes out and the other comes in,” Regan says. “It’s a constant parade.”

…”On emerging diseases through the years:

While most changes in our profession seem to have been propagated by people—veterinarians or owners—some have been initiated by Mother Nature.

For instance, notes Flowers, “We learned about heartworm in school, but we were told it was a tropical disease.” And it very well may have been, then.

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…”On changing dynamics between the pet owner and the veterinarian:

“A lot of people think of their pets as family members or children,” says Regan.

No one can deny the virtues of the human–animal bond. Yet this bond holds the potential to negatively impact the profession.

“There are inklings of the concept that we are ‘guardians’ of animals rather than ‘owners,’” says Cudia. The possible legal ramifications, he explains, will certainly place additional pressures on veterinarians.

The bar is also raised by the fact that owners are more informed about medical issues today than they were in the past. “Just the other day, someone asked me how stem cells would influence veterinary medicine,” says Flowers. “In the 1950s, they just wanted to know how to get rid of hookworms.”

…”On other significant trends impacting the profession:

Flowers, whose practice was sold by a subsequent owner to a corporation, decry corporate ownership of veterinary hospitals. Corporations, he says, “are greedy. They don’t really care about practicing good, quality medicine.”

Of concern to Cudia is proposed legislation to allow non-veterinarians to treat animals without veterinary supervision.

The animal-rights movement and zoonotic concerns are two forces that will continue to affect the veterinary profession, predicts Regan. Of the latter, she says, “Public health threats, real or imagined, have put veterinarians in a positive light as being the people who know what those risks are and can translate them for society.”

…”On their hopes for the future of the profession:

Flowers would like to see an influx of centralized community animal hospitals, similar to those on the human side. These, he explains, would allow veterinarians to more efficiently deliver quality medicine by sharing equipment and overhead costs.

His wish for veterinary education is that the specialties continue to grow, but that veterinary students—who he believes often try to narrow their focus prematurely—continue to take the core curriculum seriously. As a former member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine, he recalls comments by students to whom he administered board exams. “They would say, ‘I’ll never use this anyway.’ And then they would end up using it.”

Cudia, who hopes to devote the next 30 or 40 years to surgery specialty practice, agrees that young veterinarians should keep open minds. “There are always alternatives and you have to feel free to break from tradition.”
Embracing Distance Learning and “One Medicine”

by Joan Capuzzi Giresi, C’86 V’98

It all started with a small package that came in the mail. From there, followed a brilliant idea. And then the leading cyber-trove of veterinary information can be traded.

Embracing Distance Learning and “One Medicine”

Vincent Pion, V.M.D. ‘91, is the co-founder of Veterinary Information Network (VIN), which launched in 1992 to some 19,000 today, had a three-fold goal. First, it would provide what Ferguson calls “information insurance” to the private practitioner. For a monthly fee, veterinarians could access veterinary health news, take part in weekly rounds, and utilize an expansive database.

Second, it would build community. “We did it to bring veterinarians together and improve the profession,” says Pion, president of VIN.

VIN, he explains, has transformed structured learning into a daily event for doctors, as opposed to the monthly or annual event offered by the conference format.

“Duncan and I are firm believers that education has to become part of your life. It’s an every-moment event.” In contrast to a meeting, Pion says, VIN offers access to specialists available to answer questions, and chat rooms where information can be traded.

Adds Ferguson: “It’s an effective mode of tackling universal quandaries—the old ‘Yeah, that’s just like a case I saw the other day.’”

Third, the new service would provide another mode by which subscribers could earn continuing-education credits. While Pion focused on building the business, Ferguson, who sold his share of the Davis, Calif.-based company to his partner six years ago to focus exclusively on his research and teaching obligations, spearheaded the education piece. But the veterinary state boards were a force to reckon with: many, Ferguson remembers, refused to offer credit for computer-based education, insisting on meeting attendance instead.

“We are a very conservative profession,” Ferguson reasons. “But the reality is that there is a legitimate learning process going on here, and there’s no difference between distance learning and on-site learning.”

Yet meetings are money-makers for the state boards. “We tried to tell them these were two different populations, and that people would still attend meetings.”

Despite the obstacles, Ferguson and Pion proceeded with the CE program, which brought specialists and consultants—whom they paid hourly—into the VIN loop.

A specialist himself, Ferguson, who is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology, is a strong proponent of up-to-the-minute, bench-to-bedside medicine.

Growing up in a Connecticut suburb, he had pets as a child. But his interest in veterinary medicine did not solidify until his junior year at Dartmouth College, where he majored in chemistry. Accepted into medical school and Penn Veterinary Medicine, he chose the latter for its invitation into the combined V.M.D.-Ph.D. program.

Ferguson’s career choices were further solidified by the arrival of an apparent newcomer disease to veterinary medicine—hyperthyroidism—which evidently began cropping up in cats toward the end of his time in veterinary school.

Ferguson completed his doctoral degree in pharmacology with a concentration in thyroid hormone metabolism. The Penn Medicine lab where he worked, while practicing part-time at a local emergency clinic, developed thyroid hormone assays for use in people, and studied the basic aspects of thyroid hormone metabolism.

“I really bought into the idea of ‘One Medicine,’” he says. “We see a lot of spontaneous disease in animals that reveals many things about the human condition.”

He points out several human diseases where progress can be made by studying corresponding or associated veterinary models. These include Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Cushing’s diseases, the latter occurring some 20 times more frequently in dogs than in people.

After earning his doctorate, Ferguson crossed back over 38th Street for a residency in small-animal medicine. Today, he runs a lab at the University of Georgia, where he studies thyroid hormone metabolism and action, sequences the molecule thyrotropin (TSH), and develops TSH assays designed to screen for disease before the animals become clinical.

Ferguson, 50, also collaborates with his wife, Margarethe E. Hoenig, GR’84, who performs diabetes research across the hall from him at UGA. The pair, who have two grown daughters and live in Athens, Ga., met at Penn while Duncan was working in the lab and finishing his clinical rotations and Margarethe was doing a residency in small-animal medicine.

Although he spends half his time in the lab, with much of the rest devoted to professional and graduate teaching, he stays close to practice. “Clinical relevance is very important to me, which is why I have always kept my hand in thyroid diagnostics,” says Ferguson, who heads a recently funded initiative to develop a D.V.M.-Ph.D. program at UGA.

He adds that the clinical perspective is also a strong component of his student lectures. And so are a few tricks he learned while developing a practitioner-friendly format for VIN. “It changed the way I did things in the classroom. I became much more interactive,” says Ferguson, who also created an interactive online education program at UGA.

Of the interrelated twists and turns in his career, he observes, “In these last 20 years I’ve become an ‘uberspecialist’ in clinical pharmacology and endocrinology. But I was very drawn to the intellectual interchanges we initiated on VIN—there’s a truly fine line between what I do in the lab and the logic of making a medical diagnosis in the clinic.”
Class Notes

1943
During the annual meeting of the American Association of Avian Pathologists at the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention in July 2004, Stephen B. Hitchner was honored with the Bruce W. Calnek Applied Poultry Research Achievement Award. The award is given to a member of AAAP who has made outstanding research contributions resulting directly or indirectly in a measurable, practical impact on the control of one or more important diseases of poultry.

1958
During the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association’s annual meeting in April 2004, Robert L. Ricker was honored with the 2003 Veterinarian of the Year award. Former state veterinarian and private practitioner, he is a past president of the DEVMA and has served on the Delaware Board of Veterinary Medicine. Although retired, Dr. Ricker continues to serve Delaware as a bioterrorism representative and as an administrator of the newly formed John’s disease control program.

1963
Eugene Witiak has recently published a book of vignettes and personal commentary, True Confessions of a Veterinarian: An Unconditional Love Story. According to the publisher, “Dr. Witiak’s stories of the bond between the veterinarian, client, and pet take the reader into the exam room and on house calls to experience the laughable calamities, miscues, and surprises as well as the personal sorrows, revelations, and joys that treating animals can bring.” For more information or to order the book, visit <www.glenbridgepublishing.com>.

1968
During the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association’s annual meeting in June 2004, Richard A. Mansmann was honored with the Martin Litvak Award for his contributions to the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the veterinary profession in the state. Dr. Mansmann is a clinical professor and director of the Equine Health Program at NC State, and also owns Central Carolina Equine Practice in Chapel Hill.

1973
Nancy O. Brown, a member of Harcum College’s Board of Trustees since 1997, has been recently elected Vice Chair of the Board. Located in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Harcum is a two-year, private women’s college that offers programs in the health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and business and professional studies. Dr. Brown owns Hickory Veterinary Hospital in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

1979
Edgar J. Balliet III was profiled in The Morning Call of Allentown, Pa., on May 28, 2004. His wife, Gay, has written three books about the couple’s experiences together. Her most recent book is Lions & Tigers & Mares . . . Oh, My! According to the publisher, RDR Books, “[Gay’s] travels as assistant to her husband, a large animal veterinarian, take her along the colorful back roads of the Pennsylvania Dutch farm country as well as backstage at circuses, game preserves, and even TV shows.” Dr. Balliet’s practice is located in Northampton, Pa., and 80 percent of his patients are horses.

1982
Robert J. Washabau has recently left Penn Veterinary Medicine for the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine where he will serve as a professor of medicine and chair of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.
Class Notes

1987
Robert S. Kieval is President and CEO of CVRx, Inc., located in Maple Grove, Minn., which is developing therapeutic medical devices for cardiovascular markets.

1988
Patricia Noelle Klein has been named team commander of Veterinary Medical Assistance Team-2, which is based in Maryland. Highly trained teams composed of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and support personnel, the VMATs provide veterinary medical treatment and address animal and public health issues resulting from natural, man-made, and technologic disasters. Dr. Klein is a senior staff regulatory veterinarian with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

1990
In celebration of the 100th birthday of the ice cream cone, The News Journal of Wilmington, Del. featured the Woodside Farm Creamery on August 26, 2004. Owned by Janet Mitchell and her husband, Jim, the creamery is located in Hockessin, Del., and is open April–October. According to Dr. Mitchell, “What make us unique is the atmosphere—people love to come in the evening and sit outside eating an ice cream cone while their kids can run around and see the cows and the farm.” Dr. Mitchell practices at Hockessin Animal Hospital.

1992
Patricia M. Hogan was honored with a President’s Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association during its Annual Convention in July 2004. The award recognizes individuals and groups inside and outside veterinary medicine who have made an impact on animal, human, or public health; veterinary organizations; and the profession. Dr. Hogan treated Smarty Jones after he suffered a potentially career-ending injury.

Roy P. E. Yanong has been promoted to associate professor at the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Based at the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin, Fla., Dr. Yanong provides on-site veterinary assistance as well as diagnostic laboratory support, including water quality, necropsy, and microbiology for fish producers in the area.

1993
Laurie Bergman is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. She is in charge of the Behavior Service at the University of California Veterinary Medical Center—San Diego, a joint venture of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Bergman and her husband, Stephen Long, ’91, welcomed their first child, a son, Daniel Owen, in December 2003.

Cynthia S. Dahle was featured in The Star Democrat of Easton, Md. on September 8, 2004 about her use of acupuncture in her practice at Bay Area Veterinary Hospital in Stevensville, Md. According to Dr. Dahle, who is a certified veterinary acupuncturist, “Most conditions can be helped or treated by acupuncture.”

1996
Karen M. Froberg-Fejko and her husband, Michael, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Colton Michael, on February 7, 2004. As of July 19, 2004, Dr. Froberg-Fejko assumed a new position as president of Bio-Serv, a company in Frenchtown, N.J., which serves the pharmaceutical industry.

Sharon D. Gottfried is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Gottfried practices at Veterinary Surgical Associates in Concord, Calif.

1998
David Adam-Castrillo is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Heather Peikes was profiled in the New York Post on July 13, 2004. The only board-certified veterinary dermatologist in New York City, she recently opened a new practice, Animal Allergy and Dermatology. According to Dr. Peikes, “People laugh when you mention dogs have allergies, but when you have a dog with allergies and it’s sleeping with you and up all night, licking its paws, itching and keeping you up, it’s not good for the dog and it’s not good for its owner.”

1999
Akiko Sato is a new clinical veterinarian in the Stanford University School of Medicine Department of Comparative Medicine.

2000
Tracey Anne Hall is very happy to announce her marriage to Peter Thomas Schiron, Jr. on September 25, 2004 on Nantucket Island, Mass. Peter and Tracey met in the Caribbean two years ago and now live on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Tracey practices small animal medicine and surgery on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, and Peter is an attorney with Deloitte & Touche’s Office of General Counsel in Manhattan.

They both enjoy life in the big city and continue to explore new islands together.

Margaret C. Mudge, a resident at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, was featured in an article about her treatment of a horse with sand colic in the July 2004 issue of EQUUS magazine.

Births
1996
Julianne E. Grady, a daughter, Cadence Paige, on February 20, 2004.

Deaths
1936

1939

1943

1945

1946

1955

Share news with your classmates about a new position or accomplishment, wedding, or birth announcement by sending your class note today! We accept pictures, too, featuring alumni gatherings, whether it’s from a wedding or mini-reunion. Be sure to identify everyone in the picture. Pictures will be returned only upon request. Send all your submissions to:

Joshua E. Liss
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
3800 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047
Fax (215) 573-3544
Email: lissj@vet.upenn.edu
Special Gifts to the School

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS WERE MADE TO NEW BOLTON CENTER

In memory of a special person:
- Stacey Lynn Conarello, V.M.D. in memory of Josh Aidan Foster
- Ms. Janet A. Martin in the name of St. Anthony, the protector of animals

In honor of a special animal:
- Ms. Eileen M. Corl in honor of Wiley's Caddagh "CLOVER"
- Sarah E. Reese in honor of "BARF"

In memory of a special animal:
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Ringeman in memory of "TROIKOA"
- Ms. Brenda J. Feaster in memory of "BARNEY"
- Ms. Janeen W. George in memory of "BILLION"
- Susan C. Emigh Hart, V.M.D., Ph.D. in memory of "BELLA"
- Ms. Fay L. Härkäbränd in memory of "UNCORK THE MAGIC"
- Ms. Sybil B. Howard and Flinntrock Stables in memory of "TROIKOA"
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Scherer in memory of "TROIKOA"
- Ms. and Mrs. Greg Schieitel in memory of "TROIKOA"
- Ms. and Mrs. Michael D. Shireman in memory of "TROIKOA"

To the Equine Research Fund by the following:
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Bauman
- The William & Doris Boucher Endowed Scholarship Fund:
  - Ms. Doris A. Boucher Ritter

To the Eric Tulleners Memorial Scholarship Fund:
- Sean A. Maguire, V.M.D. in memory of Dr. Eric Tulleners

To the "LORD ASHLEY" Fund in his memory:
- Ms. Gina Santoro-Santarp

To Dr. Virginia Reef's Research Fund:
- Alchon Family Foundation in memory of "LEGIT"
- Ms. Deborah A. Learn in memory of "LEGIT"

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE MATTHEW J. RYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

In memory of a special pet:
- Sean and Michelle Anderson in memory of "IGGY"
- Rick and Risa Armstrong in memory of "AXEL"
- Deborah Phillips Aronson, V.M.D. in memory of "SAMSON"
- Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center, Inc. in memory of "MOLLY"
- Patricia Ashe in memory of "ABEIL"
- Steven L. Beaufrauch in memory of "ELMO"
- Stephen E. Bezuk in memory of "MISTY", "MIDNIGHT", and "MR. BAD"
- Paul and Susan Spinello in memory of "CLUTCH"

In honor of special pet:
- Lisa Brunet in honor of "POATAY"
- Carla Callaway in honor of "ELVIS"
- Philip Casaburi in honor of "CASBY"
- Jean Chatterton in honor of "NEO"
- Thomas W. and Melanie W. Goss in honor of "OSCAR"
- Suzanne Holland in honor of "BRANDY"
- Debbie Kovacs in honor of "DUKE" & "DAISY"
- Sharon Smith in honor of "TAMBITA"
- Seth and Amy Wilcox in honor of "CINNAMON"

In honor of those listed:
- Philip and Marcia Cohen in honor of Becky and Louis Cohen
- Ann Dougler in honor of Dr. Peter Chapman and Logan
- Jayne E. Graham in honor of Dr. Robert Moffatt

Registry in memory of Beth Heckerman:
- Sandra Amorosia
- Gwen B. Arthur
- Sara Jane Bunting
- Ms. K. Carol Carlson
- Gay H. Dunlap
- Jacqueline L. Gottlieb
- Karen L. Hall
- Sandra H. Hurd
- David R. Linnemeyer
- Pamela Mandeville
- Elizabeth Lee Martin
- Jeanene Smith
- Michelle Tolander

To support Dr. Meryl Littman's Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Open Registry in memory of Beth Heckerman:
- Sandra Amorosia
- Gwen B. Arthur
- Sara Jane Bunting
- Ms. K. Carol Carlson
- Gay H. Dunlap
- Jacqueline L. Gottlieb
- Karen L. Hall
- Sandra H. Hurd
- David R. Linnemeyer
- Pamela Mandeville
- Elizabeth Lee Martin
- Jeanene Smith
- Michelle Tolander

To support Dr. Meryl Littman's Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Open Registry in honor of Dr. Meryl Littman:
- Gwen B. Arthur

To support the Canine Epilepsy Research in memory of a special pet:
- Barry and Marcia J. Miller in memory of "FLUFFY"

To support the Radiation Therapy Facility Fund in honor of those listed:
- R. K. Melton Family Foundation in memory of Henry Croft, V.M.D.

To support the Oncology Department in memory of a special pet:
- Dr. and Mrs. Warren Sewall in memory of "SHEETIE"

To support Oncology Research in memory of a special pet:
- Dennis and Elizabeth Berger in memory of "AMBER"

To support Feline Care in memory of a special pet:
- Paul and Ellen Seymour in memory of "BUTTONS"

To support Dr. Naomi Hansen's Clinical Research in memory of a special pet:
- Gerahly M. Meny in memory of "MAGGIE"

To support the Behavior Clinic in memory of a special pet:
- Robin Resnick in memory of "BASIL"
**Special Gifts to the School**

**THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE DEAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of those listed:
- Edwin J. Andrews, V.M.D. in memory of Ethel Carruth
- Ellen McDermott in memory of Wallace J. Stuart
- Susan A. Thomas-Holder in memory of Rev. Oscar E. Holder

In memory of a special pet:
- Ronald L. Bomberger in memory of “WEE BONNIE NIBBY NOSE”
- Edna R. Fleer in memory of “JENNY” & “SEMMY”
- Gina Blyther Gilliam in memory of “REGGIE”

In memory of those listed:
- Bruce Schmucker, V.M.D. in honor of Patricia B. McQuaiston, V.M.D.

In honor of a special pet:
- Ronald L. Bomberger in honor of “WEE BONNIE NIBBY NOSE”
- Margaret Coyle in memory of “EMMY”

**THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of those listed:
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Frey in memory of Elmer B. Kipp, V.M.D.
- Joseph C. Glennon, V.M.D. in memory of Stephen P. Butler, V.M.D.
- Mrs. Paula A. Granger in memory of John Granger

In memory of Elmer B. Kipp, V.M.D.:
- Kathleen D. Moody, V.M.D.

In honor of a special pet:
- Janet Bottomley Mitchell, V.M.D. in memory of “SLUGGER” & “MOLLY”

In honor of those listed:
- The Shepard Broad Foundation Inc. in honor of Dr. Paul Fenster and Mrs. Mary Fenster

In honor of a special pet:
- Corita A. Peabody in honor of “COOPER”

The following have made gifts to the Class of 1937 Veterinary Fund in memory of Russell S. Edmonds, V.M.D.:
- Margaret Coyle in memory of “EMMY”
- Ronald L. Bomberger in honor of “WEE BONNIE NIBBY NOSE”

In memory of those listed:
- Nina Mantione, V’95
- Dr. Colin E. Harvey

**“Take a Seat” Campaign**

With plans for the new Teaching and Research Building in the final stages, we want to update alumni and friends on the progress of the “Take a Seat” campaign, an initiative in naming a seat to honor a special someone or a beloved pet. As of August 31, 2004, more than 190 of the 260 available classroom seats have been dedicated. The list that follows represents those who have completed or are in the process of completing a booked pledge since March 31 (pledge/gift form must have been submitted to the Development Office).

A classroom seat can be dedicated for a tax-deductible contribution of $3,000 payable over a five-year period. If you have questions regarding the “Take a Seat” campaign, please contact Dori Myers, Major Gifts Officer, in the School’s Development Office at (215) 746-7438 or via email at dmyers@vet.upenn.edu.

Joseph A. Nehrydyski, V’82
Given by Joseph A. Nehrydyski, V’82
Adrianna Arcuri Richter, V’94
Given with Love and Respect to John G. Richter, Jr., V’94, by his family
Lucy, Sarah, and Adrianna Arcuri Richter, V’94
Margaret Sleeper, V’93
Given in Honor of Edward Mathis Sleeper, V’73, by his Daughter, Thomas, Van Winkle, V.M.D.
Eula Smith, V’74
Given by Gail K. Smith, V’74, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, to Support Veterinary Education
William T., V’76, and Susan Myers, V’76, Smith
Given in Honor of Tom “Cork” Mott, and Betty Mott by Drs. William, V’76, and Susan, V’76, Smith
William S. Stockman, V’66
Given by Dr. and Mrs. William S. Stockman, V’66
Carolyn and Kenton, V’68, Stokes
Given in Honor of Stuart Ames Fox, V’76
Richard B. Streett, Jr., V’69 (two seats)

**Listings are shown as:** Person Making Pledge

**PATRONS**
Donald, V’61, and Sandy Abt
GIVEN IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM B. BOUCHER, V’40

Loy C. Ayer, V’52
LOY CAYLER MYERS, V’52

Kathleen M. Bradly, V’88
GIVEN IN HONOR OF JOHN AND FRANCES BRADLY AND CLOE, CHLOE AND SQUIRT

James R. Buell, V’60
[Signature to Come]

Dr. Colin E. Harvey
GIVEN IN MEMORY OF PAUL BERG, V’62

Joanne L. Maiintine, V’95
GIVEN IN MEMORY OF WOODY AND CHLOE BY DR. JOHN AND NINA MAINTINE, V’95

Richard A. McFeeley, V’61
[Signature to Come]

Nobert McManus, V’47
GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MARGARET McMANUS, GODMOTHER AND BENEFACTRESS

Meg Sleeper, V’93, and Dave Augustine
GIVEN IN HONOR OF EDWARD “ED” McGILL, V’73, AND BETTY MCGILL - BY MRS. WILLIAM, V’76, AND SUSAN, V’76, SMITH

William S. Stockman, V’66
GIVEN BY DR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. STOCKMAN, V’66

Carolyn and Kenton, V’68, Stokes
GIVEN IN HONOR OF STUART AMES FOX, V’76

Richard B. Streett, Jr., V’69 (two seats)

**CORRECTION**
Richard G., V’48, and Lorevere Ainsley
GIVEN IN HONOR OF ROBERT A. VANDERHOF, V’45

**In honor of those listed:**
- The following have given to the New Teaching and Research Building “Take a Seat” fund in memory of Kathleen Mary Aucamp:
  - Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Back
  - Ms. Lois S. Bailey
  - Theresa A. Baron
  - Judith Cross Bennett
  - Thomas and Rose Beveridge
  - Jeannet, Partnow, Margolin & Sharrett, M.D.s, P.A.
  - Ralph L. Brinster, V.M.D.
  - Matthew and Donna Balicki, Jr.
  - Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Campbell
  - Kathy Cernuts
  - Michele H. Cornwell
  - Ms. Rebecca L. Crain
  - Anna Cunningham
  - Dr. Richard O. Davies
  - Charles R. and Jo Dawson
  - Louis and Rita Di Losso
  - Phyllis E. Di Losso
  - Dr. and Mrs. Peter Dodson
  - Susan R. Fosler
  - Dr. and Mrs. Michael Friedrich
  - Dr. and Mrs. Keith E. Grau

- Dr. Philipp Mayhew
- Jeffrey and Kelle Molloy
- Ms. Ann Louise Nargor
- Katherine G. Palmer
- Virginia M. Phoenix
- Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Donna B. McClure
- Tonya L. Woods

- Given in Memory of Robert A. Vanderhoof, V’45
- Given in Memory of Woody and Chloe by Drs. John and Jeanine L. Mantione, V’95
- Given by Gail K. Smith, V’74, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, to Support Veterinary Education
- Given in Honor of Edward Mathis Sleeper, V’73, by his Daughter, Thomas, Van Winkle, V.M.D.
- Given by Gail K. Smith, V’74, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, to Support Veterinary Education
- Given by Dr. and Mrs. William S. Stockman, V’66
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- Given by Dr. and Mrs. William S. Stockman, V’66
- Given in Honor of Stuart Ames Fox, V’76
- Given by Dr. and Mrs. William S. Stockman, V’66
AVMA Annual Convention Alumni Reception

Nearly 400 Penn Veterinary Medicine alumni and their guests attended an alumni reception during the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention in Philadelphia on July 25, 2004. The reception was held at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, located in the landmark PSFS Building. This year’s Convention was held in Philadelphia for the first time since 1973 and for the eighth time since the AVMA first met in Philadelphia in 1876.

During the reception, Dean Alan M. Kelly spoke on the state of the School, and everyone in attendance learned about the priorities of the School’s $100-million fundraising campaign, *Building New Levels of Excellence*, by viewing a video made for the campaign.
Members of the Class of 1979 took advantage of the AVMA Annual Convention being held in Philadelphia this summer to celebrate their 25th reunion in advance of Alumni Weekend 2004 in October. The class held a dinner following the School’s alumni reception at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel on July 25. The dinner was planned by Joan Regan and Margaret Landi.


Seated: Margaret Landi, Amy R. Marder, James R. Rummel, Joan Regan, Sharon A. Dailey, Margaret B. Alonso, Louise E. Wechsler, and Elaine D. Salinger.
“Smarty Party” in Saratoga Springs

On August 1, 2004, Penn Veterinary Medicine’s New Bolton Center held a champagne brunch at Saratoga Springs’ historic Reading Room in honor of Pennsylvania’s favorite racehorse, Smarty Jones. Approximately 50 people were there to raise funds for New Bolton Center, and to honor the great little horse who almost won a Triple Crown. Smarty’s owner, Mrs. Pat Chapman, sent her regrets and best wishes for a successful event. Decision-making pressure about Smarty’s future prevented her and her husband, Roy, from attending.

Scott Palmer, V’76, of the New Jersey Equine Clinic, where Smarty Jones was treated by his fellow professional and Penn graduate, Patty Hogan, V’92, for a devastating head injury less than a year before he won the 2004 Kentucky Derby, were at the brunch and brought good wishes from Dr. Hogan and the Clinic staff.

Students Win Prizes for Papers

The Section of Reproduction at New Bolton Center sponsored two third-year veterinary students who gave an outstanding performance in the Society for Theriogenology Student Case Presentations Competition that was held at the Society’s Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky. in August. Both students initially submitted an abstract that was ranked for presentation at the national meeting. Each prepared and presented a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation. Jennifer R. Feiner, V’05, sponsored by Patricia Sertich, V’83, won a cash prize and third place for her presentation entitled “Hydrops allantois in a mare.” Patrick J. Ford, V’05, sponsored by Regina Turner, V’89, won second place and a cash prize in the competition for his presentation entitled “Aortic-iliac thrombosis resulting in ejaculatory dysfunction in a stallion.” This was a great opportunity for these two equine-track students to speak to equine practitioners in Lexington.
Upcoming Events

November 2004

6
7:00–10:00 p.m.
Alumni and Friends Reception
New England Aquarium
Boston, Mass.
For information, contact Amy Bogdanoff at (215) 898-4234 or at <bogdanof@vet.upenn.edu>.

17
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board Meeting
New Bolton Center

20
2004 Rush Shippen Huidekoper Society Dinner
For information, contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

December 2004

5
6:00–8:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception
American Association of Equine Practitioners Annual Convention
Governor’s Square 12, Adam’s Mark Hotel, Denver, Colo.
For information, contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

January 2005

8–15
Pennsylvania Farm Show 2005
Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, Pa.
Visit Penn Veterinary Medicine’s booth at the largest indoor agricultural event in America.

9
7:00–9:00 p.m.
Alumni Reception
The North American Veterinary Conference
Marriott Orlando World Center Hotel, Orlando, Fla.
For information, contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

26
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board Meeting
Ryan Veterinary Hospital at Penn

February 2005

21
7:30–9:30 p.m.
Alumni Reception
Western Veterinary Conference
Mandalay Bay Resort, Las Vegas, Nev.
For information, contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

March 2005

10–11
2005 Penn Annual Conference
Adam’s Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.
For information, visit <http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/pennannualconference.html>.

10
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board Meeting
at 2005 Penn Annual Conference