Penn Vet
World Award Winner
Dr. Bernard Vallat
Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health

$100,000 Student Inspiration Awards
results inside
about the cover:
The first winner of the Penn Vet World Awards, Dr. Bernard Vallat, is director general of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), in Paris. Photo courtesy of the OIE.
This spring marks the beginning of a new tradition at Penn Vet, as well as the continuation of one more than 100 years old. In April 2008, we announced the very first winner of the prestigious Penn Vet World Award, which was created to increase public awareness of the critical role played by veterinarians in public health around the globe. I extend my sincere thanks to the sterling selection jury, led by Dean Emeritus Alan Kelly, which received nominations for candidates with an array of accomplishments that was astonishing. I am confident that as you read about our winner, Dr. Bernard Vallat, you will be as impressed as I was; as director general of the World Organization for Animal Health, Dr. Vallat’s vision and leadership on areas that include threats to human and animal health and trade, has changed the practice and image of the veterinary profession on a global scale. Underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, the $100,000 award both rewards the remarkable work of a veterinarian and publicizes the breadth of the work that veterinarians perform.

In addition to the World Award, two Penn Vet students each received $100,000 in the first ever Student Inspiration Award competition. I know you will enjoy reading about them as well. The creativity, generosity and aspirations of our current students inspire those of us who have been veterinarians for many years; we can rest assured, the future is in good hands. We are a fortunate institution to attract and learn from such outstanding students—and this year we will celebrate the tradition of commencement, when we have the honor of graduating the 123rd class of Penn Vet veterinarians.

Our graduates are leaders who are influential in governmental positions and in industry; they are founding new businesses and making major new biomedical discoveries. Our very own Jamie Thomson, V’88, GR’88, has conducted pioneering work in the isolation and culture of human embryonic stem cells; his team recently succeeded in isolating pluripotent stem cells from human somatic cells. Our alumni are practicing globally, and are making a significant impact on clinical medicine, both in academic institutions and in private practice. We have much to be proud of as we near our 125th anniversary.

This is an exciting and challenging time. I continue to be warmed and touched by the generosity and gratitude of what I have called “Planet VMD.” All of you who receive Bellwether are close to Penn Vet, whether by being an alum or by supporting our hospitals or special programs, or simply by working hard to make Penn Vet the premier institution it is—your contributions are vital to our reaching our goals. The University’s capital campaign slogan says, we are “Making History.” Given Penn Vet’s history, there is only one possible path: To lead.

Thank you for your continued support.

—JOAN C. HENDRICKS, V’79, GR’80
THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
New Bolton Center
Plans for the Future

Last year, Penn Vet selected SRG Partnership, Inc., to develop master development plans for the School’s New Bolton Center and West Philadelphia campuses. The master planning work for the 850-acre New Bolton Center, located west of Philadelphia in Chester County, has been completed, and the School is ready to begin Phase 1—the construction of a new Isolation & Colic Barn.

This state-of-the-art facility will be located on a bio-secure site area on the service drive between the Myrin Building and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. It will have two wings, one with ante-chambers dedicated to isolation cases, and one for colic cases. Each wing will have a procedure room and be attached to a common headhouse, or central staffing area. The building will be constructed using the new design guidelines generated by the master plan, which focus on low-maintenance, durable materials in keeping with the Chester County farm vernacular.

In addition, this first phase will include the construction of Pennsylvania’s first tissue digester, which features a technology that is superior to incineration and will provide a valuable resource in the event of disease outbreak in the surrounding area.

Both facilities will begin construction in late June 2008 with completion by September 2009.

—BRENDA LOWEN, PROJECT MANAGER
PENN FACILITIES AND REAL ESTATE SERVICES
Dr. Bernard Vallat selected as First Penn Vet World Award Winner

*Global Public Good Takes Center Stage with Announcement*

BY GAIL LUCIANI
Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has been selected as the first recipient of the Penn Vet World Award. “I can think of no one more appropriate to receive this award,” said Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “Dr. Vallat’s vision and leadership have changed the practice and image of the veterinary profession throughout the world.”

As indicated in his nomination, under Dr. Vallat’s leadership, the OIE “has become absolutely central to the development and maintenance of a global perspective on animal health.” Underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, the award provides $100,000 in unrestricted funding to the recipient. The first veterinary medicine award of its kind, this singular award was designed to recognize a veterinarian who has dramatically changed the practice and image of the profession and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others.

“I am particularly honored to be the first person to receive the prestigious Penn Vet World Award, and I am thankful to the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation for its tremendous contribution to helping us face the

“Dr. Vallat symbolizes the brilliant leadership we wish to recognize with this award.”

–Vernon Hill
the jury
Penn Vet World Award Selection Jury

To make the Penn Vet Leadership Award the gold standard for awards in veterinary medicine, the selection process must be wide ranging and beyond reproach, with a jury composed of outstanding scholars and leaders from across the broad field of animal health. Jurors of this caliber will establish the integrity of the award. Members of the 2008 jury included:

Alan M. Kelly, BVSc, MRCVS, PhD, Dean Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Committee Chair)

Ed Sayers, President, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Hilary Koprowski, MD, President, Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories, Inc., Head of the Center for Neurovirology at Thomas Jefferson University; former head of the Wistar Institute

Lonnie King, MScE, DVM, Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases; Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

Elaine Ostrander, PhD, Chief & Senior Investigator, Cancer Genetics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health

Greg Hammer, DVM, President, American Veterinary Medical Association

Richard Newpher, Executive Vice President, American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, DC

Leon Russell, DVM, President, World Veterinary Association

George Gunn, DVSM, MRCVS, Global Head of Novartis Animal Health

exciting challenges of the veterinary profession,” said Dr. Vallat. “The work of the veterinary profession and veterinary services is now recognized as a global public good. Support for them in developing and transitional countries is a priority, not only to promote development around the world, but also to protect the world against the spread and the re-emergence of animal diseases and zoonoses.”

Under Dr. Vallat’s leadership, the OIE has stressed the importance of sharing scientific information, as well as promoting veterinary services and a continued commitment to food safety and animal welfare. By clearly linking human and animal health, Dr. Vallat has emphasized the positive impact of animal health policies on poverty reduction and public health.

“This is the foremost award in veterinary medicine, designed to encourage and reward ambitious thinking and life-changing accomplishments by veterinarians, while emphasizing the significance of our profession to the health and welfare of society,” said Dr. Alan M. Kelly, Dean Emeritus of Penn Vet. “While the selection jury received nominations for many illustrious veterinarians, we as a group are deeply impressed by Dr. Vallat’s leadership and vision of the importance of veterinary medicine to global public health in the 21st century.”

Dr. Vallat’s influence can be seen today in the public health policies of developing countries. For example, Tanzania has a large livestock industry that produces a million metric tons of meat, almost four million tons of milk and more than seven billion eggs per year. The prevalence of animal disease impacts this production; therefore, efforts by the OIE to promote programs aimed at improving veterinary services resulted in improved sanitary conditions and increased competitiveness in the trade of animal products.

“We are pleased to join with the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine to create the premier world award recognizing the outstanding individuals whose achievements have significantly advanced both the veterinary profession and humanity,” said Vernon Hill. “Our first winner, Dr. Vallat, has demonstrated remarkable leadership in advancing the veterinary profession’s role in global public health. Dr. Vallat symbolizes the brilliant leadership we wish to recognize with this award. It is our pleasure to underwrite this prestigious award and recognize the efforts of veterinarians everywhere.”

Shirley and Vernon Hill, with Duffy, at the Penn Vet World and Student Inspiration Awards announcement in April 2007. Photo by John Donges.
Rachel Toaff-Rosenstein, V’09

Rachel Toaff-Rosenstein’s parents, both physicians, had always encouraged their daughter to pattern her career after theirs and prepare herself to practice medicine. But Rachel had other plans. “From the get-go, my interest focused on animals,” Rachel said. “I did indeed pursue a medical career, but one that involved four- as opposed to two-legged patients.” At Penn Vet, this educational pursuit has been extraordinary for Rachel: two years running, she has ranked first in her class and was elected to Phi Zeta, the honor society of veterinary medicine, in 2007.

As a vet student, Rachel became increasingly interested in animal welfare and how veterinarians can contribute to animals’ quality of life. She revitalized the Penn Vet Animal Welfare Society and organized well-attended panel discussions on the topic. Rather than just concentrating on small animals and horses, though, Rachel started thinking about other kinds of animals. “I recently decided to focus my passion for animal welfare issue on food-producing species,” she explained. She intends to earn a doctoral degree studying welfare assessment and the behavior of farm animals. “This additional training will serve as a powerful complement to my VMD degree and allow me to become a leader in the farm-animal welfare field, bridging gaps among veterinarians, the agricultural industry and consumers.” Farm-animal welfare science is a relatively new field of study, and Rachel believes veterinarians are uniquely qualified to address certain practical considerations such as physiological, pathological, and production parameters when analyzing an animal’s welfare.

Specifically, Rachel’s goal has a four-pronged approach that incorporates farm-level, professional and societal elements:

1. To work as a consultant in the field to advise and help implement health care and husbandry changes;
2. To influence policy affecting the welfare of farm animals;
3. To delineate a clear role for veterinarians in farm-animal welfare; and
4. To develop curricula for both pre- and post-graduate veterinarians that equip the veterinary profession with tools that will allow it to take a leadership role in farm-animal welfare.

“The Inspiration Award promises to liberate me from the constraints of my educational debt. It will allow me to pursue my dream of pioneering new roles for veterinary medicine in the burgeoning debate on food-animal welfare,” Rachel said.

Penn Vet Student Inspiration Awards

The Penn Vet Student Inspiration Awards will be given annually to two current Penn Vet students. Each of the two $100,000 awards is designed to inspire ambition and reward enterprise, creativity, vision and talent. These awards will encourage students to invent their future in veterinary medicine and provide opportunities far beyond those at any other veterinary school in the world. The awards recognize students’ potential to advance the frontiers of veterinary medicine and expand the profession’s impact on the well-being of animals and society.

Home town: Bala Cynwyd, PA
Schools attended: Hebrew University (B.Sc. in animal science)
Hobbies: volunteer work, home-improvement projects, horseback riding, photography
Penn Vet activities: Animal Welfare Society, NIH/Merck Summer Research Program, Phi Zeta, research assistant in diabetes mellitus study in dogs
Faculty sponsor: Dr. Thomas Parsons, V’86, associate professor of swine production medicine

about Rachel Toaff-Rosenstein
One World, One Health, One Medicine.” For Warren Waybright, that’s more than the slogan of the American Veterinary Medical Association—it is how he hopes North American veterinary students will feel after working with students in developing countries to set up spay/vaccination clinics and rural food-animal health programs. Warren’s goal—even while still a student—is to create an international program that brings together veterinary students and professionals from developed and developing nations; those from the former part of the world will deliver technology, expertise and equipment, while those from the latter will lend a greater understanding of local cultures and animal health and management issues.

“Most animals in developing countries never receive veterinary care,” Warren explains. “The lack of funds, access to veterinary services and insufficient training for veterinary students in the latest technologies contribute to this condition. The short projects I envision will facilitate lasting interest and partnerships, and will have a multiplying effect as veterinarians tackle the issues of global medicine.”

In fact, Warren already has had the chance to see this kind of international collaboration first hand; in 2007 he interned for about two months with World Concern Bolivia, participating in community programs that followed micro-loans to educate rural villagers in livestock husbandry. He assisted in drawing blood with American and Bolivian veterinarians and local agriculture students in an effort to eradicate Brucellosis. Later in the summer, Warren helped translate for two veterinarians visiting Bolivia to speak at a veterinary congress, and he took part in teaching Bolivian vets how to perform the first bovine caesarians in the country’s history. Based on these experiences, Warren was invited to lecture at the Universidad Autónoma Gabriel Rene Moreno on dairy production.

“I intend to expand the projects to other Latin American countries and then to other continents, in addition to working in a food-animal practice after graduation,” Warren said. “The advantage of this model is that I can develop state-of-the-art practice skills, which can be invaluable in working in developing agrarian societies. . . . Students will return from these short trips with improved cultural awareness and be better equipped to bring animal health care to immigrant communities in the United States. I hope they also will consider a career where veterinarians are underrepresented in global health.”

Warren Waybright, V’09

Home town: Gettysburg, PA
Family business: Mason Dixon Farms, Inc.
Schools attended: Cornell University (B.S. in animal science)
Penn Vet activities: class academic liaison, Food Animal Club president, Christian Veterinary Mission fellowship leader, organized dairy records and farming perspective elective
Languages spoken: French, Spanish
Faculty sponsor: Dr. James Ferguson, V’81, professor of clinical nutrition

This year’s winners were selected by an awards committee comprised of Drs. Jill Beech, V’72, professor of medicine; Dottie Brown, assistant professor of surgery; R. O. Davies, professor of physiology; Olena Jacenko, associate professor of physiology; James Lok, professor of parasitology; Dean Richardson, chief of surgery at the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals; Sheldon Steinberg, V’59, emeritus professor of neurology; and Thomas Van Winkle, V’75, professor of pathology. The committee’s decisions were based on 1,000-word essays outlining how applicants will use the funds to fulfill a life-changing dream in veterinary medicine.
In September, Christina Bach began work as social worker at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. She earned a master's degree from Penn in 1996 and for eight years served as oncology social worker at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Jill Beech, V'72,** professor of medicine, was named interim chief of the Section of Reproduction in the Department of Clinical Studies—New Bolton Center.

**Dr. Richard O. Davies,** professor of physiology and animal biology, was named interim chair of the Department of Clinical Studies—Philadelphia. Dr. Davies earned a D.V.M. degree from Cornell University in 1960 and a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1964.

**Dr. Gudrun Debes** joined the School as assistant professor of pathobiology. Dr. Debes earned a D.V.M. degree at the Free University of Berlin in Germany, and since 2003 was a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

**Robert DiMeo** joined the School as admissions counselor. He most recently served as associate director of recruitment at Temple University's School of Tourism and Hospitality.

**Dr. Robert Greenberg** joined the Department of Pathobiology as research associate professor. Dr. Greenberg earned a B.A. in earth and planetary sciences from the Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Virginia. He was associate professor at the Whitney Laboratory at the University of Florida and associate scientist at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.

In February, Susan Miller joined the Office of Development and Alumni Relations as executive director of major gifts. Ms. Miller brings with her many years of experience in fundraising, alumni affairs, volunteer management and campaigns and has worked at Rensselaer, Cornell’s Regional Office and Cornell’s College of Agriculture. She is a graduate of Plattsburgh State and Niagara University.

**Dr. Karen Rosenthal**, chief of the Special Species Section, associate professor of special species medicine, and Abaxis Chair of Special Species Medicine, was named interim medical director of the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Rosenthal earned a D.V.M. degree in 1988 from North Carolina State University. In 1999 she developed the Special Species Medicine Service at Penn Veterinary Medicine.

**Dr. Makoto Senoo** joined the School as assistant professor of animal biology. Dr. Senoo earned a Ph.D. in immunology/oncology at Tokai University School of Medicine in Japan and since 2002 was a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School.

**Barry Stupine** was named the School's chief of staff and vice dean for public affairs. He previously was vice dean for administration and finance for the School and was Ryan Veterinary Hospital director. This October will mark 30 years of service for Mr. Stupine at Penn Vet.

**Dr. Thomas Van Winkle, V'75,** professor of veterinary pathology, director of Diagnostic Services, and chief of the Small Animal Necropsy Service, was named associate dean for education.
Name: David M. Nunamaker, V’68

Birthplace: Germantown, Pennsylvania

Positions: Jacques Jenny Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; Director, Richard S. Reynolds, Jr. Comparative Orthopaedic Research Laboratory

Research interests:
- Orthopaedic trauma, fracture repair and bone healing.
- Internal and external fixation devices; established two patents for external skeletal fixation.
- Worked with plate luting, a technique that predated the development of locking-compression plates.
- Researched bucked shins for 18+ years with more than $1,000,000 in support from the USDA, NIH and private and industry funding. Through extensive research, developed a plan to prevent bucked shins, which could reduce the incidence from 70–90 percent to less than 5 percent. “This rationale includes a training regimen that adapts the third metacarpal bone to racing,” he explained.

Beginnings: Throughout high school, he worked for Doris and John Emerson (both V’54), who had a small and large animal practice in Buckingham, PA. After high school, Dr. Nunamaker pursued undergraduate pre-vet studies at the University of New Hampshire, fulfilling his requirements there after only two years, and afterward was accepted at Penn Vet. During his time as a student, he “changed his mind a million times between small animal and large animal medicine. I think everyone in my class thought I was going to be a bovine practitioner,” he remembered.

After graduating from Penn Vet, Dr. Nunamaker spent the first 13 years of his career in small animal orthopaedics here. “Paul Berg was the section chief of surgery in Philadelphia at the time, and he persuaded me to do an internship in small animal surgery—so Paul was my mentor and created the position for me.”

But things soon changed for the young graduate. “Jacques Jenny [an international pioneer of equine orthopaedic surgery] found out about my interests, and I started doing large animal orthopaedic surgery at New Bolton Center even though I was still in town [Philadelphia].” Dr. Jenny introduced Dr. Nunamaker to Stephen Perren, head of the Swiss AO Research Institute, and Nunamaker spent a year in Switzerland working on internal fixations using plates and screws. During his 13 years in small animal orthopaedics, Dr. Nunamaker performed more than 2,000 internal fixations.


1981–1994: Worked as a large animal clinician at NBC, mostly as an orthopaedic trauma surgeon; fundraised for 17 years to start Comparative Orthopaedic Research Laboratory

1994–2006: Chairman of the Department of Clinical Studies at NBC

Recent Publications:

What’s next: Retiring at the end of July 2008, Dr. Nunamaker plans to pursue his many interests and hobbies outside veterinary medicine. He and his wife, Ursula, live in southern Chester County, where he has raised Simmental beef cows from more than 25 years. Some of his hobbies include gardening, sports car racing and surf-fishing in Cape Hatteras with his wife and Chesapeake Bay retriever, Ally.
Penn Launches Institute for Regenerative Medicine

In November 2007 Penn announced the launch of the cross-disciplinary Institute for Regenerative Medicine to investigate and harness the therapeutic potential of stem cells in treating cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, degenerative diseases, wound healing and aging. **Ralph L. Brinster, V’60**, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology at Penn Vet, and Dr. Jonathan A. Epstein, William Wikoff Smith Chair in Cardiovascular Research and chair of Penn Medicine’s Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, will head the Institute. The Institute will draw on existing Penn programs in basic cell and organ biology, extensive animal modeling opportunities, practical and experiential expertise in tissue engineering, innovative translational research programs and ready access to pediatric and adult patients.

Protein Interactions in Immune-System Response Identified

A team of Penn Vet researchers, led by **Dr. Christopher Hunter**, chair of the Department of Pathobiology, has identified protein interactions involved in the immune system process that fights infection, yet, in certain inflammatory diseases, attacks friendly tissue. This signaling protein, Interleukin 10 (IL-10), plays an important role in regulating the balance between the protective white blood, or T, cell response and one that is pathological and out of control.

While IL-10 is recognized as a major anti-inflammatory factor, what leads to its production has been poorly understood. According to the findings, messenger proteins Interleukin 27, or a combination of Interleukin 6 and another type of messenger molecule called transforming growth factor beta, induce production of IL-10. This suggests that modulating these messenger molecules could increase IL-10 concentrations that temper overactive immune responses. The study sheds light on the immune-system response and may provide directed means to intervene in severe autoimmune disease.

Agent Orange Chemical Attacks Mitochondria to Cause Cancer

**Dr. Narayan Avadhani**, chair of Penn Vet’s Department of Animal Biology, led a team of School researchers that demonstrated the process by which the cancer-causing chemical dioxin attacks cellular machinery, disrupts normal cellular function and promotes tumor progression. The team discovered that mitochondria, the cellular subunits that convert oxygen and nutrients into cellular fuel, are the target of tetrachlorobenzodioxin, or TCDD. The research showed that TCDD induces mitochondria-to-nucleus stress signaling, which in turn induces expression of cell nucleus genes associated with tumor promotion and metastasis. TCDD, the most toxic compound in the dioxin family, is a by-product during waste incineration and paper, chemical and pesticide manufacturing. It was the toxic ingredient in Agent Orange and closed the Love Canal in Niagara Falls. The public health impact of dioxin, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, compares to that of the pesticide DDT.

The study appeared in the December 17, 2007 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Other Penn Vet researchers include **Drs. Gopa Biswas, Satish Srinivasan** and **Hindupur Anandatheerthavarada**. Research was supported by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health.

One Shot of Gene Therapy Spreads Through Brain in Animal Study

In the September 12, 2007 issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience*, **John H. Wolfe, V’82 GR’86**, professor of pathology and medical genetics and director of the Walter Flato Goodman Center for Comparative Medical Genetics, and researchers from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia show that, in a mouse study, a single gene therapy injection to one location in the brain can deliver a beneficial gene throughout the brain, provided the initial injection site is sufficiently well connected. If these results can be replicated in humans, it could prove a potent weapon against neurological disorders such as Tay-Sachs disease. The researchers targeted a well-connected area of the brain using a neutralized virus for a delivery vehicle. The virus was carried along neural pathways throughout the brain, delivering the enzyme-producing gene. One benefit was that each corrected cell produced a “sphere of correction” where it provided the enzymes to neighboring cells as well. Given the results, the possibility exists for future cases to need a limited number of treatments for a full recovery, but the possible use of this treatment on humans is years away.
Researchers Learn More about How Herpes Virus Invades Cells

Penn researchers have uncovered an important step in how herpes simplex virus (HSV-1) uses cooperating proteins on its outer coat to gain entry into healthy cells and infect them. The researchers believe they have demonstrated the effectiveness of monitoring these protein interactions using biomolecular complementation. Participating in the study were Dr. Roselyn Eisenberg, professor of microbiology at Penn Vet; J. Charles Whitbeck, GR’93, and Brigid Reilly, V’09, of the Department of Pathobiology at Penn Vet; Gary Cohen, professor of microbiology at Penn Dental; and Doina Atanasu and Tina M. Cairns of the Department of Microbiology at Penn Dental. The study was supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Merck Summer Research Fellowship Program at Penn Vet.

The findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, provide a better understanding of the mechanism that viruses use to conquer healthy cells.

Silencing Small but Mighty Cancer Inhibitors

Researchers from Penn Vet and Johns Hopkins University have uncovered another reason why one of the most commonly activated proteins in cancer is so dangerous. As reported in Nature Genetics in December 2007, the Myc protein can stop production of at least 13 microRNAs, small pieces of nucleic acid that help control which genes are turned on and off.

Also, in several instances, re-introducing repressed microRNAs into Myc-containing cancer cells suppressed tumor growth in mice, raising the possibility that a type of gene-therapy approach could be effective for treating certain cancers.

From Penn Vet were Dr. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko, associate professor of pathology, and Dr. Duonan Yu, from the Department of Pathobiology. The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Work by Penn Vet Researchers Selected for Faculty of 1000 Biology

The paper “The Sugar Glider (Petaurus breviceps): A Laboratory Host for the Nematode Parascarabaeoides tri- chosuri”—coauthored by the Department of Pathobiology’s Dr. Thomas J. Nolan, adjunct associate professor of parasitology, and professors Dr. Gerhard A. Schad, HON’77, and Dr. James B. Lok, along with X. Zhu, J. Cole and W. Grant—was selected for Faculty of 1000 Biology. Launched in 2002, Faculty of 1000 Biology is an award-winning on-line service that highlights and evaluates the most interesting papers published in the biological sciences, based on recommendations of more than 2,000 of the world’s top researchers. The paper appeared in the October 2007 issue of the Journal of Parasitology.

Oxygen Levels Affect Immune System Response

Dr. Cindy Otto, associate professor of critical care, was part of a team of researchers that discovered a signaling pathway involved in the body’s responses to infections and other damaging stimuli. Drugs or other treatments that alter this signaling potentially could help either improve the effectiveness of the immune response or reduce the damage that results when the immune system gets overactive, as in autoimmune diseases or sepsis (overwhelming infection). The team found that activated macrophages immediately stop making nitric oxide (NO) when oxygen is removed, and this effect is reversed as soon as oxygen is reintroduced into the environment. This rapid and reversible control of NO production occurs at levels of oxygen found in many disease states, suggesting that regulation of NO production by oxygen may be important in patients.

The findings were published in the article “Physiologic and Hypoxic O2 Tensions Rapidly Regulate NO Production by Stimulated Macrophages,” which appears in the on-line version of the American Journal of Physiology–Cell Physiology.

Students recently participated in Penn Vet Student Research Day; abstracts from their presentations can be found at www.vet.upenn.edu/research/students.
Albee Messing was always more interested in human disease than animal disease. In fact, he readily admits that he was somewhat intimidated by any animal larger than a mouse. So why did he end up at Penn Vet? Always a researcher at heart, he recognized that Penn’s Veterinary Medical Scientist Training Program would provide him with the best broad-based integrated training in medicine to support the research he wanted to do in neuropathology.

“Penn was a great place to study comparative neuropathology with people like Nick Gonatas, MD, professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, at the medical school, and the late Jack McGrath, V’43, at the veterinary school, who was one of the leading neuropathologists of that generation,” notes Dr. Messing, who received an undergraduate degree in biology from Yale University. “The exceptional flexibility of the combined degree program enabled me to focus on neuropathology and develop it as my clinical specialty.”

After receiving his veterinary medicine degree summa cum laude and completing his doctorate in experimental pathology, Dr. Messing pursued a post-doctoral fellowship in neuropathology with Dr. Gonatas. During this time, he also began to collaborate with the laboratory of Ralph Brinster, V’60, GR’64, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology at Penn Vet, on brain tumors and peripheral nerve research involving transgenic models, a collaboration he continued after accepting a position as assistant professor of pathology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine in 1985.

In his lab at Wisconsin, Dr. Messing eventually shifted the focus of his research to the central nervous system when he began to study a gene that makes glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP). This protein is found in the astrocyte, a type of glial cell that supports and nourishes neurons in the brain and spinal cord. If these nerve cells are injured through trauma or disease, astrocytes react by rapidly producing more GFAP. Through manipulation of the GFAP gene expression, Dr. Messing made transgenic mice, some with too much GFAP and some with none. “We were curious about how this would affect astrocyte function because scientists generally blamed astrocytes for the inability to recover following a CNS injury,” he explains.

Dr. Messing’s transgenic mice led to a breakthrough discovery. “The mice with too much GFAP formed abnormal aggregates of protein in the astrocytes called Rosenthal fibers,” he relates. “That’s where the value of my combined degree training became very apparent. I had learned about Rosenthal fibers in diagnostic neuropathology. You see them sporadically in a number of diseases, but when you see them abundantly and throughout the CNS, it’s really diagnostic of only one disease in neuropathology—a rare disorder called Alexander disease.”

Alexander disease, a leukodystrophy, is a progressive and usually fatal neurological disorder in which the destruction of white matter in the brain is accompanied by the formation of Rosenthal fibers. The most common type of Alexander disease is the infantile form, which typically has an onset during the first two years of life. Usually there are several types of developmental delays, both mental and physical, followed by loss of milestones, an abnormal
increase in head size, and seizures. The juvenile form, which has an onset between ages 2 and 13, is less common, and adult onset forms are even more rare.

“Alexander disease had been presumed as a genetic disorder, but no one had any clue what gene was responsible for it,” explains Dr. Messing, who is now faculty core director, Rodent Models Core, and professor, comparative biosciences, at the University of Wisconsin’s Waisman Center. “Because we had essentially recreated one of the hallmark features of the disease simply by changing expression of the GFAP gene, we put that forward as a candidate for the gene responsible for the disorder.”

During the ensuing four years, Dr. Messing’s lab assembled the world’s largest collection of Alexander disease samples, and found that greater than 90 percent of patients with the disorder have mutations in the GFAP gene. For a time, his lab was the world resource for genetic testing for Alexander disease. With such striking results, the testing quickly moved from the lab into standard clinical practice.

“I’m very gratified that we discovered something that’s really made a contribution to this disorder and a difference in people’s lives,” Dr. Messing reflects. “Alexander disease takes over the world of these patients and their families.

"The induced cells do all the things embryonic stem cells do," explains Dr. Thomson. "It's going to completely change the field.”

Although Dr. Thomson is encouraged that the new cells will speed up new cell-based therapies to treat disease, more work is required, he says, to refine the techniques through which the cells were generated to prevent incorporation of the introduced genes into the genome of the cells. In addition, to ensure their safety for therapy, methods to remove the vectors—the viruses used to ferry the genes into the skin cells—must be developed.

Dr. Thomson, who studied in the laboratory of Dr. Ralph Brinster while at Penn Vet, also was the first scientist to coax stem cells from human embryos in 1998.
On October 27, 2007, approximately 150 alumni and guests assembled to reunite, recognize and reminisce at the 2007 Alumni Reunion Dinner, held at the Allam House, New Bolton Center. All Penn Vet alumni were invited to attend, and classes ending in ’2 & ’7 were celebrated. In addition, the 25th and 50th reunion classes of 1982 and 1957 were honored and recognized for each endowing a student scholarship as class reunion gifts.

During the evening, the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) conducted a modified Annual Meeting and installed the following members:

- President (2007 to 2009): Michael Moyer, V’90
- Member at Large: Heather Berst, V’00
- Member at Large: Kristen Dance, V’98
- Member at Large: Linda Rhodes, V’78
- Reinstated Member at Large: Brenda Stewart, V’70

The bylaws that govern the activities of the VMAS were also modified, and can be found on the next page and at www.vet/upenn.edu/alumni.

Reunion classes of 1982 and 1957 celebrate at the 2007 alumni dinner.

Photos by John Donges.

Marilyn Weber, V’75, was awarded a President’s Plaque in recognition of her service as president from 2005 to 2007.
VMAS Changes Bylaws to Reflect Alumni Advances

By a majority vote of all alumni members present at the 2007 Alumni Reunion Dinner/VMAS Annual Meeting, the bylaws that govern the activities of the VMAS were modified to better reflect the growing family of Penn Vet Alumni, as well as to offer more flexibility in how, when and why alumni recognition awards are presented.

CHANGES TO BYLAWS

By a unanimous vote of all alumni present, the VMAS Bylaws were changed to reflect the following:

MEMBERSHIP

The first category of change focuses on MEMBERSHIP of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society. As you may know, all Penn Vet graduates are automatically part of the Society.

CHANGE #1 – ARTICLE II: MISSION

The passage reads: “The mission of VMAS is to promote the interests of the Veterinary School, to encourage and perpetuate the spirit of good feeling and commonality of interests among (graduates) alumni. . .”

Change: The word “GRADUATES” was changed to “ALUMNI.” This language is much more reflective of our alumni body.

CHANGE #2 – ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The passage reads: “Ex-officio members shall include the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, the School’s Directors of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, and Presidents of Veterinary Medical Associations of Pennsylvania and its contiguous states, and VMAS past presidents from the last ten years.”

Change: The wording regarding ex-officio members to the Board was changed to include presidents of all VMAS branches of states contiguous to PA.

CHANGE #3 – ARTICLE IV: VOTING

The passage reads: “Alumni and honorary members shall have the privilege of making motions and debating. Voting shall be limited to those alumni holding a VMD degree, or those who have completed an internship, residency or post-doctoral degree at the School, in addition to all members of the Executive Board, regardless of degree, during their term of office. Ex-officio members of the Board shall have the privilege of debate but not vote unless they are alumni holding a VMD degree.”

Change: The wording reflects that residents, interns and post-doctorates are now considered part of the Penn Vet alumni family, and may vote at meetings, unless they are ex-officio members.

CHANGE #4 – ARTICLE VI: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 1–Composition

The passage reads: “All officers must be graduates of the School. Members-at-large may be graduates of the School, or graduated residents, interns or post-doctorate students.”

Change: As in Article IV, the wording reflects that residents, interns and post-doctorates are now considered part of the Penn Vet alumni family, and may vote at meetings. However, the role of OFFICER will remain exclusive to graduates holding a VMD degree.

CHANGE #5 – ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Change: This passage was changed to reflect the new change in staffing structure in the Penn Vet Alumni Relations Office. Once a combined position, the roles of director of alumni relations and director of annual giving now are two separate entities.

MEETINGS

The second category of change deals with meetings of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society. These changes allow the ability to provide awards and other special recognition at special meetings such as the Penn Annual Conference in addition to events such as Alumni Day, which includes our Annual Meeting.

CHANGE #6 – ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES

The passage reads: Regarding alumni awards “…Those (alumni recipients) selected by the Board shall be honored by receiving awards at the Society’s Annual Meeting or special meeting designated by the Board.”

Change: The wording reflects that some business usually conducted at the Annual Meeting on Alumni Day, such as the presentation of alumni awards, can be moved to special meetings designated by the Board. This allows us to incorporate annual meeting business into Penn Annual Conference activities.
1940s

1942 – **Charles Raker** received a commendation from the Pennsylvania State Senate—sponsored by Senators Andrew Dinniman and Mike Brubaker; the certificate is awarded to “those citizens who, through dedication and excellence, contribute in a meaningful way to the well-being of their communities and ultimately to all the people” of Pennsylvania.

1981 – **Ted Spinks** started an expansion and renovation of his Animal Hospital of Sussex County in Augusta, NJ. The hospital will double in size to 6,400 square feet.

1983 – **Noah Cohen**, professor of large-animal clinical sciences at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, received the 2008 Schering-Plough Animal Health Applied Equine Research Award at the 10th World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) congress in Moscow.

The award is for his research in equine neonatology and perinatology, most recently focusing on a collaborative study on Rhodococcus equi foal pneumonia, a major cause of disease and death in foals.

1988 – **Spencer A. Johnston**, formerly professor of veterinary medicine at Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, has been appointed the Edward H. Gunst Professor in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. The Gunst Professorship was established in 1995 by Richard and Joanne Moyer of Richmond, Va., honoring a long-standing relationship the Gunst have had with the College.

1988 – In September, **Gregory A. Lewbart**, professor of aquatic animal medicine at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine was named Exotic DVM [VMD] of the Year during the AVMA Convention in Washington, DC. The award is presented annually to an individual embodying the essence of stewardship of exotic companion animal species, contributes to the education of veterinary students and clinicians and serves as international ambassador of goodwill for the exotic animal profession.

1990s

1992 – The Equine Science Center at Rutgers University selected **Patricia Hogan** as the 2008 winner of its Spirit of the Horse Award, which recognizes individuals whose lives have been profoundly changed because of their involvement with horses and who have acknowledged the impact by giving back to horses or the horse industry. Dr. Hogan, widely publicized as the veterinarian responsible for saving Kentucky Derby—winner Smarty Jones, heads her own veterinary surgery clinic, Hogan Equine, LLC at Fair Winds Farm in Cream Ridge, NJ.

2000s

2003 – **Alison Joy Abramson** married Matthew Adam Hasson on January 19, 2008. Dr. Abramson is an associate veterinarian at the Park East Animal Hospital in Manhattan. Mr. Hasson is an associate specializing in mergers and acquisitions at the CIT Group, a commercial and consumer finance company in Manhattan.

2004 – **Cailin Heinze** has begun her first year of a small-animal clinical nutrition residency at the University of California at Davis.

Deaths

1941 – **John P. Ruffing** on November 9, 2007.
1942 – **George Conrad** on December 5, 2007.

Alumni Connections

Are you familiar with Penn’s On-Line Alumni Community? It provides a free service to all Penn graduates that allows you to find a former classmate, sign up for an e-mail forwarding service and update your alumni record.

As we reactivate the class agent program, you can register and update your contact information by visiting www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UPN.

Once registered, you can search the On-Line Directory networking and an easy way to keep up-to-date on fellow alums. The permanent email forwarding service will forward messages received at your permanent Penn e-mail address to the one of your choice.

Another way to reconnect with Penn Vet and classmates:

Take advantage of the Penn Vet Alumni Society’s electronic communications system, a listserv, by which you can keep in touch with your classmates. The listserv is free and your privacy is ensured. Send your preferred e-mail address to haggertc@vet.upenn.edu, or call 215-898-1481 for details.
The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) has been part of Penn Vet's world since the first class graduated in 1887, and I am honored to have recently assumed the position of president. VMAS was founded to promote the interests of the School and the Alumni Society and to encourage and perpetuate the spirit of good feeling and commonality of interests. By participating in events, promoting scholarship and supporting faculty and administration through the annual work of the alumni liaison committee, we're proud to have contributed to Penn Vet's success.

Until this past fall, VMAS membership included only those who had earned a VMD, and yet many of us recall with fondness and appreciation the training from interns and residents, who represent many other colleges of veterinary medicine. Therefore, by a vote of more than 100 Penn Vet alumni, the VMAS bylaws were recently amended to include all interns, residents and post-doctorates in the Penn Vet alumni family. They are, by inclusion in VMAS, recognized for their invaluable contributions to the care of patients, their advancement of our knowledge and also the training of our students.

Also, the VMAS Board has worked with the Penn Annual Conference Educational Committee to build more alumni-related events into this year's conference. On March 6, 2008, young alumni of the most recent five years, along with fourth-year Penn Vet students, gathered for lunch. Later that evening, we awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. Gary Smith, who was elected by young alumni, and offered 2007 Alumni Awards of Merit to James Harper III, V’72; Lillian Giuliani, V’57; Lawrence Soma, V’57, FEL’63; Suzanne Smith, V’82; and David Wolfgang, V’82. A lifetime achievement award was presented to Daryl Biery, GM’67, HOM’74, by Sydney Evans, V’77, G’86, HOM’98, who also presented the keynote address at this year's conference.

Looking ahead, on May 15–17, 2008, Penn Vet will join all other Penn schools for Alumni Weekend. Watch your mail for information about a reunion reception and picnic for classes ending in ’3 and ’8.

We are also thrilled to support a new alumni initiative called the “Veterinary Specialists Club” which is hosted in the Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center’s conference room. This small-group, peer-to-peer forum invites specialists to return to campus for monthly rotating topics to share their considerable expertise with clinical faculty and house staff. This “club” will also allow members to consider the Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation Conference Room as their “clubhouse” when they have other business at Penn, a place to stash their coats, and a place to link to the web.

There is much happening in the Penn Vet world, and I encourage the entire alumni family to stay connected by visiting the Penn Vet Web site for the latest information on news and events.

—Michael Moyer, V’90
President, VMAS

Call for Nominations: 2008 Alumni Awards

Your Veterinary Medical Alumni Society board is seeking nominations for the 2008 Alumni Award of Merit and other awards for distinguished Penn Vet Alumni.

Presented at either the Penn Annual Conference or Alumni Weekend, these awards are given to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and to the School. Awards are given annually to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners, and benefit society through civic activities that foster the advancement of the profession and the School’s good name.

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Board is seeking candidates from 2008 reunion classes or classes ending in ’3 or ’8.

Please forward your anonymous or signed nominations to Coreen M. Haggerty, director of Alumni Relations, at 215-898-1481 or haggertc@vet.upenn.edu.
White Coat Ceremony
The White Coat Ceremony is an important milestone in the life of a Penn Vet student. It marks the end of training in the classroom and the beginning of clinical rotations. Pictured are, left to right, back row: Diana Klein, V’09, Melissa King, V’09; front row: Heather Balmer, V’09, Susan Jennings, V’09, Stephanie Istvan, V’09, Emily Howe, V’09, and Asal Homayouni, V’09. Photo by John Dinges.

Commerce Bank–Penn Vet Visionaries Speaker Series
As part of the Commerce Bank–Penn Vet Visionaries Speaker Series, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell spoke at the School on November 9, 2007 to detail plans for improving the state’s laws governing the treatment of dogs. Pictured are Governor Rendell with former Veterinary Business Management Association presidents Megan Stalker, V’06, Deirdre Weissman, V’08, and current VBMA president, Michael Jennings, V’10. Photo by Sabina Pierce.

SCAVMA
SCAVMA auction coordinators Alexis Holroyde, V’10, Katie Farrell, V’10, and Amelia Khan, V’10.
An Opportunity for Scholarship
Dr. Charles Raker, V’42, poses with Opportunity Scholars (from left to right) Denae Ervin, V’08, Diana Klein, V’09, and Asya Zolotusky, V’08, at the Rush Shippen Hudekoper Society Celebration at the Hill Pavilion in October 2007.

Welcome Parents and Partners
The Anatomy Lab is one stop on the tour during the School’s annual Parents and Partners Day, where family members of first-year students are invited to learn more about Penn Vet and what the next four years will entail for the students. Photo by John Donges.

Honoring a Pioneer
Dr. Darryl Biery, HOM’74, receives a lifetime achievement award at the 108th Penn Annual Conference. The award consisted of a vintage radiology tube that was funded by donations from current Penn Vet radiology residents. Dr. Sydney Evans, V’77, and Dr. Wil Mai, assistant professor of radiology, presented the award.
The Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center (VCIC), in the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, focuses primarily on implementation of clinical trials involving spontaneous disease in client-owned animals. The VCIC works collaboratively with Penn’s School of Medicine and Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in addition to the Investigational Drug Service at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

VCIC trials are sponsored by industry (e.g., pharmaceutical and pet-food companies), foundations and Penn Vet’s Department of Clinical Studies–Philadelphia. All trials are approved by the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Owners choosing to enroll their pets in these trials are provided extensive information regarding the trial and are only enrolled with their full consent.

Currently, the VCIC is recruiting patients to participate in a number of different active studies examining novel pain management modalities and diseases in cardiology, oncology, internal medicine, critical care and clinical nutrition. These are as follows:

**Pain Management**
- Bone cancer pain study

**Cardiology**
- Feline heart disease
- Cardiomyopathy in great Danes and Doberman pinschers
- Pulmonary hypertension in dogs

**Medicine**
- A number of studies investigating diabetes

**Oncology**
- Feline lymphoma and squamous cell carcinoma
- Bladder tumors in dogs

For more information about these or other clinical trial options, please call the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center at (215) 573-0302 or email vcic@vet.upenn.edu.

Horses with recurrent pruritus and/or urticaria needed for an exciting study. New Bolton Center is looking for horses with allergic skin diseases within the tri-state area to characterize the nature of the allergy and the occurrence of secondary skin infections. Benefits for participating in the study include:

- Discounted dermatology consultation,
- Discounted blood allergy test,
- Free intra-dermal allergy test, and
- Free dermatology diagnostic tests (skin scrapings, cytology and fungal culture).

Please contact Dr. Radwanski (215-898-8861 or noelrad@vet.upenn.edu) for further information or to schedule an appointment.
Your contributions play a critical role in our ability to serve the citizens and animals living in Pennsylvania and beyond. I thank you all for your support, and I hope we can count on your continued investment in the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for years to come.

Joan Hendricks
Joan C. Hendricks, V’79, GR’80
The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine
2006.2007 board of overseers

The board of overseers is the advisory body to the dean and faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine. The board offers Penn Vet a ready panel of professionals, experts and lay people who provide volunteer leadership and financial support to the School. Overseers also serve as ambassadors and spokespersons by linking the School to the world.

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Mr. Robert F. Fairchild, C’64
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Thomas J. Weiner, V’78
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The Honorable Dennis C. Wolff
Mrs. Robin Rubenstein
Mr. Jerry Rosenthal
The Honorable Patricia Jenkins

2006.2007 veterinary medical alumni society executive board

The mission of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society is to promote the interests of the School and the alumni society, to encourage and perpetuate the spirit of good feeling and commonality of interests among graduates of the School, and to assist the School in advancing veterinary education, students and administration.

Marilyn B. Weber, V’75
Michael R. Moyer, V’90
Josephine Deubler, V’38

President
President-Elect and Alumni Liaison
Committee Chair
Historian

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Ross Tramell
Amanda Theodore
Jeffrey Stupine
Kirk Breuninger

Student Government President
Class of 2007 President
Class of 2008 President
Class of 2009 President
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St. George Hunt, V’86
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Diane Ruth Eigler, V’80
Robert W. Stewart, Sr., V’68
Carol Diane Swandby, V’84
Stephen Wayne Syken, V’86

*Notes Past President
Revenue and Expense
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007 (In thousands of dollars)

Income:
- Appropriation: $42,454
- Gifts (used for current operations): $6,547
- Tuition and Fees (net of student aid): $9,148
- Grants and Contracts: $39,569
- Investments: $4,261
- Other Income Including Sales and Services: $34,330
- Net Resource Transfers: $754
- Net Total Revenue and Transfers: $137,063

Expense (by object)
- Salaries and Benefits:
  - Academic: $21,076
  - Professional: $16,270
  - Financial/General Support Staff: $3,106
  - Instruction/Research Support Staff: $11,056
  - Temporary Workers: $1,674
  - Employee Benefits: $15,782
- Total Compensation: $68,964
- Current Expense and Capital Transactions: $41,704
- Student Aid Expense: $545
- Total Direct Expenditures: $111,213
- Facilities and Maintenance & Renewal: $6,270
- University Administration/Development: $7,595
- Grant and Contract Overhead Charges: $7,203
- Library: $1,395
- Total Indirect Expenditures: $22,463
- Total Expenditures: $133,676
- FY ’07 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): $3,387

Fundraising Results
Fiscal Years 1999-2007

![Fundraising Results Graph]

New Gifts and Pledges
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007

![New Gifts and Pledges Pie Chart]

Use of New Gifts and Pledges
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007

![Use of New Gifts and Pledges Pie Chart]
$100,000 +
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Shirley Hill
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Mrs. Nanette Rice Reid

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Mrs. Sylvia Van Sloun
Marilyn B. Weber, V.M.D.
Thomas J. Weiner, V.M.D.
Mr. Peter V. Wetterhill

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Mr. David Altshtuler
Sharman B. A. Altshtuler, V.M.D.
Ms. Gloria Austin
Ms. Judith A. Baldino
Mrs. Sarah R. Bogdanovitch
Ms. Catherine Bray
Mrs. Elaine Redding Brinster
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Peter H. Craig, V.M.D.
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Mrs. Sarah S. Harrison
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Mark E. Haskins, V.M.D., Ph.D.
Albert L. Haun, V.M.D.
Park W. Haverstick, V.M.D.
Deirdre M. Hensen, V.M.D.
Dr. Paula S. Henthorn
Max J. Herman, V.M.D.
Michael J. Herman, V.M.D.
Peter H. Herman, V.M.D.
Kim A. Herman, V.M.D.
Curt D. Heyde, V.M.D.
Ms. Kathy Hill
Amy H. Hollen Green, V.M.D.
Ms. Linda Holtzman
Ms. Susan E. Hopkins
Ms. Barbara Sue Howard
Edward M. Hsu, V.M.D.
Mr. Leslie Hudson
St. George Hunt, V.M.D.
Ms. Theresa Incagnoli
Timothy J. Ireland, V.M.D.
Susan Irene Jacobson, V.M.D.
Mr. Carey K. Miller
Richard Scott Meiers, V.M.D.
Mr. Ronald R. Minor, V.M.D.
Ms. Melissa L. Johnson
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Clayton E. Kimberly, V.M.D.
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Mark C. Klingsmith, V.M.D.
Charles D. Knecht, V.M.D.
Mr. Christopher Knoll
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Mrs. Patricia Lafferty
Mr. Thomas F. Lantry
Kay Stelmaich Larkin, V.M.D.
Robert L. Lash, V.M.D.
Ms. Nancy Laurie
A. Gary Lavin, V.M.D.
Glenn J. Lawhon, Jr., V.M.D.
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Mr. John L. Leonard
Ms. Karen Lien
Ms. Jacqueline Liefer
Lawrence Jay Linnetz, V.M.D.
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Rosemary T. Lombardi, V.M.D.
M. Phyllis Lose, V.M.D.
Ms. Mary G. Love
Donald K. Lowe, V.M.D.
Lt. Col. Francis J. Lowe
Ann Wayne Lucas, V.M.D.
William F. Lucker, Jr., V.M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth N. Luongo
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William Farrish, owner of Lane’s End Farm, served as chair of the Board of Churchill Downs from 1992 to 2001, has been a steward and vice chair of the Jockey Club, a director and chair of the Executive Committee of the Breeders’ Cup and a member of the Board of Directors of the Keeneland Association.

One of the country’s leading Thoroughbred breeders and owners, William Farrish was inspired to make a gift to laminitis research at the School of Veterinary Medicine in part by the care given to Barbaro at New Bolton Center and also by his own interest in helping find a cure for laminitis, the condition that led to Barbaro’s demise. About 15 percent of the horses in the United States suffer from laminitis over the course of their lifetime. Despite its prevalence, the exact cause of the disease remains unknown. Mr. Farrish’s gift will support the recently implemented Laminitis Research Initiative at New Bolton Center. “Through Penn Vet’s efforts, we look forward to great strides in conquering this devastating disease,” Mr. Farrish says.
In December 2007, philanthropists Marianne and John K. Castle announced a gift of $1 million to support the School of Veterinary Medicine’s laminitis research. In speaking about the gift, Mr. Castle said, “Marianne and I are thrilled to be able to support the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in their research. Our hope is that the knowledge acquired will be important in helping both animals and humankind.”

In addition to funding research in laminitis, the Castles’ gift will support the directorship of the School’s new Laminitis Institute, which will be held by Dr. James Orsini.

When fully funded, the institute will include new research laboratories, funding for research projects at Penn Vet, and in collaboration with other institutions, a home-care treatment model, support for student research opportunities, and improved clinical facilities.

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Ms. Susan Thomas-Holder
Ms. Beverly K. Thompson
Mr. Clark T. Thompson
Mr. Daryl Thompson
Ms. Deborah J. Thompson
Ms. Rose Franck Thompson
W. Richard Thompson, V.M.D.
* Deceased

*Deceased
Jim Stewart, V’68 (equine practitioner and surgeon), and Brenda Stewart, V’70 (small animal practitioner), both have dedicated countless time to Penn Vet in the form of membership in the Development and Opportunity Scholarship committees, and Jim is past president of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society.

“Giving back to the vet school that first gave me the opportunity to be a veterinarian is the easy part. Being able to find enough funds to help students decrease their total average debt loads of $160,000 is the hard part. This giving back assistance should be an unending obligation,” explains Jim.

“A Penn education begins with appreciation and support of all interests and directions of veterinary medicine. It then teaches using reasoning, not reaction, to solve problems, hands on clinical skills, and researchers’ instincts without doing research. This is a philosophy we must support and maintain.”
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Estate of David Tudor
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James M. Fickinger, V.M.D.
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Harriet A. Doolittle, V.M.D.
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Leo A. Phil, V.M.D.
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John Stanley Stratton, V.M.D.
Pierre H. Theuin, V.M.D.

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Bert M. Allen, V.M.D.
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A. Gary Lavin, V.M.D.
James S. Reid, V.M.D.
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Elnor A. Brandt, V.M.D.
Abbot S. Dener, V.M.D.
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Eugene Wiltak, V.M.D.

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James W. Ebert, V.M.D.
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David E. Zerby, V.M.D.
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Larry R. Bacon, V.M.D.
James M. Clinton, V.M.D.
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Charles J. Dribe, V.M.D.
James W. Fawcett, V.M.D.
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R. Lee Pyle, V.M.D.
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Carolyn Reed, V.M.D.
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Marom Calderwood Mays, V.M.D., Ph.D.
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Alvin J. Brown, V.M.D.
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Irvin C. Ware, V.M.D.
Steven E. Westbrooke, V.M.D.

1971
Robert B. Alexander, V.M.D.
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Randolyn J. Can, V.M.D.
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1972
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Louis M. Wiest, Jr., V.M.D.
Russell H. Wilber, V.M.D.

1973
Douglas F. Antczak, V.M.D.
Richard K. Baird, V.M.D.

ROBIN RUBENSTEIN

I became acquainted with Penn Veterinary Medicine when my dog Punki fell ill with liver disease. On our initial visit to the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, I was overwhelmed with the wonderful care Punki received. Our doctor was not only knowledgeable about Punki’s medical condition, but she never was too busy to take my many calls, explain options and support us when hard decisions had to be made.

When Punki’s condition advanced to the final stage, our doctor and her entire team were waiting for us at the entrance to Emergency Services. They truly cared for all of us during this very difficult and emotional experience. As any animal lover can attest, a pet’s end-of-life process is traumatic, but the acts of kindness offered by the hospital staff had a deep effect on me. That’s when I decided to commit my time and effort to the needs of the Ryan Veterinary Hospital and Penn Veterinary Medicine.

A year later, we again faced a challenging situation with our newly adopted dog, Goliath. This time we sought the services of the Hospital’s Behavior Section, who taught us appropriate training and caring for Goliath. Every member of the team offered us help that exceeded our expectations. They guided us day, night and even on weekends to create conditions safe for Goliath and those interacting with him.

I am proud and honored to be part of the Penn Veterinary Medicine family. They live up to their mission to provide the highest-quality care in conjunction with compassion, support and understanding of both the patient and the client.
2006-2007

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This report represents the School of Veterinary Medicine gifts from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this report. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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