Class of 2012 By the Numbers
The most important event affecting admissions in the last 20 years has been the initiation of the Veterinary Medical College Admissions Service. Established in 1996, it nearly doubled Penn Vet’s applicant pool the very first year. We now have the largest applicant pool in more than 50 years, enabling us to put together a very diverse student body both in culture and in veterinary interest. The average grade point average has not fallen below a 3.5 in the last decade and the Graduate Record Examination scores remain high. Penn Vet’s Admissions Committee has focused on recognizing students who are truly interested in attending Penn Vet. As a result, our acceptance rate has increased enormously.
Women have steadily increased their numbers in vet schools throughout the United States and Canada over the last 20 years. According to Jeanne Lofstedt, DVM, in “Gender and Veterinary Medicine” (Can. Vet. J. 44(7), July 2003), “Explanations that have been put forward for the feminization of the veterinary profession include the following: (1) elimination of discrimination at admission based on gender; (2) improvement in chemical restraint for large animals; (3) an increase in the number of female role models, especially in physically challenging aspects of the profession; and (4) the caring image of veterinarians portrayed in books and on television.”