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110th Penn Annual Conference Honors Faculty and Alumni

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My first year as President of VMAS has been historically interesting. The state of our economy affects all things, including the success of higher education schools that rely on government funding to sustain, such as our own School of Veterinary Medicine.

The veterinary profession is not unlike any other business in today’s economy. But even in an era of cut-backs, there are significant positive changes within our profession – more women are entering veterinary medical careers; more young alumni are pursuing non-traditional careers such as industry and public health; more of the world understands the impact that veterinarians have on our society – socially, economically and environmentally. Penn Vet remains an amazing springboard for us all.

In that regard, it is important for us to get (and stay) involved with our alma mater. Alumni Weekend allows us to gather together and help each other in our careers and our lives. As times pass, we should be in a position to give back to the School – as a personal thank-you and a professional commitment to the students and future of our profession. We can provide support in so many ways – mentor a student, donate payment for your “side-work” to the School, join in the fun at the SCAVMA auction. Contact the alumni office and ask, “How can I help?”

As President, I am looking for new, novel ways to reach out to all alumni in this next year. Call us and share your ideas.

—CARLA CHIEFFO, V’86 GR’98
PRESIDENT, VETERINARY MEDICAL ALUMNI SOCIETY