7-1-2013

Alumni News
VMDFINDER

The Alumni Relations Office often receives requests from people relocating to a new city for the names of VMDs. These people are specifically seeking a VMD because of their educational background. The VMD Finder will be an opt-in listing of VMDs by geographic location and we invite you to be part of this new service. Please visit the alumni pages on www.vet.upenn.edu and click on VMD Finder to join this listing service today.

ALUMNI CAREER AMBASSADORS

Remember being a third or fourth year veterinary student? A lot has happened in your career since then.

Think back to veterinary school... days filled with labs and exams and clinics, and all that knowledge to absorb. While you were busy with academics, the question of “What should I do after graduation?” undoubtedly lingered. Perhaps you benefited from the guidance of someone who helped you through these challenges – or perhaps you did it on your own, wishing there was someone with whom you could share ideas.

Current students need advice and direction. That is where you come in. Become an Alumni Career Ambassador today!

As a Career Ambassador, you will be listed as a VMD alum who welcomes current students contacting you with questions about your career path and your perspective on how to achieve success post-graduation. Your responsibility will be to reply to student inquiries in a timely manner and to help them make the most of the Career Ambassador Network.

Why become a Career Advisor?

> An advisor has the opportunity to interact in a very personal and positive way in the career choices of today’s veterinary students and the issues they confront.

> Most of us can remember an individual we respected and admired who provided guidance to us. Many of today’s students do not have such positive role models to help shape their career choices during their formative years.

> You will have the opportunity to interact with some of our best and brightest young veterinary students and develop a relationship with them.

How much of a difference can one individual make?

Your impact can be huge! The positive influence of one individual, as an advisor or role model, is very significant in terms of career choice, direction and success.

How the program works

Students can search the database and select member veterinarians that match their interests. Students will contact you directly.

Advisor prerequisites:

> A love of your profession

> A concern for the future of veterinary medicine

> A desire to make a difference

> An urge to be pro-active

> Motivation to inspire and guide others

The rewards:

> Helping to ensure a bright future for the profession

> Knowing that you are making a positive difference

How do I sign up?

> Visit the alumni pages on www.vet.upenn.edu and click on Alumni Career Ambassador Network for the online enrollment form.

> Email or call Alumni Director Kristen McMullen for a copy of the enrollment form: kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1481.

V’77 KEY WEST REUNION

Key West was the perfect location for a reunion of 13 members of the Class of V’77. On Thursday evening, January 24, the Sunset Pier of the Ocean Key Resort and Spa was alive with exclamations of “I haven’t seen you in years!” and “You haven’t changed a bit!” Cocktails and camaraderie were on the menu.

On Saturday morning, a continental breakfast and class meeting were held, where discussions ranged from children, grandchildren, and retirement to what everyone is doing now, what can Penn do for the veterinarian in the trenches, and our Scholarship Fund. The discussions were lively and sincere.
Throughout the four-day event, there was plenty of time for visiting with classmates and touring the historical sites in Key West. On Saturday evening, classmates, husbands, wives, and significant others enjoyed dinner at the Conch Republic Seafood Restaurant before heading across the road for ice cream, frozen key lime pie dipped in chocolate, and other sweets. For the last man standing, a shot of tequila at the Hogs Breathe Saloon – a classic in Key West!

ALUMNI AUTHORS & ARTISTS

Arthur Richards, Jr., V’49 is the author of Tale Wagging: Recollections of a Rural Veterinarian, a book that reveals many of the unexpected and humorous cases that kept Dr. Richards hopping for 50 years. A long-time member of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, he was its president in 1976 and was recognized as its Veterinarian of the Year in 1977. His hospital was recognized by the American Animal Hospital Association for 38 years. Dr. Richards and his wife have five children and ten grandchildren. He has sold his practice and retired, but continues to do relief work for various local practices.

Howard Lentz Todd Addis, V’59 has authored Our Penn-Marydel Hound: A Historical Anthology, a portion of the proceeds benefiting the MFHA Foundation. For more information, visit www.mfha.org/shop-bookstore.html. Addis has also authored The Addis Carriage Collection and his memoir titled A Backward Glance.

Fresh out of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School in 1968, Edward Dionne, V’68 was ready to embark on his professional career. He soon realized his education was just beginning. Warm Hearts for Cold Noses chronicles the warm, often hilarious adventures of a young veterinarian learning his trade with a series of unexpected cases and lovable creatures. For more information, visit www.edwarddionne.com.

Lawrence Gerson, V’75 is a regular writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Deva Khalsa, V’81 is the author of Dr. Khalsa’s Natural Dog: A Holistic Guide for Healthier Dogs. Dr. Khalsa has become a leading voice on holistic and alternative care for animals.

Lisa H. Handy, V’84 knows there’s no such thing as an “ordinary” day (or night) in her practice. For more than 25 years, Dr. Handy has seen the incredible humor in it all. In the end, she considers it an amazingly rewarding profession, constantly filled with surprises and plenty of horse laughs – all of which are reflected with tongue firmly in cheek throughout her new book, Just for Kicks. For more information, visit www.carolinaequineclinic.com/kicks.php.

Brian McGrory’s life changed drastically after the death of his beloved dog, Harry, when he fell in love with Pam Bendock, V’92, Harry’s veterinarian. As he learns how to live by living with animals, Buddy, the family’s pet rooster, becomes Brian’s inspiration in this inherently human story of love, acceptance, and change. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Buddythebook.

Howard Krum, V’92 along with three classmates, Drs. Roy Yanong, Scott Moore, and Patty Hogan, have written a novel inspired by their experiences as first-year veterinary students. Dr. Krum noted, “Our primary goals for this book, the first in a series, are to elevate the profile of the veterinary life we love while giving back to worthy programs and causes.” The group is donating a portion of the proceeds from each book sold directly to SCVMA Chapters at Penn, University of Florida CVM, Colorado State CVM and others. For more information, visit AnAnimalLife.com.

Throughout her life, Catherine “Betsy” Buck, V’00 has sustained two passions – animals and art. She has managed to combine the two, and her skilled sketches were on display at the Vineyard Haven.

Angelee A. Gerovasiliou, V’04 has independently released a new music album titled “MISS YOU.” The album is available online through most music distributors including CDBABY.COM and Apple iTunes. For more information, visit www.angeleemusic.com.
PVMA 2013 SLATE OF OFFICERS INCLUDES FOUR PENN VET ALUMNI

Congratulations to the following University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni on their election:

Sherill Davison, V’83, MS’88, MBA’04 elected 2013 PVMA President-Elect. Dr. Davison is Resident Director of the New Bolton Center Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System, Director of the Laboratory of Avian Medicine and Pathology, and an Associate Professor of Avian Medicine and Pathology.

Jim Holt, V’91 elected 2013 PVMA Vice President. Dr. Holt is the veterinarian for New Holland Sales Stables in New Holland, PA, working predominantly with cows and horses. He also works in a mixed equine/bovine practice doing pre-purchase exams, treating equine lameness, offering second opinions, overseeing imports and exports, and dealing with animal welfare issues as they relate to how animals are treated at sales and equine rescue facilities.

Kenton Rexford, V’94 elected 2013 PVMA President. Dr. Rexford is currently a partner at Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center.

Mary Bryant, V’95 elected PVMA Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Bryant is the Northeast Regional Director of Field Veterinary Services for Merial. She also serves as Director of Professional Affairs, the liaison between all professional veterinary organizations and Merial.

PENN ALUMNI HONORED BY THE PVMA

Each year during the annual Keystone Veterinary Conference, PVMA honors some of its most outstanding members with awards for their service. At their Hall of Fame Dinner, PVMA honored individuals who were nominated by their peers for their extraordinary contributions. Included in the distinguished honorees that evening were:

Lee Pickett, V’94, who was honored with the Dr. A. Wayne Mountain Memorial Media Award in recognition for her excellence in communicating the importance of veterinary care and pet responsibility through her regular contributions to The Reading Eagle in her weekly newspaper column “Ask the Vet’s Pets.” Dr. Pickett has written the column for ten years in order to educate animal lovers and encourage them to visit their veterinarians regularly.

Heather Berst, V’00, who was named Veterinarian of the Year for her outstanding achievement in veterinary medicine within the past year. Dr. Berst was recognized for her outstanding work in and dedication to the veterinary profession in many ways, including her work with Hills’ Pet Nutrition as well as her roles within PVMA, Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation, and the Dean’s Alumni Council at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. She was cited as being an enthusiastic volunteer with active leadership in planning of PVF’s annual Bark in the Park 5k Run fundraiser and co-sponsoring dinner meetings and events with PVMA to educate veterinarians on pet nutrition and why PVMA is important.

AAEP HONORS PENN VET ALUMNI

Midge Leitch, V’73, Dipl. ACVS was presented with the AAEP Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Leitch recently retired from the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center, where she was responsible for the Radiology Service. She joined the AAEP in 1973 and served on task forces, as a board member and as chairwoman of the Equine Welfare Committee from 2008 to 2010.

Wendy Vaala, V’80, Dipl. ACVIM will represent District 5 on the AAEP board of directors. Dr. Vaala has worked as a senior equine technical veterinarian with Merck Animal Health since 2004, after eight years in private practice in New Jersey.