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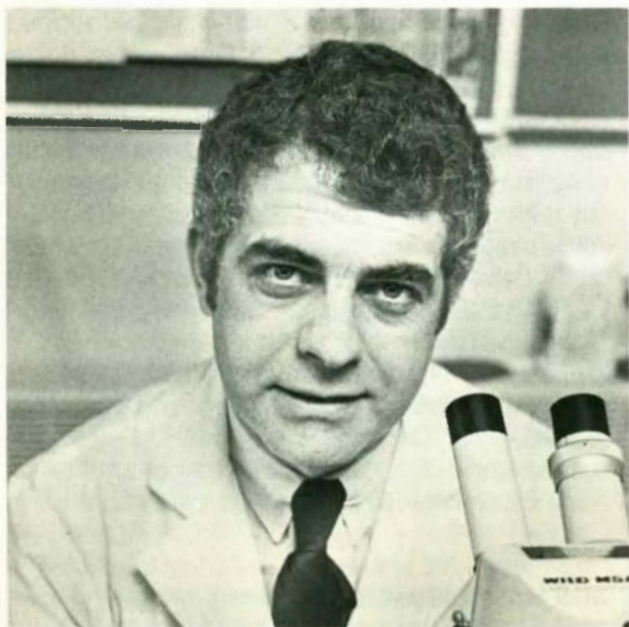
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Dr. Helen Acland: Down-Under Fracture

PROFILES

Dr. Colin Johnstone The Constant Juggler



The activities on parasitologist Colin Johnstone's work schedule are like the cars on the rush-hour Schuylkill Expressway: varied, numerous, and bumper-to-bumper.

"Once I get interested in something," says Dr. Johnstone, the soft-spoken, hard-working Assistant Professor of Parasitology and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, "I find the time—somehow—to squeeze it into my schedule."

Some squeeze, that. In addition to his varied teaching assignments and extensive responsibilities as the associate dean of student affairs, Dr. Johnstone has maintained several ongoing research projects on both front and back burners, served on the Veterinary School admissions committee for four years—for whom he was in charge of minority recruitment—and stayed actively involved in both local politics and an outside business.

"It's a constant juggling act," says the busy Dr. J, as many students know him. "I suffer from what perhaps many of my colleagues would call a weakness, in that my interests are fairly wide and varied."

"In academia, you have to establish priorities for your activities and concerns. But I have a hard time putting anything first. I value everything that I'm doing. I consider everything important."

"And so I juggle: sometimes I decide that my research is getting a little behind, so I stress that for a stretch, whereas at another time, I'll feel that I'm neglecting the students a bit, so I'll direct my efforts in that direction."

Born in Cumbria County, a rural area in northern England, the budding veterinary juggler, whose childhood friends were the children of farmers, went to school in Glasgow, attending the Glasgow University School of Veterinary Medicine.

"As far as getting into veterinary medicine," he explains, "mine is the classic story of the

kid who fell in love with animals and just went from there. My first hero was a veterinarian. I thought that what veterinarians did—helping sick animals get better—was wonderful."

In 1964, during his second year of veterinary school, Colin spent the summer in North America, visiting a friend at the School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center in passing. Later, after graduating and beginning a practice in the town of Bolton (!) in Yorkshire for six months, he accepted a position in the New Bolton Center's Leukemia program in 1967. Three years later, he entered the University of Pennsylvania's graduate program in parasitology, receiving his Ph.D. in 1976. Then, in 1977, he was appointed to the Veterinary School's faculty.

"The parasites which I'm interested in," explains Dr. Johnstone, "are those which live inside animals and humans and which not only live there but also cause disease by virtue of their presence or their feeding activities."

Consequently, his research projects involve various aspects of parasitism, including the nutritional interrelationships of parasitic infections in sheep, the brain worm problem in Pennsylvania's elk herd, the effects on milk production in dairy cattle, and the causes of colic in horses.

"There has to be a continual search for new drugs in parasitology," maintains Dr. Johnstone, who recently organized a well-attended, productive, state-of-the-art Symposium on Parasites for horse breeders, owners, and trainers. "The drugs that we have tend to get overused. And one of the problems in using any drug too frequently is that you tend to eventually select out of the population parasites that are resistant, or no longer susceptible to, the drug. No drug ever kills off a hundred percent of the parasite. So the danger is that eventually the resistant population can become predominant."

Dr. Johnstone's research calendar alone would seem to leave precious little time and space for any kind of deanship. But the Associate Dean of Student Affairs manages anyway.

"It's a grand title, isn't it?" he laughs. "Actually, I'm responsible for at least trying to deal with just about any problem that any of our approximately 430 students might have, either as individuals or as a group."

"Even though I'm part of the school administration myself, I function as a sort of interface between the school administration and the bureaucracy of the University. My job is to cut through the red tape to solve whatever problem arises—whether it's a matter of financial aid, student health service, or an academic problem. I have to create bridges."

"It's amazing how you can always find time for things you enjoy doing," he says. "And you become more efficient."

And does his overpopulated schedule indicate that he is a card-carrying workaholic?

"No," says Dr. Colin Johnstone. "Because I'm not compulsive about it. I enjoy everything I do. But I don't get anxiety attacks when I'm not working."

Dr. Helen Acland Down-Under Fracture



Sydney, Australia is a long way to go just to get a fracture of the tibia and fibula, but this is what happened to Dr. Helen Acland. Naturally, she did not have this in mind when she made the trip in January 1982. Actually she went to Australia, which is her home, to participate in the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction, where she presented a paper on contagious equine metritis. This was her first trip home in five years, and while there she decided to do some traveling by minibike. Hence the fractures. Helen is now on crutches and is making good, if agonizingly slow, progress.

Dr. Acland came to the United States in 1976. At that time she wanted to pursue a career in pathology, while her husband, Gregory, who is also a veterinarian, was interested in doing graduate work in ophthalmology. Both of these goals were realized at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1976, Helen has been assistant professor of pathology at New Bolton Center, and Greg has been doing Ph.D. work in his specialty.

Helen Acland graduated from the University of Sydney with a B.V.Sc. degree in 1965. She immediately joined the New South Wales Department of Agriculture as a veterinary research officer, located at the Veterinary Research Station at Glenfield, N.S.W., Australia. Dr. Acland describes this as a very busy central laboratory for the state. In Australia, these laboratories conduct considerable research, as well as providing necropsies and histopathological examinations on food and fiber-producing animals. Before leaving Australia, she had become special veterinary research officer in the laboratory, and conducted research on encephalomyocarditis in pigs, tuberculosis in sheep, border disease in sheep, and on Parma wallaby herpesvirus infection.

In addition to her appointment as assistant professor of pathology, Dr. Acland serves as head of the laboratory of large animal pathol-

The Board of Overseers

ogy at New Bolton Center. In 1978 she was certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathology, and now serves as chairperson of the Reproductive Pathology Specialty Group. She is also on the editorial board of the journal, *Veterinary Pathology*.

As an indication of Helen's unceasing activity since graduating from veterinary school, she was an author involved with the publication of twenty papers before leaving Australia, and now has eight papers in preparation. One of her research efforts is a study of swine tuberculosis. This is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and is being conducted in cooperation with Dr. Robert Whitlock. This study had its inception when swine producers in Pennsylvania became alarmed about the high incidence of carcass condemnations due to tubercular lesions. The study has two main objectives. One involves the experimental production of tuberculosis in order to assess the severity of lesions in various organs, and to obtain better information about age susceptibility. The other aspect involves field studies to determine under what husbandry conditions tuberculosis is most likely to occur. Swine tuberculosis is due to infection by the organism, *Mycobacterium avium*. Several serotypes of this bacterium cause tuberculosis in birds, but on many pig farms evidence of transmission from birds to pigs cannot be found. The problem of diagnosis of swine tuberculosis also needs attention. Young tubercular pigs react reasonably consistently to the tuberculin test, but in older animals the test is less reliable. For this reason, work is underway to develop an ELISA test.

In her other research project, Dr. Acland is working with Dr. Robert Kenney of the section of nutrition at New Bolton Center on contagious equine metritis. In this study mares are experimentally infected and the distribution of the organism in infected mares and its sites of persistence are being studied. Lesions in mares are examined in detail. Dr. Acland states that one of the things she enjoys at New Bolton Center is the opportunity to engage in cooperative research with individuals in other disciplines.

In addition to her research, Dr. Acland has teaching responsibilities for courses in large animal necropsy and large animal pathology for veterinary students. She is also involved in the graduate teaching of four veterinarians who are taking residency training in pathology, and has recently begun to teach fish histology in an elective course.

Dr. Acland states that she has probably traveled more in the United States than she ever did in her native country. Most of the travel has been to attend meetings, and she has enjoyed every bit of it. The Aclands live in Kennett Square, PA with their three children—two boys and a girl. They like the area, and are especially impressed with the friendliness of the people.

Stay away from minibikes, Helen!

One of the sources of strength for the School of Veterinary Medicine is the bridge that it has built to the world beyond its campus. One group that helps the school evaluate its strengths and weaknesses and meet its professional and community obligations is the Board of Overseers.

In 1928, the University statutes provided for the formation of Advisory Boards which would offer counsel to various faculties, but it was not until 1956 that an Advisory Board was listed in the *Bulletin of the School of Veterinary Medicine*. The chairman of this board was Mr. Orville H. Bullitt, and since that time the importance of this group in the affairs of the Veterinary School has grown steadily. In 1973 its name was changed to the Board of Overseers.

The University guidelines describe the Board of Overseers as an advisory body to the president, the provost, the trustees, and the dean of a school. Appointment to the Board of Overseers rests with the Executive Board of the Trustees who act upon recommendations made by the president after consultation with the provost. The Board of Overseers of the Veterinary School meets two or more times yearly; working committees of the Board meet more frequently. These sessions enable the dean and the central administration to refine objectives, review the school's progress and problems, assess strengths and weaknesses in relation to the needs of the community and the nation, and consider long-range goals and priorities. The overseers also provide consultation with components of the school in accordance with individual expertise. Occasionally they assist in identifying sources of support.

Ideally a board's membership should represent a broad balance among scholars, practitioners, alumni, and non-alumni, as well as knowledgeable men and women from various walks of life. The Veterinary School Board of Overseers represents each of our major constituencies. There are educators, prominent livestock and horseowners, dog fanciers, University trustees, representatives of State government, organized agriculture, the Alumni Society and the humane movement, as well as individuals who are best described as committed animal lovers.

In past years the board was loosely organized. It now functions through various committees on Planning and Development, Membership and Visitors, Education, Government and Community Relations, and Management and Facilities.

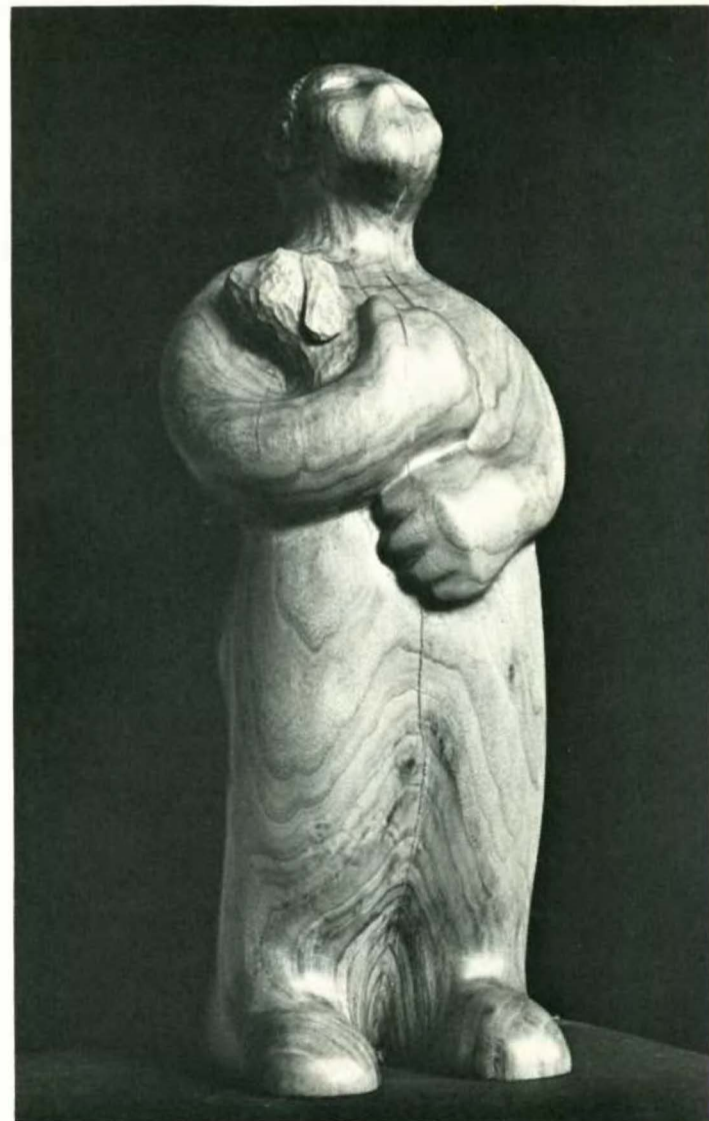
Lest that anyone think that these busy and important people convene regularly merely to view a dog or pony show, or to deal with matters of small consequence, it should be known that their record of service to the school speaks otherwise. They have advised on such weighty matters as the appropriate relationship with the Commonwealth, fiscal planning and management practices, and the overall performance of the dean's office.

Apologia

In the last issue of *Bellwether* we inadvertently omitted the name of Mrs. Richard E. McDevitt from the Board of Overseers.

The Board of Overseers

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The Bond, a wooden sculpture representing the relationship between humans and their companion animals, was carved by Board Member Dr. David E. Rogers and presented to Dean Marshak last September.