



## Bellwether Magazine

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# The Board of Overseers

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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.

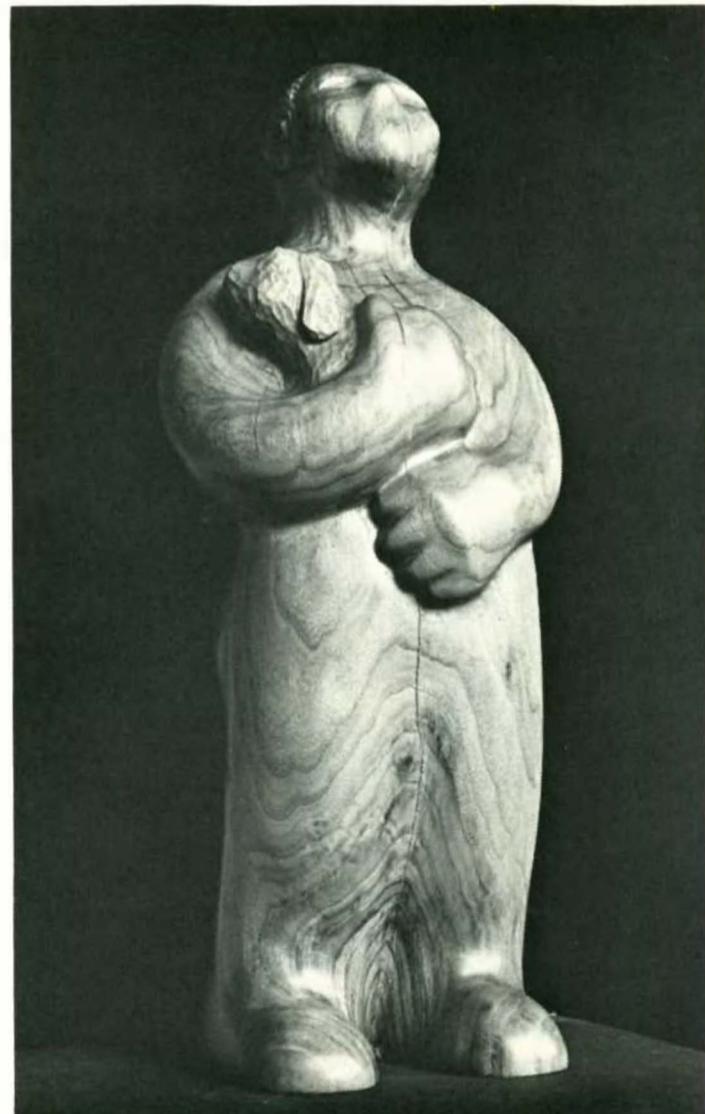
Lest that anyone think that these busy and important people convene regularly merely to view a dog or pony show, or to deal with matters of small consequence, it should be known that their record of service to the school speaks otherwise. They have advised on such weighty matters as the appropriate relationship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

Dr. Kenneth W. Allen  
Mrs. David Banks  
Dr. A. Cleveland Brown  
Roger Caras  
Christine Connelly  
John D. Cope  
H. Richard Dietrich  
Kieth Eckel  
The Honorable Penrose Hallowell  
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Vincent B. Murphy, Jr.  
Richard W. Newpher  
Charles Ord  
Mrs. William D. Patterson  
Mrs. Joan Ferguson Pew  
Mrs. David Rockerfeller  
Dr. David E. Rogers  
Dean Samuel H. Smith  
W. B. Dixon Stroud  
Robert Whittaker  
Robert Williams  
Charles E. Wismer, Jr.  
Charles Wolf



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.