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From the Dean

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From The Dean



Dear friends:

I could not be more privileged to be the first endowed dean at any veterinary school in North America, and I am delighted to send you my initial report as the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. I wish to thank the many people who were wonderfully supportive and generous to me in the 12 months I served as Acting Dean and, incidentally, gained an apprenticeship at deaning; without their expert guidance I would not be writing to you today.

As we prepare to greet the 21st century, what are my ambitions for the School? The answer is not simple, for the challenges and opportunities for veterinary medicine today are more varied and complex than ever. Mainstream America

is increasingly concerned about the safety and quality of its food supply, about ethical issues and the use of animals by society, and about the environment in which it lives. We must address these concerns and meet society's demand for ever more sophisticated diagnostic procedures and therapies; we must deliver a different type of service to production agriculture; we must master new and emerging infectious diseases of animals, especially those that they transmit to man; we must embrace the fledgling aquaculture industry; we must sustain the competitiveness of the Nation's animal industry in a global market; and we must be in the vanguard of advancing biotechnology.

These are exciting challenges which will require that the School make strategic choices as we focus on the future. Of prime importance is our ability to attract a highly talented body of students despite financial background. We must provide a first class learning experience. Our graduates are our most precious legacy and they are the standard by which the School will be measured for years to come. Unfortunately, as the cost of veterinary education progressively rises, more of our students must borrow to pay for their education. Far too many graduate with a crushing debt burden that can severely limit career options. We must

transform this situation by expanding scholarship endowment and seeking relief from the General Assembly in Harrisburg.

We have a proud tradition of commitment to fundamental research and a number of parameters support our claim that the School is the leading research veterinary school in the world. To secure our future we must sustain this position and remain at the cutting edge of biomedical research. Because of the broad sweep of veterinary medicine's responsibilities to society, our mission must include studies at all levels of biological organization from gene structure to environmental design. We must strengthen interactions between the clinician and the bench scientist. The School can use its intellectual and physical resources at this interface, benefitting our teaching program and advancing the services we provide to society. The application of molecular biology and the emerging biotechnology industry are on the verge of introducing new diagnostic methods and treatments for a spectrum of diseases and significantly changing veterinary medicine. The School must eagerly play a central role in leading the profession in these emerging fields of growth.

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The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Landeau Honored by Board of Overseers

Dr. Laurie J. Landeau, V'84, was honored by the Board of Overseers for her many contributions to the School. Dr. Landeau serves on the Board, she is very actively involved in the Aquavet® program and teaches veterinary aquatic medicine. Dr. Landeau served on the "Save the Veterinary School Committee" and each year supports the benefit event for the School at Saratoga. Shown here are William Schawbel, chair, Board of Overseers, and Christine Connelly, vice chair of the board, as they present Dr. Landeau with a miniature of the Benjamin Franklin sculpture on campus.

