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Message From the Dean

Alan M. Kelly
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In the past six months many good things have taken place at the School and I shall use my column to share some of them with you.

In November, the School held the first Annual Leadership Dinner at the Academy of Natural Sciences. This was an opportunity for us to recognize and thank our many alumni/ae



and friends who, each year, so generously contribute in support of our programs and student aid. During the evening Mr. Leonard

King presented a check on behalf of the The American Goldcup Committee. We have had the very good fortune to be the beneficiary of this event for the past four years. Mrs. John Landan also presented a check on behalf of the Committee for An Evening at Old Saratoga. This is a group of the School's most devoted friends who hold a wonderful weekend of parties, trackside luncheons, a glittering gala, and carriage drives through Saratoga Springs each August. The School has been the beneficiary of this event for the past eight years during which time they have contributed a great deal of money to programs and purchase of equipment at NBC.

The great significance of these two generous gifts is that they complete the funding for the new \$3 million Almira and Hardie Scott Sports Medicine Building at New Bolton Center. In addition to those mentioned above we are extraordinarily grateful to Herb and Ellen Moelis, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, Betty Moran, Allaire DuPont, and the 85 other donors who have so generously helped to make construction of this building a reality. I anticipate that we will have a ground breaking ceremony in the Spring and hope that it will be available for occupancy by January 2002. Ginny Reef can't wait to move her cardiology and ultra-sound program into the building and our exercise physiologist, Rick Birks, is in the process of negotiating a large grant to support his work on exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage once the building is complete.

A building that is nearing completion at

New Bolton Center is the new swine unit. It will provide some 60 sows a humane environment in which to farrow while furnishing students with a first class facility in which to learn swine medicine. At the Center we have also started to replace the cedar shingle roof on Allam House; so far as I can tell this is the first time the roof has been replaced since the Allam House was rebuilt and expanded in 1940.

Many of you know that in August we received an \$18 million matching grant from the Commonwealth towards a new Teaching and Research Building in Philadelphia. The building was originally planned to sit on the corner of 39th and Spruce Street abutting the Rosenthal Building. This is a compact lot and construction will cause considerable disruption of teaching and research in Rosenthal. The School also owns the "Getty lot" to the south of the Old Quadrangle Building. To my surprise, in September, the University approached us with an offer to assume responsibility for moving the roads surrounding the lot to give us as large a building footprint as possible. The University also said they would assume responsibility for cleaning the contaminated soil beneath the old gas station. This was an attractive surprise and as I write, we are exploring new road configurations and the neighborhood's reaction to a new building on this site. The study is to be completed by January 15, 2001 and a decision regarding the building's location will be made at that time.

I am pleased to see the recognition our faculty is receiving for their research, especially research on infectious diseases. In a collaborative study, Dr. Roz Eisenberg has produced a landmark paper showing the three dimensional structure of a herpes simplex viral surface protein in complex with one of its cell receptors; the study will revolutionize understanding of the way herpes virus enters cells. Recognition of leishmaniasis as a disease found in fox hounds in the U.S. and Canada has brought the spotlight on Drs. Phillip Scott and Jay Farrell, both professors of parasitology, for their long standing leadership in the field of Leishmania research. Assistant Professor of Parasitology Dr. Chris Hunter has been broadly recognized for his work on toxoplasmosis, and more recently,

a newly appointed virologist, Dr. Ron Harty, has received wide publicity for his collaborative study identifying four amino acids critical to the movement of Ebola virus from cell to cell. We know little about this dreaded virus and Dr. Harty's findings are immensely important to the field. In October, Dr. Ralph Brinster, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, presented this year's Earle P. Charlton lecture at the Tufts University School of Medicine. The topic of his presentation was "Germ Line Stem Cell Modification". The presenters for this prestigious lecture series are chosen by the Scientific Affairs Committee of the Tufts University. Since its inception in 1975, this endowed lecture series has attracted many luminaries in science including eight Nobel prize winners. Bringing further distinction to the School, Dr. Erica Holzbaur, associate professor of biochemistry, has been awarded the Keith Porter Fellowship by the American Society of Cell Biology for her research on intra-cellular motors and prominence in the field of cell biology.

It is almost a year since the special species

(exotics) clinic opened in the Small Animal Hospital. We now have two board certified clinicians in the service which has been very well received by our students and the public. In the near future we anticipate a grant from the Commonwealth to establish a program in com-

parative nephrology that will include a facility for hemodialysis. This will be used to prepare cats for renal transplant surgery and to care for animals that have acute and chronic renal disease.

Finally, I am delighted to tell you that Dr. Joan Hendricks, professor of medicine in the Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia, has been unanimously nominated for the Henry and Corrine R. Bower Chair in Small Animal Medicine. Joan richly deserves this distinction for her leadership in critical care medicine and her fundamental research on sleep. She will be the first woman to hold an endowed professorship in the School.

With best regards for a happy and successful new year. 🏠

Alan M. Kelly
The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

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