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2000 Annual Leadership Dinner

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Held at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Center City Philadelphia, the 2000 Annual Leadership Dinner recognized the School of Veterinary Medicine's most generous donors, including alumni and individuals, and friends. More than 160 guests attended the dinner, including more than 30 current students who are the recipients of Opportunity Scholarships.

The Opportunity Scholarship Program is designed to foster scholarship and mentoring for students. Since the program's inception in

1998, more than 35 Opportunity Scholarships have been awarded. The first-year students who are the recipients of the four-year scholarships are either matched up for mentoring with their donor or a faculty member. Recipients are selected based on their strong academic qualifications and financial need.

Matthew Kuhar, V'04, the recipient of The Jay Jasan Opportunity Scholarship, created in memory of Jay Jasan, V'93, who died in an airplane crash in 1998, addressed guests during the dinner's program. According to Kuhar, "... I am most inspired by the type of person [Jay's] friends and family remember in him and hope to be able to emulate his personal qualities of humour, generosity and a respectful compassion for nature throughout my future endeavors in veterinary medicine." The scholarship has been funded by Jay's father, James Jasan, classmates of Jay, and other donors.



Opportunity Scholarship recipients.



James Jasan (left), father of Jay Jasan, V'93, with Matthew Kuhar, V'04, the recipient of The Jay Jasan Opportunity Scholarship.



From left to right, Pat and Leonard King and Dr. Thomas Gemmill, V'77, and Valerie Gemmill.



Dr. Ralph L. Brinster, V'60, The Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, gave a presentation on germ line modification. His research has focused on the mechanisms regulating the proliferation and differentiation of the mammalian germ line and how these cells can be modified genetically. His approach to basic science has led to major advances in the understanding of developmental and reproductive biology.

Dr. Brinster graciously filled-in at the last minute for the original speaker, Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of veterinary anatomy and geology, who was going to



Jules Silver, V'47, with his wife, Lucy.

Dr. Dodson speak on recent dinosaur discoveries. Fortunately, Dr. Dodson has fully-recovered from an accident that prevented him from speaking at the dinner. According to Dr. Dodson, "The School of Veterinary Medicine has for twenty-six years provided me with a wonderful base for pursuing my dinosaur studies, all the while teaching my students the intricacies and subtleties of veterinary gross anatomy."