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V.M.D. – Ticket to the World

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V.M.D. — Ticket to the World

Earlier this year Christine Connelly, a member of the School's Board of Overseers, mentioned that she had met Dr. James T. Cavanaugh, V'69, while in Nairobi and that he was involved with the Kenya Wildlife Service. *Bellwether* contacted Dr. Cavanaugh at the American Embassy in Kenya and he sent back a brief synopsis of his life since graduation. His V.M.D. certainly is a ticket to the world.

"I graduated in 1969 from Pennsylvania and worked in a mixed and small animal practice in the U.S. until 1978 when I joined the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). My first temporary duty assignment was in Brazil to oversee the testing of Brazilian cattle for importation into the U.S. in 1979. My first post was to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, covering Honduras and Belize primarily to establish a surveillance network with the national veterinarians for the differential diagnosis of Hog Cholera vs. African Swine Fever and Vesicular Stomatitis vs. Foot and Mouth Disease (1980-1984). It was also a great way to learn Spanish.

The following assignment was to Manila, Philippines, covering all of Asia and the Pacific, 1984 - 1986, then to Panama to supervise APHIS programs in Central America, Panama and Colombia until we were evacuated in June 1989 and transferred to Mexico City, Mexico to supervise APHIS operations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Much of the work was at the time devoted to NAFTA negotiations on Veterinary and Plant Health technical issues (1990-1992).

Finally in 1992, I was transferred to Nairobi, Kenya, covering Africa and the Middle East, dealing with Rinderpest control and eradication along with CBPP and many other enzootic diseases present here. I will retire in June of 1998 and remain in Kenya.

My veterinary degree from Pennsylvania has given me the opportunity to have literally traveled the world and see places, people and animals I would never have been exposed to under any other

Dr. Lavin and Dr. Robbins Honored

During the Alumni Reception held at the Annual AAEP meeting in Phoenix in December Dean Kelly honored two outstanding alumni, Dr. Gary A. Lavin, V'62, and Dr. Jack Robbins, V'45, and presented each with the School's Bellwether Medal. Following are the citations:

A Citation of Gratitude to Gary A. Lavin, V.M.D.

For over thirty years you have been an immensely respected equine practitioner in Louisville, Kentucky and Hot Springs, Arkansas. As President and Executive Board member of both the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders, and as a director of the Breeders Cup, your contributions to the equine industry are notable. You command immeasurable regard among your peers.

The first veterinarian to be elected to the Jockey Club in 100 years, you bring great distinction to the profession. Your service as a Steward of the Jockey Club and as a director of the Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation continues your incomparable leadership. As a board member and outstanding president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, you served with distinction. The Lavin Cup, named in your honor, is a tribute to your strong commitment to equine welfare management.

As a family long involved in Thoroughbred racing, with your wife and life partner, Betsy, you founded the Longfield Farm in 1979 and raised innumerable stakes winners.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has chosen the occasion of the 1997 American Association of Equine Practitioners' Annual Meeting to pay tribute to you and your myriad of accomplishments. We applaud your challenge to veterinarians to take pride in the rich achievements of equine medicine, to promote responsible welfare management of horses, and to advance both the stature of the profession and our alma mater.

A Citation of Gratitude to Jack Robbins, V.M.D.

For many years you have been a leader in equine veterinary medicine. As a founding member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners in 1954 and as one of its illustrious presidents, you served with distinction. Your legacy includes a strong commitment to the industry, most notably as the first chair of the American Association of Equine Practitioners Practice Committee and by a 22 year tenure on the committee that monitored medication rules and ethics.

As a racetrack practitioner in California, you brought the veterinary profession to an elevated level of respect. As a founding director of the Oak Tree Racing Association, a director of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, and as second veterinarian to be elected to the Jockey Club, we applaud your incomparable achievements and the recognition they bring to your alma mater. We commend you for establishing training centers and surgical facilities for equine medicine and for the support you give to the Grayson Foundation for research. By observing your actions and many contributions to the profession, you have given others a beacon to follow.

Throughout these worthwhile endeavors your devoted wife, Maggie, supported your achievements and was a successful partner in breeding, owning and racing Thoroughbreds.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has chosen the occasion of the 1997 American Association of Equine Practitioners' Annual Meeting to pay tribute to you and your exceptional accomplishments. We applaud your challenge for all to contribute to the advancement of the equine profession and to foster a better understanding of equine medicine and its critical role in society.

circumstances. It's been wonderful and exciting. I plan to carry on with my passion here which has been to identify and study the behavior of the lions and cheetahs that inhabit Nairobi National Park. I can truly say that I have spent my entire life looking for the "right place" and was very lucky to find it on my last assignment for APHIS here in Kenya."

Since 1992 Dr. Cavanaugh and his wife have studied the prides of lions (four in 1996) and the three adult males in the park. All the lions are individually identified and are carefully tracked through observations. The purpose of the study is to provide a long term record (20 years or more) of the lions in Nairobi National Park. 🐾