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Message From the Dean

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

We pause to celebrate five decades of remarkable achievement since the University, in what appears to have been an act of sublime optimism, purchased the 220 acre South Brook Farm with its elegant manor house and rickety barn, and bestowed it on the Veterinary School as the site for its large animal campus. In this half century, New Bolton Center has grown to comprise 687 acres and has acquired fame as “the world’s premier equine clinic”, as the birth place of equine orthopedic surgery, as the birth place of the first calf conceived by in vitro fertilization, and of many other accomplishments that are recorded on the pages of this anniversary edition of Bellwether.

I am immensely proud of New Bolton Center, and as we pause to celebrate, can not help reflect on what it was that moved New Bolton Center to such accomplishment. The reason of course was leadership, we have been blessed by it in abundance since Mark Allam first took hold of the reins in 1952. Napoleon once said that a leader is a dealer in hope. Mark was one of the world’s greatest dealers in hope, his optimism was infectious and he was a genius at convincing his friends and acquaintances what needed to be done for New Bolton Center and then gaining their support. Mark set the foundations and gathered around him people of extraordinary vision, Bob Marshak, David Detweiler, Jack McGrath, Charlie Raker, Dick McFeeley, Jacques Jenny, Charlie Reid, Bill Boucher, to name a few. Bob Marshak, a cultured cow doctor from Vermont, followed Mark as Dean. He was another extraordinary spinner of hope and in 35 years of their combined leadership, New Bolton Center became a mecca for the profession. They inspired the faculty and an exceptionally dedicated and talented staff, with a whole new set of ideas and they raised the bar for veterinary medicine in this country and beyond.

Veterinary medicine has changed immeasurably in the past 50 years as has New Bolton Center. It remains a mecca, its reputation continues to expand and it is safe to say that the well-being of the horse would not be what it is today were it not for New Bolton Center. None of this could have occurred without the support of the Governor, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and the many individuals who have so generously and selflessly supported New Bolton Center for the past half century. You have been incomparable! We thank all of you for your kindness and for the faith you have bestowed in us; we hope that you share our immense pride in New Bolton Center and our faith in its future.

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