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Faculty Favorites

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Faculty Favorites

The *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Penn's alumni magazine, as part of its centennial celebration, asked alumni to write about the faculty member who most stimulated them during their years at Penn. **Charles D. Knecht, V'56**, wrote about **Mark A. Allam, V'32, HON'84**, who served as dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine from 1953-1973. An excerpt of Dr. Knecht's response below was published in the May/June 2002 issue of the *Gazette*.

"On arrival as first year students in Veterinary Medicine in 1952, we found a new dean who was a recent practitioner and an accomplished veterinary surgeon. Dean Mark W. Allam proved to be a remarkable surgeon, an enthralling teacher, a unique administrator, a venerable fund-raiser and, most of all, a friend to all. I can still see him, although he was dean, hurrying into the lecture room from surgery and tying his bow tie as he lectured on the fine points of surgery. I can recall assisting him at the surgery table where no fault in instrumentation, technique or temperature of the irrigation saline was tolerated.

"In 1955-56, our class decided that faculty should be evaluated by students. As chair of the

committee, I was joined by several WW II veteran classmates to present our findings and recommendations to the dean. Although unwarned, he accepted our analyses with grace, thanked us and promised improvements – a first for the School. In later years, Dean Allam developed the benchmark program at New Bolton Center, encouraged benefactors by driving the New Bolton Center horse drawn carriage at weddings and originated the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, in which I was later privileged to gain diplomacy and to serve as president as he did.

"In all of his roles as professor, surgeon, dean, assistant vice president for medical affairs and dean emeritus, Mark was joined by the charming and capable Lila in spreading the friendship of Penn. It is no wonder that so many of the children of my era at Penn are named Mark as is my eldest son. Who else could cook scrapple and eggs in the morning after a good night's sleep in their home and consider us lifelong friends? Who else would exchange similar scrapple with a few pounds of Alabama pecans yearly without fail? And who could speak so plainly of the love for Penn,

only second to the love for Lila, just a few days after her death and nearly hours before his?

"An excellent and memorable professor is not just that knowledge and foster thought, it is he or she who can relate his or her and your experiences to life – all of life, not just the few years of classical education. Dr. Mark Allam lived the life, taught the life and shared the life so that each of his students and later colleagues could carry the light of knowledge and dedication to others."

2003 Alumni Award of Merit Nominations Sought

Nominations are being sought for three recipients of the 2003 Alumni Award of Merit, which will be presented at the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) Annual Meeting during Alumni Weekend 2003 on May 16-18. The VMAS honors alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and the School with the Alumni Award of Merit. The award is given annually to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners, and benefit society through civic activities which foster the advancement of the profession and the School's good name.

Eligible 2003 recipients are members of the classes that end in "3" or "8," and who will be celebrating a five year reunion during Alumni Weekend 2003. Members of the VMAS Executive Board will select the recipients from the pool of nominees. Nominations are due no later than December 31, 2002.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Joshua E. Liss, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, at (215) 898-1481 or via e-mail at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>. For a list of previous Alumni Award of Merit recipients, please visit <<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/alumniawardofmerit.htm>>.

To make a nomination, please send a letter explaining your reasons to:

Joshua E. Liss
 Director of Alumni Relations
 and Annual Giving
 University of Pennsylvania
 School of Veterinary Medicine
 3800 Spruce Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047

AVMA Annual Convention Alumni Reception

Nearly 100 School of Veterinary Medicine alumni and their guests attended an alumni reception during the American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention in Nashville on July 14, 2002. **Associate Dean Jeffrey A. Wortman, V'69**, welcomed everyone to the reception and spoke about the School's current activities. Those in attendance were among the first to view *On Any Given Day*, a new 15-minute video that follows a day in the life of New Bolton Center. The video helps to mark New Bolton Center's 50th anniversary, and it will be shown at alumni gatherings in the future.

