



Bellwether Magazine

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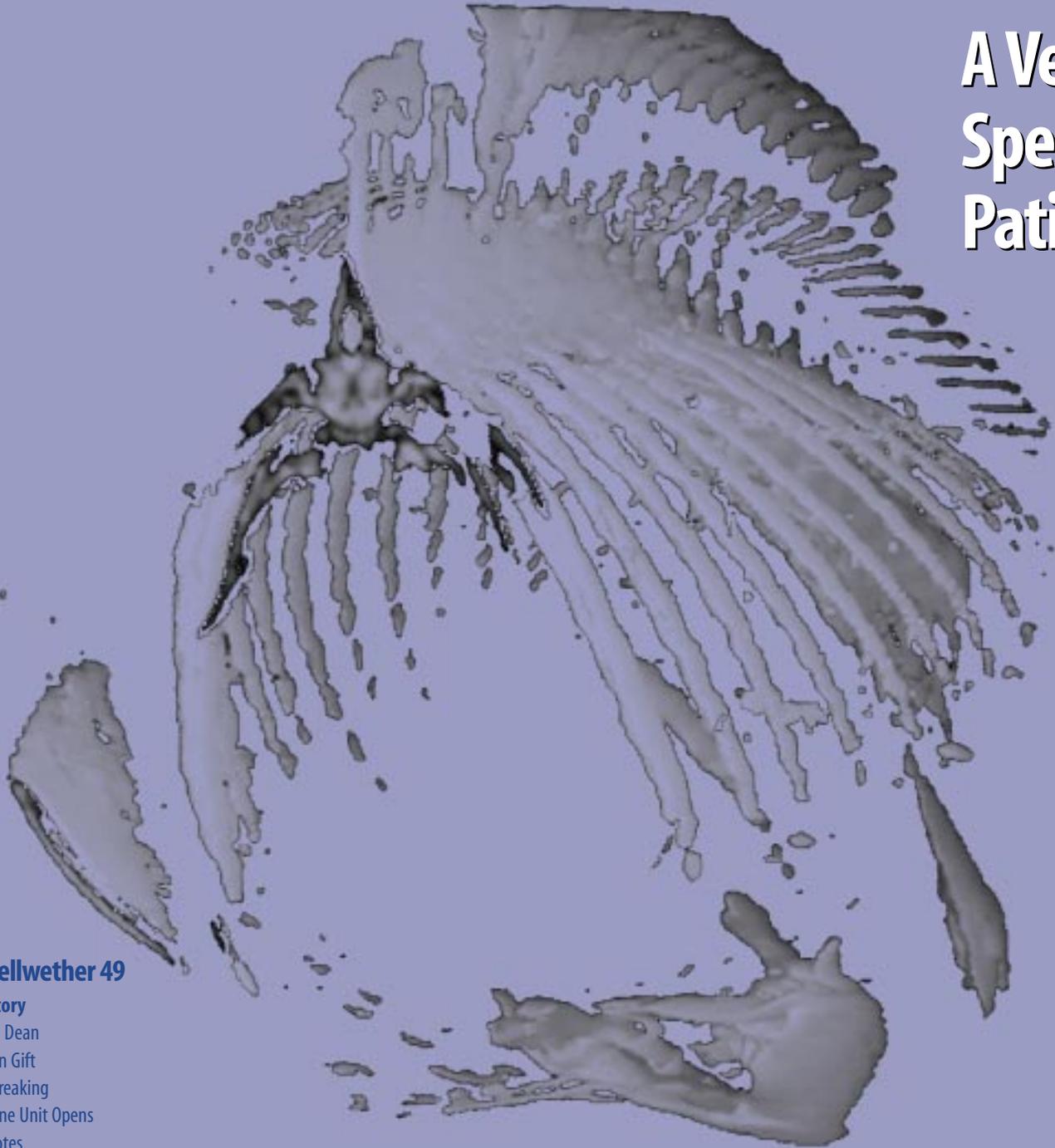
Bellwether 49, Spring 2001

Bellwether

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THE NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

A Very Special Patient



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School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Message from the Dean

I was honored a few days ago to receive a letter from President Judith Rodin and Provost Robert Barchi announcing their intention to recommend my re-appointment as Dean of the School to the Trustees. I



am flattered by their confidence and recognize that this would not have happened without the help of

many truly wonderful people. It has been a privilege being Dean these past 7½ years and I thank every one of you for your generous support, encouragement and wise counsel.

In their letter, the President and Provost note that “the School is considered one of the top schools in the world in basic scientific research in veterinary medicine, and it leads all U.S. schools and colleges in the impact of its basic science publications. It is also world-renowned in a number of clinical areas: postgraduate and clinical specialty education, equine sports medicine, and companion animal clinical programs, such as critical care and emergency medicine.” This is a wonderful compliment to the School and is the standard that must be maintained in the future.

What must be accomplished to uphold this standard? First and foremost, we must raise the funds for a new **Teaching and Research Building** in Philadelphia. Without this, the School will be unable to excel, provide a proper learning environment for our students and attract the very best

faculty. We can not allow this to happen for, in an era of new and re-emerging infectious diseases, food safety, genomics, stem cell biology, cancer therapy, and gene therapy, there is an enormous amount that the School and veterinary medicine has to offer for improving animal health and the well being of society.

The new building will cost \$48 million in 2003 dollars. I am happy to share that we already have \$26 million in cash and pledges towards this goal. Twenty-two million remains to be raised and this must be accomplished as rapidly as possible since inflation increases the cost of the building by \$2.5 million per year. Raising this amount will require a great deal of ingenuity and hard work but with outstanding leadership on the Board of Overseers and the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society, and an excellent

Development Office in the School, I fully anticipate the goal will be accomplished.

The new Teaching and Research Building is just one of a series of goals that must be addressed in the next five years. Funds for student scholarships must be raised, construction of the new Scott Building for Equine Sports Medicine accomplished, a linear accelerator installed in VHUP, research labs and clinical space renovated, programs in Aquatic Animal Medicine, and Swine Medicine advanced and the heating and air conditioning system in the Widener Hospital for Large Animals completely replaced.

I thank all of you for your precious support during my first term in office. The second term will be even busier and although I relish the challenges, I will need your support more than ever.

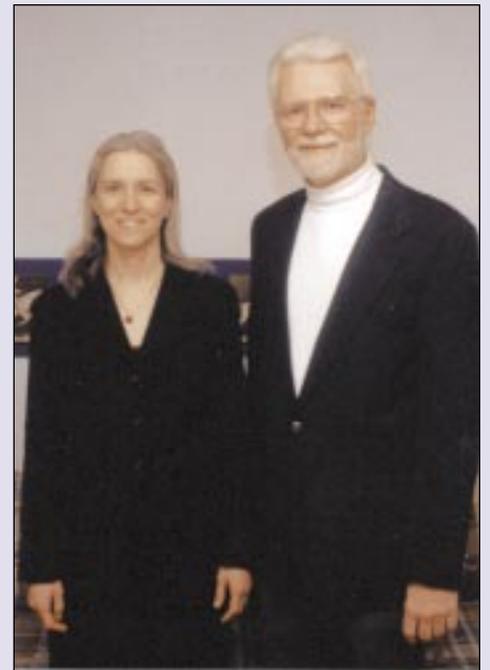
Alan M. Kelly

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

New Bower Professor

Joan Hendricks, V.M.D., Ph.D. is the first woman to be named to an endowed professorship at the School of Veterinary Medicine. In January she was appointed the Henry and Corinne R. Bower Professor of Medicine at the School. The Bower Professorship, established in 1981 by Henry Bower in memory of his wife Corinne, was held by Dr. Kenneth Bovee until his retirement in 1998.

Dr. Hendricks' research centers on sleep and sleep disorders. She has studied bulldogs extensively and recently has published pioneering studies on sleep patterns of fruit flies. Dr. Hendricks, together with colleagues at VHUP, developed and implemented the concept of the Center for Veterinary Critical Care which united the Emergency Service, Intensive Care Unit and VHUP's Anesthesia Service into a single unit to enhance teaching and patient care. Dr. Hendricks serves as the section chief of critical care medicine at VHUP and as head of the CVCC.



Dr. Joan Hendricks, the new Henry and Corinne R. Bower Professor of Medicine and Dr. Kenneth Bovee, who held the professorship until retirement in 1998.

\$2 Million Gift for Teaching and Research Building

Recently the School received an anonymous gift of \$2 million for the planned Teaching and Research Building in Philadelphia. The gift was facilitated by **Dr. Steven Atwood, V'80**, who is a mixed-animal practitioner on Martha's Vineyard. The state-of-the-art library in the new building will be named The Steven W. Atwood, V.M.D. Veterinary Medical Library in honor of Dr. Atwood. Mark Stuart, assistant dean for development, recently visited and talked with Dr. Atwood.

You played a key role in securing a \$2 million gift for the School's new Teaching and Research Building from a former client. How did you come to know the donor?

This individual was someone whose animals I had taken care of from the days when I practiced on Nantucket Island. And interestingly enough, when I moved to Martha's Vineyard to practice here, it wasn't long after that this particular client brought her dogs to the Vineyard just so they could be treated by our practice.

You must have had a very special veterinarian/client relationship.

Yes, I'd known her for many years. She was a very knowledgeable client who knew a lot about animals and knew a lot about their care. She asked good questions and really took incredible care of her animals. There was no question that they were absolutely spoiled and doted over. This person lived alone, so her animals really were her life, they were extremely important to her and therefore their care was very important to her, too.

How did your conversations with this donor come about regarding support of the School and its new Teaching and Research Building?

I was aware that this individual had the potential to be very supportive and very generous with an animal related cause and it was my job to focus that orientation toward the University of Pennsylvania. This was something that I always wanted to do for Penn and the time seemed to be perfect. There is no question that to retain the preeminent position in veterinary medical teaching and research that Penn has to have this building. After several discussions with Dean Kelly, whose idea it was to seek funding for the School's new library, I ran that suggestion by this individual and it was very enthusiastically received.

Did you spend much time in the School's library?

Not as much as I should have or my record would have been a little more enviable.

Do you have any advice for Penn Veterinary alumni about how they could be helpful in securing funds for this new Teaching and Research Building?

The time is right and the time is critical. The School is on a tight timetable in that a large amount of money needs to be raised for this building in a relatively short time. I would say that we all have clients that are special. In some cases we're aware of their circumstances and their potential to help Penn. I think that it's really not very hard at all when you believe in something to convey that enthusiasm to a potential client/donor in a positive way, not only for Penn, but for veterinary medicine, for animals, for biomedical research, for comparative medicine. It's an easy sell. Alumni should not be bashful in broaching the subject of a large gift to a special client. It's a cause that's eminently worth supporting.

Why did you choose Veterinary Medicine as a career?

When I was growing up I had an uncle who was a veterinarian (Dan Rice, V'63) and an aunt, his sister, who was a physician. During family holidays there would be discussions as to which was the better field and the veterinarian made a more persuasive argument than the physician. I think it all boiled down to a career in which animals were very important and the fact that as a veterinarian one could have a much broader grasp of medicine in general. One could be a radiologist, surgeon, ophthalmologist, dermatologist, anesthesiologist, all in one day. I thought I'd get to practice more medicine as a veterinarian than I would as a physician.

Did you apply to several different veterinary schools?

Penn was my only choice.

And you said it was three tries for Penn?

Three tries for Penn, once as a junior, which

I never counted. But as for the other two, the late 70s were difficult times for a New Englander to get into any veterinary school. Three times was not unusual for our class.

Do you have a favorite Penn faculty member?

There were so many who I really respected and enjoy seeing to this day at conferences and meetings. I really enjoyed Dr. Fackelman, a former faculty member who retired to Maine and is running a hunting lodge. Dean Richardson was a great faculty member. Dr. Reef was wonderful. Dr. Joan O'Brien was special. Dr. Kelly, now our esteemed dean, was a fantastic professor of pathology. In fact, he brought me my first clinical case as a veterinary student. We were seniors on our TES Rotation (Trauma and Emergency Service), the precursor to the Emergency Service. He brought in his own cat, it had an abscess. I remember him being very calm. We were



Dr. Atwood and one of his clients, Senator Dole.

kind of nervous, this was our first live patient. It wasn't a complex case, but we were nervous because it was his cat. He said, "Oh, don't worry, you'll be fine, just take your time, you know what to do." Dr. Kelly couldn't have been a better first client.

Do you have any favorite Penn memories?

I would say that New Bolton Center brings back great memories of huge snow storms, field service calls, and the camaraderie of living with 15 other students at the farm house during large animal block.

Where did you go after graduation?

Immediately after graduating from Penn, I took a one-year internship at the Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine in New Haven, Conn. It was affiliated with the Comparative Medicine Department at Yale's Medical School. It turned out to be a fabulous internship because you had the benefit of boarded specialists there, but you also had fifteen private practitioners each with their own clinics in different parts of suburban New Haven. My first private

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Groundbreaking for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building

Hard hats and shovels, decorated in Penn red and blue, were the order of the day on March 31 at New Bolton Center. It was groundbreaking day for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building.



Scott family members **Roy and Gretchen Jackson** led a group of major donors in turning the earth. These included **Allaire duPont**, who four decades after leading the groundbreaking for the Widener Hospital, again put a shovel to good use. The teaching and research wing in the new building will be named in Mrs. duPont's honor. **Betty Moran**, representing her family, for which the clinical services wing will be named, dug in, too. **Herbert and Ellen Moelis** also wielded shovels. Herb, a member of the School's Board of Overseers and chair of the Equine Committee, has been instrumental in leading the fund raising drive for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building. Two groups which have raised substantial funds in recent years for the building were also represented in the groundbreaking party. **Irene Landan**, for **The Evening at Old Saratoga Committee**, and **Leonard and Pat King** representing the **American Gold Cup**, completed the earth-turning group.

The Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building will be the address of the Allam Center for Sports Medicine. It will be built next to the Jef-

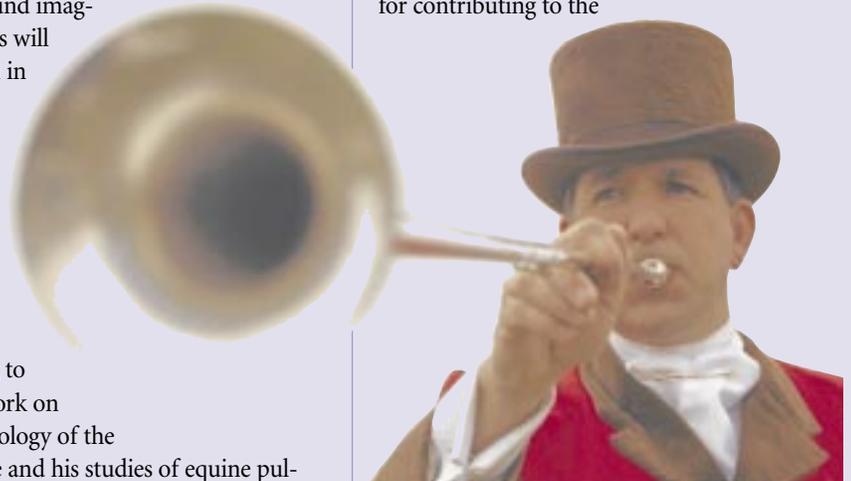
fords Treadmill and together these two buildings will become the heart of equine sports medicine service, teaching and research at New Bolton. The Scott building will house the section of cardiology and imaging

under the direction of **Dr. Virginia Reef**. Here clinical patients will be examined and sophisticated ultrasound imaging techniques will be used, often in conjunction with a treadmill work-up.

Dr. Eric Birks will use the physiology laboratory in the research wing to expand his work on exercise physiology of the equine athlete and his studies of equine pulmonary hemorrhage.

The ceremonies prior to the groundbreaking included a "heralding" by **Ringmaster Bill Venditta** who used his coach horn to summon the participants and the audience. **Christine Connolly**, chair of the School's Board of Overseers, welcomed everyone and "MCed" the proceedings. Speeches were brief as everyone was

eager to watch the digging. **Dean Kelly** praised the advent of the new building and outlined briefly what it means to the School. **State Representative Chris Ross** spoke about New Bolton's importance to the equine industry and agriculture. East Marlborough Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, **Buzz Hannum**, told of the pride the community takes in New Bolton Center. **Dr. Virginia Reef** talked about the impact the new building will have on her and Dr. Birks' work and on equine sports medicine in general. **Herb Moelis** thanked all the donors for contributing to the



building and reminded everyone that while construction is ready to begin, funds are now needed to equip this state-of-the-art facility.

The Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building, funded mainly by private individual and foundation support, now is more than the dream of New Bolton Center faculty dedicated to the health and welfare of the equine athlete. It will be a real building in 2002 thanks to the generosity of **Almira and Hardy Scott**, **Roy and Gretchen Jackson**, **Allaire duPont**, **Betty Moran**, **Herb and Ellen Moelis**, **The Evening at Old Saratoga**, the **American Gold Cup** and many other donors who responded to the call for support.





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- 1. Pat King, Leonard King, Herbert Moelis, Allaire duPont, Betty Moran, Ellen Moelis, Irene Landan, Roy Jackson, Gretchen Jackson;
- 2. Dr. Virginia Reef;
- 3. Dr. Eric Birks explains building plans to Mrs. Elizabeth Moran;
- 4. Dr. Charles Raker, Allaire duPont, Ellen Moelis;
- 5. Gretchen and Roy Jackson;
- 6. Herbert Moelis, Betty Moran, Christine Connelly;
- 7. Dean Alan Kelly.



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Roger A. Caras

Roger A. Caras, a member of the School's Board of Overseers since 1980 and an adjunct professor of animal ecology here until 1997, died on February 18, at the age of 72.

Roger Caras played an active role in the affairs of the School. He thought that the interests of veterinarians in the world of animals were too narrow and in an effort to broaden the students' horizons taught a course entitled "Society and Veterinary Medicine" for several years. It was enormously popular and successful. He was the commencement speaker at the graduation exercises in May 1990, and was instrumental in recruiting Jane Goodall to present the commencement address in May 1993. In 1996 the School produced a new video with Roger's resonant voice providing an indelible narrative.

Mr. Caras was the author of more than 70 books about animals and their habitats. His



first, "Antarctica: Land of Frozen Time," was published in 1962. Others included "A Perfect Harmony: The Intertwining Lives of Animals and Humans

Throughout History," "The Bond," a collection of essays about people and their animals, and "A Celebration of Dogs." He had a radio series "Pets and Wildlife" that was heard on CBS. He also had radio programs on NBC and ABC. In 1975 he joined ABC-TV and was for 17 years a special correspondent exclusively assigned to stories about animals, wildlife and the environment.

Mr. Caras served as president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 1991 to 1999. He was the voice of the Westminster Kennel Club dog show at Madison Square Garden where he provided the narrative during group and best-in-show judging.

He was the recipient of an honorary degree, an LL.D., from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the Centennial Convocation on October 15, 1984. He received the Centennial

Jay Jasan, V'93, Remembered

A new endowed scholarship has been established at the School of Veterinary Medicine in memory of **Jay Jasan, V'93**, who died in an airplane crash in 1998. The Jay Jasan Endowed Scholarship Fund has been generously supported by his father, James Jasan, classmates of Jay, and other donors.

According to Mr. Jasan, "Jay was very special to his family and friends. All who knew him recognized the respect and compassion he felt for all living creatures. What separated him from most of us was that he acted on his passions. He supported the causes he believed in with both his money and his time. The goal of this scholarship is to help others with similar passions work toward making this world a better place for all—and in that way Jay's legacy will live on."

The scholarship, which will be awarded for the first-time to a member of the incoming Class of 2005 and is renewable in subsequent years, has been funded to support a student with a similar background to Jay: a second career applicant with atypical interests and an active commitment to community organizations.

According to Dean Alan M. Kelly, "The scholarship is a wonderful tribute to Jay, and



will ensure that his memory remains alive at the School. The generosity of Mr. Jasan and the other donors will also ensure that students with similar qualities to Jay will have the same opportunity as he did to study veterinary medicine at Penn."

To learn more about Jay, visit the web site created in his memory at <www.jayjasan.com>.

Medal in 1990.

At the Centennial Convocation, the citation for Mr. Caras read:

"An outstanding naturalist who has specialized in the study of the social, cultural, and behavioral interactions between animals and society, you have supplied the American public with information and constructive awareness of the animals who share this earth with humankind...."

Saluting you as a brilliant, original man, uniquely important to American society, the Trustees of the University are proud to join your admirers, colleagues and friends both in and outside the homes and classrooms of Pennsylvania, and to recognize you, Roger Andrew Caras, as a humane and sophisticated spokesman for animal welfare with the award of the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws."

He is survived by his wife, Jill Langdon Barclay; daughter, Pamela Caras-Rupert; a son, Dr. Barclay Caras, and four grandchildren.

Kimberly Cullen

Kimberly S. Cullen, who worked as an operating room nurse at New Bolton Center for 12 years, died on April 4, 2001. Kim graduated from Harcum College in 1980 with an associate degree in animal health technology. She came to New Bolton Center in 1986 and worked there until 1998 when she left to help her husband, Kenneth Cullen, V'91, in his private practice. Dr. Cullen has established a scholarship fund in Kim's memory at Harcum College. Contributions can be sent to:

Kimberly S. Cullen
Memorial Scholarship
Harcum College
Office of College Advancement
750 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

On the cover

A Very Special Patient

In December a very pretty and unusual patient came to VHUP. She weighed around 15 pounds, had a beautiful, silvery complexion and four perfect, round, red dots on each side in addition to a pretty red cap covering the head. Four Step Rose created quite a sensation in the School's radiology department. Rose is a fish, a prize koi.

Rose was brought to Penn by her owner because she had a bump on one side of her body. It was feared that she might have a tumor on her ovary. **Dr. Scott Weber, V'97**, who is with the New Jersey State Aquarium, suggested that Rose be examined at VHUP. If she had a tumor, surgery could be performed there.

Dr. Weber and **Dr. Karen Rosenthal**, director of VHUP's special species clinic set to work to make the arrangements for Rose. Performing a diagnostic work-up on a fish is more complicated than working on a dog or a cat, or even an iguana. Fish live in water. VHUP's regular patients live on land.

Dr. Greg Lewbart, V'88, assistant professor at North Carolina

State Veterinary College, flew in to lend a hand, particularly if surgery was needed. Dr. Lewbart specializes in aquatic veterinary medicine and has performed a number of surgeries on fish. The Penn team included **Dr. Mark Saunders**, associate professor of radiology, **Dr. Alan Klide**, professor of anesthesia, and **Dr. Chick Weisse**, resident in surgery, who has a keen interest in surgery on fish. Dr. Rosenthal was present and technicians and students helped, too.

Rose arrived early in the morning. Another koi, with no health problems, was brought along as the "normal" animal. Both traveled in huge bags of water and more water was brought along. It was needed for the anesthesia container as these fish need to be kept in

"their" water to reduce stress.

First Rose was radiographed. She was anesthetized by Dr. Klide who added the carefully calculated anesthetic to water in a large cooler. The fish was immersed and as soon as the drug took effect, the animal was transferred to the x-ray table. Various films were taken and Rose was returned to her regular water to wake up. Quickly



Saunders inserted the ultrasound probe into the water and tried to get a reading while Rose tried to wiggle away.

The last test was a CT-scan. Rose was again anesthetized and placed on the CT table. While she was there, Dr. Lewbart took a number of blood samples for a battery of tests. She was scanned twice, once on her side and once sternally. No tumors were evident. Everyone was much relieved. To get a better look at her bone structure, Dr. Saunders generated 3-D images of her skeleton. The computer program for VHUP's helical scanner reconstructs the skeleton from the scanned sections. The image can be rotated and looked at from any angle. This provides an additional diagnostic tool.

After the series of scans a lengthy discussion occurred. The clinicians concluded that surgery was not needed and that Rose should go home and be watched. The reasons

for the enlarged swim bladder and the curve to her spine were not known; they suspected that she might have been injured as a very young animal. The owner was relieved and took Rose and the other fish home. Rose needs to grow up, she won't be mature for

another 18 months. Once she has been bred, everyone will wait to see whether she produces offspring with her lovely color and her even red dots—steps as they are called by koi fanciers.

Since Rose's first visit to VHUP, Drs. Weber, Klide and Weisse have performed a number of surgeries on fish at the New Jersey State Aquarium. Their patients have done well and are back in the exhibition tanks.

ation tanks.

Rose returned to VHUP for a check-up in March. This time her visit was recorded by a film crew. Rose's story will be aired some time in May or June by Animal Planet, a cable channel.

cover picture: 3-D image of a part of Rose's skeleton.



Top left: Checking the vital signs on the x-ray table. Top right: Dr. Lewbart taking blood samples. Right and below: Positioning Rose for the scan. Left: Scanning.



she began to move around.

The x-rays showed that her two swim bladders were of equal size, which is not normal, and that she had slightly abnormal curve of the spine. There was no evidence of a tumor. The normal fish then underwent the same procedure—his swim bladders were of different sizes, as one would expect.

To take another look at Rose's swim bladders, an ultrasound was performed. Dr.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

If foot-and-mouth disease arrives in the USA, it will have a devastating economic impact on both livestock and wildlife, as well as tourism. Losses could be measured in billions of dollars.

The last outbreak in the USA was in 1929; it was contained at a cost of \$10 million (that is equivalent to about \$1 billion in FY2000 dollars).

The virus spreads rapidly and would be difficult to control if it invaded the wildlife (deer) populations. In 1929 the US deer population was small, as it was heavily hunted. Today, the environment is different and we have a huge overpopulation of whitetail deer. The feral swine population in the South also presents a serious potential for spreading the disease.

While foot-and-mouth disease is NOT a threat to humans, the virus can be transported “mechanically” via the human respiratory system, where it can remain viable for up to five days post exposure. It can also be transported on clothing, shoes, and personal items and remain viable for up to nine weeks.

Animals at risk include all cloven-hoofed animals (pigs, cattle, goats, sheep, deer) as well

as rats, hedgehogs and zoo animals (including elephants).

Horses are not susceptible to foot-and-mouth, but can carry the virus. Details on handling horses imported into the USA from countries with FMD may be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd/fmdhorse

The virus can be spread by direct and indirect contact with infected animals. Animals may be infectious several days before they show symptoms. Incubation period is 4-16 days.

Other methods of transmission are through movement of animals, persons, vehicles, equipment etc. which have been contaminated by the virus.

In addition, meat from animals infected with FMD at the time of slaughter can transmit the virus. It is resistant to freezing.

Travel to infected countries should be given careful consideration. If such travel is necessary, strict precautions must be taken before returning to the USA. Details on disinfection can be found at www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd

Risk is high given the amount of trade between the UK and the USA. 2.3 million kilo-

grams of frozen pork were imported to the USA from the UK from January to November 2000. Other products with potential to carry the virus totaled \$443.4 million for the same period and included biologics, animal feeds, dairy products, animal fats, hides, skin and wool, ice cream and prepared or preserved meat.

In 1999, 16.4 million passengers arrived in the US on direct flights from the UK. Of these, 4.25 million were UK residents.

462 passengers sampled as part of APHIS, PPQ's Agriculture Quarantine Inspection in FY99 were carrying potentially hazardous items such as meat products, cheese or hides. Of those 462 people, 22 planned to visit or work on a farm or ranch while in the USA and their destinations ranged from New York and Virginia to as far afield as Texas and California.

Websites for more information:

www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases

(Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—UK)

www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd

(US Department of Agriculture—USA)

Phi Zeta Day

Each Spring the veterinary honor society, Phi Zeta, Beta Chapter, organizes Phi Zeta Day when students present research papers. This year the event was on March 22 and six students presented their work at Marookian Auditorium at VHUP. The papers were the results of research projects the students had conducted under the auspices of Penn faculty at the Veterinary and Medical Schools.

Amy Hancock, V'02, and **Katherine Masek, V'02**, shared the first prize. **Amy Hancock**, who was sponsored by Dr. Keith Mansfield, presented “Characterization of Mycobacterium avium Complex Infection in the Livers of SIV-infected Rhesus Macaques.” **Katherine Masek, V'02**, sponsored by Dr. Carmen J. Williams, presented “Expression and Localization of Soluble Adenyl Cyclase in Murine Oocytes.”

The second prize was awarded to **Tracy**

Filler, V'02, who was sponsored by Dr. Urs Giger. Her presentation was “Identification of the Disease Causing Mutations for Erythrocyte Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency in the Dachshund, Chihuahua and American Toy Eskimo.”

Colleen Kane, V'03, received the third prize for the presentation “Flow Cytometric Analysis of the Development of Murine Fetal Liver Cytotoxicity.” She was sponsored by Dr. Margret Casal.

Jennifer Adler, V'03, sponsored by Dr. James Serpell, received honorable mention for “Understanding Urban Animal Cruelty: An Ecological Model.” Honorable mention was also received by **Alexander Hamberg, V'03**, for “Feline Mucopolysaccharidoses I: Diagnosis and Evaluation of Therapy.” He was sponsored by Dr. Mark Haskins.

Following the presentations, the 2001 Phi Zeta, Beta Chapter, Veterinary Honor

Society Award and Induction Banquet was held at Logan Hall on the campus. Dr. Gary Smith, professor of population biology and epidemiology, gave a presentation on foot and mouth disease. The students who had presented papers earlier in the day were recognized and awarded their prizes. This was followed by the induction of new members. Elected to membership were: Class of 2002—Alison Beale, Catherine Cheng, Kristen Fischer, Melissa Geedey, Elizabeth Gordan, Erika Krick, Erin Mairs, Katherine Masek, Karen Oberthaler, Melissa Sanchez, Ian Spiegel; Class of 2001—Christine Adreani, Patricia Alexander, Daniel Goldner, Dorian Haldeman, Traci Holder, Danielle Kitz, Brennen McKenzie, Cheyney Meadows, Lori Miles, Lisa Noble, Marjorie Rosmarin, Tiffany Scanlon, Jason Stull, Brian Turgeon, Regan Williams, Stefanie Worwag.

A V.M.D. Accomplishing Change in Moldova

by Douglas L. Bowman, V77

Moldova. Where in the world is Moldova? Moldova is a small country the size of Maryland tucked between Romania and Ukraine in Eastern Europe with a population of 4.5 million. Moldova was one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union (FSU). Currently, almost half of the population is directly employed in agriculture, which is beginning to be redeveloped after the collapse of the FSU, and the country has the dubious distinction of being the poorest country in Europe. Moldova-Basarabia has historically been a crossroads and something of a political football with few periods of independence separated by long eras of occupation by Greeks, Romans, Cossacks, Russians, Turks, Germans, and Soviets.

My wife, Mary, and I chose this time in our lives to join the Peace Corps because we felt a responsibility to be of service to people in a broader realm, and we were looking for the challenge and adventure of living in a different culture while learning a new language. The goals of the Peace Corps, which have remained unchanged for 40 years, matched our current interests: to transfer technical information and processes to host country nationals; to expose people in other countries to Americans and American ideas; and to take information and our impressions about the host country back to America to broaden understandings of the peoples of the world.

On the surface, very little of my veterinary training is applicable to the work that I am doing in the Peace Corps. The things that are applicable include skills developed in learning how to learn, skills in problem solving, and experience in making decisions in the face of uncertainty with imperfect information.

How will we ever know what we have accomplished? Maybe we accomplish nothing more than showing people in Moldova that Americans are not the monsters that the Soviets ascribed to us. Maybe we have the chance to make a change in attitudes about the United States; maybe we help someone grow in problem solving skills; maybe we just show people in Moldova that all Americans don't live in Beverly Hills and act like that. We never know what may come of living and working in

another culture, closely associating with the host country people. Will I be able to implant an idea in a child, or a more appropriate attitude in a worker? As they say in Moldova, *Vom vedea*, "we shall see."

It is funny how we think of ourselves in America as "normal" just the way we are.

Mary and I went to a celebration in a small village and ate a meal with the peasants of the village. We were the first Americans that they had ever seen and the comments were interesting, "The Americans learned our language." "They are people just like us." And the most telling thing was the report of a woman coming the following day to the home we had visited asking to "see the Americans." The Soviets had portrayed Americans as monsters for so long that many people came to believe it was true.

As I write this, a 77-year-old man came into the room where I am working just to say hello, shake my hand, and wish me a Happy New Year. I was the first American he had met, and I was invited to his home for a meal. As we ate, he just kept repeating that he never expected to be eating with an American, much less in his own home!

Living and working in Moldova is full of contrasts and contradictions. Walking down the street, everyone you see is dressed well and looks prosperous, yet no one takes off their fancy clothes at work because there is no heat in many of the work places, or if there is heat,

the temperature may be only 50 degrees. (These fancy clothes may be the only set that they have.) Utilities may be interrupted at any time and usually in a random fashion with no clear explanation for why the electricity was off for three, four or five hours. We currently have water at the spigot twice a week for four hours, unless we don't, which again is a

random event. The state-run electric utility cuts the power to the state-run water company for its failure to pay its electric bill because the state hasn't transferred money to the water company account. Maybe this makes sense to someone?

I came to work here in the field of dairy

production, and currently most of the cows are family cows; each peasant family may have a cow and occasionally two. These cows usually give 10-15 liters of milk per day when there is grass in the communal pasture, which is shared with herds of sheep and goats. In the winter, milk production falls as the cows are fed dry corn stalks, wheat

straw, and some concentrate. My current projects include starting an alfalfa-seeding program for the farmers, designing rations to feed the cows using products on hand, and an artificial insemination project to improve the long-term productivity of the dairy herd in Moldova.

There are just so many possibilities as this young country moves toward a market-based economy while resources are so scarce. The people are wonderfully generous with what they have. Patience in dealing with frustrations combined with a good sense of humor has been the keys to living and working here in Moldova.

The Peace Corps is a good way to spend two years working with some interesting, exceptional people. Go ahead; join the Peace Corps. We dare you to try something different. The Peace Corps is the toughest job you'll ever love!



This woman is 73-years-old and is using a wood fired oven to bake "placinta" which is a type of bread stuffed with something like potatoes, cheese, cabbage, or cherries.

"We felt a responsibility to be of service."

Since 1961, more than 150,000 Americans have volunteered in more than 130 countries. They all responded to President John F. Kennedy's challenge: how many of them, he asked, would be willing to serve their country and the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world? For more information on the Peace Corps, visit <www.peacecorps.gov>. Dr. Bowman may be reached via e-mail at <airbowman@hotmail.com>.

New Swine Unit Opens

The new swine teaching and research facility at New Bolton Center is now in full use by students, faculty, and visitors. On January 26, before the pigs moved in, an open house was held for producers and veterinarians from surrounding areas. The facility is the first of its kind in the USA. It incorporates novel technologies imported from Europe for animal comfort, animal feeding and nutritional management. Drs. Parsons and Pitcher selected an Austrian firm, Schauer Maschinenfabrik, to provide the penning, flooring, farrowing crates, and a specialized feeding system. Construction of the building was carried out by Farmer Boy Ag., Inc., of Myerstown, Pa.

The building can accommodate 80 sows and their offspring. It features four 10-crate farrowing rooms that can be converted into nursery pens. The farrowing crates are adjustable in length, height, and position in the pen to provide the sows with maximum comfort. Unlike conventional farrowing crates, this crate can be opened shortly after parturition to create a creep area for the piglets while providing freedom for the sow to turn around during lactation. At weaning the sow is removed, the crate is swung up and a nursery pen is created where the litter can stay until about eight weeks of age. Weaning is a potentially stressful

time for piglets as they are separated from their mothers, moved to a new pen, mixed with pigs from other litters, and started on solid food.

Although more expensive to build, the housing system in the new facility de-couples the nutritional stresses from the social stresses of traditional weaning by leaving the litter social hierarchy intact as the piglets remain in the pen where they were born. Once the piglets are two months old, they are moved to larger pens in grow/finish rooms where

they can be raised to market weight.

After weaning, the dams are moved to individual gestation stalls where they can recuperate from lactation and eventually will be bred by artificial insemination. Unlike unconventional gestation crates, these “swing-side” crates are especially designed for sows to work in concert with their neighbors to turn around at will. After confirmed pregnant and given sufficient time of their embryos to implant in the uterus, sows are then moved to the gestation pen.

Gestating sows stay in a loose-housing area where the animals can walk around or lie down in a raised sleeping area. Such group housing of sows has been largely abandoned by the modern swine industry due to problems associated with uniform feeding of the animals. Socially dominant sows tend to “hog” the feed, getting fat while others go hungry and lose body con-



dition. The new swine unit has specialized feeding technology that allows for individual animal nutrition in a group housing situation. Each animal is uniquely identified with an ear tag containing a computer microchip. An animal enters the feeder, the computer recognizes her identity, and she is fed an individually tailored ration. The sow may return later in the day to the feeder, but will not get any additional feed if her daily allotment is already consumed.

Adjacent to the loose-housing area is a pen for the boar. A small window or head-hole in the side of the boar's pen allows him to have nose-to-nose contact with sows. Animals in estrus will seek out the boar. A strategically

positioned microchip reader detects and counts the visits of sows to the boar and provides automated heat detection. A sow in estrus will exceed her threshold for visits in a day and can be marked automatically with a paint sprayer alerting staff and students that she is open and needs to be rebreed.

Rations feed to the sows, the boar, and throughout the unit are mixed on demand by a small in-house feed mill called "Spotmix" that is computer controlled. Once mixed the feed travels through a network of vacuum pipes and valves to the feeder in need

odors. Manure storage is underneath the entire building in a concrete basin, and fans draw air

permit observation and discussion without disrupting the animals. The other farrowing areas and the growing pens can be observed through windows from the corridor.

Swine are an important part of Pennsylvania agriculture. This new building enables the School to provide the students with practical hands-on experience with swine production and swine medicine, and to expose the swine industry to the newest technologies. It also opens the door to new avenues of research that target maximizing animal comfort and minimizing environmental impact of swine farming.



4



5

where water is added as the feed is delivered. Palatability of the feed is improved if fed wet, but must be fed in only small amounts to prevent the feed from souring. This is not a problem with the fully automated feeding system as it can be programmed to deliver feed as many times a day as necessary. The new feed system has great promise for conducting nutritional studies as it provides a high degree of flexibility in making and delivering different diets. This technology will allow better matching of dietary formulation to the animal's requirements and result in a reduction of nutrient excretion by the pigs, thus minimizing the unit's environmental impact.

The facility is also designed to minimize

from the building into the pits maximizing the air quality in the building. For biosecurity reasons, the facility has limited access as visitors must shower before going into the animal areas.

The facility is equipped for modern husbandry and management techniques. Students learn semen-collection and evaluation and artificial insemination techniques. Data and records are kept in the computer system and the production can be monitored closely and easily. The computers also allow the use of the data to create models for larger herds to let the students work on large scale production problems. The classroom is integrated into the facility, large windows into one farrowing area and into the loose-stall and gestation stall area



6

- 1 Dr. Tom Parsons, State Senator Bell and Associate Dean for New Bolton Center, Bruce Rappoport at the unit's open house.
- 2 Loose-housing area.
- 3 Grow/finish unit.
- 4 The feeder
- 5 A farrowing crate in raised position.
- 6 The central feed mixing and dispatching unit.

A Veterinary Behaviorist Saving the Lives of Animals

by Joan Capuzzi Giresi, V'98

Amy R. Marder, CW'73, V'79, has had many surprises in her nearly two decades of work as a veterinary behaviorist. For example, she is continually astonished when she happens upon a client who maintains an owner-pet relationship that is destructive to his or her personal well-being. She is flabbergasted by the person who can live with an animal for many years and then surrender it. And dumbfounded by the cruelty with which some pet owners treat their animals.

Disconcerting though these "surprises" may be, Dr. Marder sees the good with the bad in her private practice and her shelter work. Behavior medicine, she says, lends itself to a clientele "who are generally very bonded with their animals, and want to keep their animals—as well as themselves—happy."

Happiness for Dr. Marder has always emanated from the study of animal behavior. A 1973 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Marder earned a B.A. in biology with a concentration in animal behavior. After obtaining her veterinary degree from Penn in 1979 and completing a private-practice internship, Dr. Marder became the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's—and this country's—first resident in animal behavior in the early 1980s. During her residency, Dr. Marder demonstrated the effectiveness of Valium in decreasing spraying in cats.

Dr. Marder then created behavior programs at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine—where she remains a clinical assistant professor—and the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. Her practice of behavior medicine has steeped her in the midst of complex family dynamics. Consider, she explains, the case of the family dog that growls at the new baby: "There's the family's attachment to the dog and their biological attachment to the child, the wife who spends most of her time with the baby, and the husband who now gets most of his attention from the dog."

"You really are more of a family therapist than just an animal behaviorist," says Dr.

Marder, who also offers behavior and other medical advice in the monthly pet-health column she writes for *Prevention* magazine.

For numerous family pets exhibiting behavior problems, the road frequently ends in shelters, where many are euthanized, often for behavioral reasons. Upon learning that behavior problems are a major reason people abandon their pets, Dr. Marder decided a few years ago to help homeless animals.

In her current position as vice president of behavioral medicine and companion animal services at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in New York City, Dr. Marder—

who also maintains a private practice in her hometown of Cambridge, Mass.—addresses shelter-related behavior issues. These include problems with feral cats, the pit bull "dilemma" and psychological issues associated with "hoarders" who amass unmanageably-large animal collections.

Dr. Marder also conducts research at the

ASPCA, most of it aimed ultimately at facilitating appropriate adoptions and reducing the number of unnecessary euthanasias. In one study, Dr. Marder is working to discern which shelter behavior patterns are predictive of behavior patterns an animal will exhibit in the adoptive home. She is well on her way to debunking several long-held myths, like one that holds that food aggression and many anxiety disorders manifest in the shelter generally transfer into the home. In another study, Dr. Marder is defining the behavioral indicators of prior abuse. "People are constantly saying that their shelter animals were abused," she says, "and that's usually not the case."

Dr. Marder credits her Penn education with her research skills, which enable her to pursue answers to her questions through well-designed studies. And she gives a grateful nod to the School for spawning her fascination with animal behavior, which continues to enchant her. "It's so challenging and interesting. I often think I've seen every type of behavioral quirk there is," she remarks enthusiastically, "and then the next case will be entirely different from anything I've seen."

Joan Capuzzi Giresi is a writer and a veterinarian in the Philadelphia area. For more information on the ASPCA, visit its web site at <www.asPCA.org>.



Dr. Raker Honored

A new award that recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact on the development and training of equine practitioners was presented to three veterinarians at the American Association of Equine Practitioners' 46th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Charles W. Raker, V'42 was recognized for his efforts as educator and mentor to the many students and colleagues with whom he has been affiliated. The awards were presented during the November 28, 2000 President's Luncheon.

Noted for his development of the first internship program in equine medicine and surgery, Dr. Raker dedicated his career to teaching veterinary students at Penn. He was also instrumental in the formation of the



American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The Distinguished Educator Award will be presented annually.



Class Notes

1937

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **J. Robert Brown** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Veterinary Medicine. He was recognized for his continuous excellence and years of dedication to the veterinary profession as a practitioner, officer, humanitarian, and role model to everyone he has been associated with through the years.

1948

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **Richard H. Detwiler** was elected to serve as the delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

1950

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **Donald C. Kamsler** was honored with the Public Service Award of Merit for his outstanding and continuous contributions to his community and for setting a shining example of volunteerism for other veterinary practitioners to follow.

1951

John W. Fague was profiled in the Carlisle, Pa., edition of the *Sunday-Patriot News* of Harrisburg, Pa., in January 2001. The article, "Comrades in hard times," recounted his experiences during World War II's Battle of the Bulge. He is the president of the New Cumberland Valley, Pa., Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. After helping to liberate a Nazi concentration camp, Dr. Fague said "... I realized why we were there, why we had to fight that war, why those sacrifices had to be made."

1962

A. Gary Lavin, a past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, was honored along with three other AAEP past presidents for their lifetime of service to the thoroughbred industry by the Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners in September 2000.

1970

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **John I. Enck, Jr.**, was elected vice-president. He was also honored with the Distinguished Veterinary Service Award for his constant commitment to the PVMA and the veterinary profession through his leading role as director of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

1972

Peter J. Ihrke served as president of the Fourth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, held from August 30 to September 2, 2000, in San Francisco. He was elected in 2000 to a two-year term as president of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. Dr. Ihrke is a professor of dermatology and chief of service, dermatology, at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine.

1973

Douglas F. Antczak, the director of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, was the recipient of the 2000-01 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award from the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists. The award recognizes individuals with an outstanding record of contribution to veterinary immunology.

1978

Cynthia D. Bossart and two other Florida breeders have donated Texas A&M University's newest mascot, Reveille VII, a collie. The mascot, whose history goes back to 1931, received its nickname when the first mascot was injured in an accident and responded when the school's bugler sounded reveille. In February 2001, a Texas A&M delegation headed by its president traveled to Florida to accept the new mascot and escort it back to campus. The breeders accompanied Rev on the trip and participated in introductory ceremonies at a basketball game where they were thanked for their generosity. According to the president, "We have every confidence that Reveille VII will be a great representative for Texas A&M."

1979

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **James R. Rummel** was elected president-elect. He is a partner and hospital administrator of Camboro Veterinary Hospital in Edinboro, Pa.

1981

Michael I. Kotlikoff was appointed professor of physiology and chairman of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University effective July 1, 2000.

1982

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **Mark B. Guise** was elected president. He and his father, **Richard C. Guise, V⁴⁴**, who served as president from 1961-62, are the first father-son pair to hold the office.

David R. Wolfgang has been board-certified in dairy practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Wolfgang is the field studies director in the Veterinary Science Extension of the Department of Veterinary Science in the College of Agricultural Sciences at The Pennsylvania State University, in University Park, Pa.

1984

During the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in December 2000, **Kim A. Herrman** was named Veterinarian of the Year in recognition of her service to the association.

Alice S. Weiss is a regular contributor to the KidsPost section of *The Washington Post*. She also leads "Pet Talk," monthly online discussions concerning pet topics on the paper's web site.

1985

Charles E. Rupprecht is the chief of the Rabies Section at the National Center for Infectious Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

James A. Thomson is an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy at the

Class Notes *continued*

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine in Madison, Wis. Dr. Thomson leads a team of scientists that in 1998 was the first to derive and culture human embryonic stem cells. His group is now actively pursuing collaborations with clinical scientists and transplant surgeons to perform the basic research needed to ultimately develop human embryonic cell-based therapies.

Cynthia L. Willard-Mack is studying to become board-certified in pathology.

1986

Kenneth D. Dazen has been board-certified in avian practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Dazen practices at The Animal & Bird Health Care Center in Cherry Hill, N.J.

1989

Diane T. Deresienski has been board-certified in canine/feline practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Deresienski practices in Raleigh, N.C.

1991

Cindy Ellen Fishman has been board-certified as a veterinary anatomic pathologist by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

In late January 2001, **Heidi B. Stout**, director of oil programs for Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research of Newark, Del., went to the Galapagos Islands to join an international team of experts to help wildlife affected by a devastating oil spill there. "It's a very sensitive population," Dr. Stout said in an article that appeared at the time in the *Wilmington News-Journal* of Wilmington, Del. "There are populations of

animals that exist there that exist nowhere else in the world."

Lisa Suslak-Brown has been board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Radiology.

1992

Roy P. E. Yanong visited the School of Veterinary Medicine and spoke to members of the Special Species Club in April 2001. Dr. Yanong is an assistant professor in the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences' Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin, Fla. The laboratory provides extensive research and educational opportunities for Florida's ornamental fish industry.

1993

Gail D. Mackey has been board-certified in canine/feline practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. Mackey practices in Raleigh, N.C.

1994

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Meeting in September 2000, **Lisa A. Knox** was honored with the Dr. A. Wayne Mountan (V'51) Memorial Media Award for her newspaper column, "The Pet Vet," which appears bi-weekly in the *Lancaster New Era* of Lancaster, Pa.

1996

Robert C. McLear has been board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Radiology.

1997

Amy I. Bentz is serving as an intern for the spring 2001 in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at New Bolton Center's George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals.

E. Scott Weber has been appointed the animal health services manager at the New Jersey State Aquarium in Camden, N.J.

1999

Suzanne M. Donahue will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Critical Care/Emergency Service at VHUP.

Alumni Connections

To find a former classmate and to sign-up for a permanent e-mail forwarding service:

Join the University of Pennsylvania Alumni On-Line Community for free at <www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UPN>. After you register, you can search the On-Line Directory, which contains the most up-to-date information Penn has on its alumni. You can also sign-up for a permanent e-mail forwarding service, which will forward messages received at your permanent Penn address to the e-mail address of your choice.

To update your alumni record:

You can update your record via the University of Pennsylvania Alumni On-Line Community On-Line Directory. You may also contact Susan Mullins at (215) 898-1481 or via e-mail at <smullins@vet.upenn.edu>.

To make a gift or for information on supporting the School of Veterinary Medicine:

Make a gift with your credit card through a secure online transaction at <www.upenn.edu/gifts>. For information on giving, visit the Alumni & Friends web site at <<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu>> or contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or via e-mail at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

To request a transcript and/or proof of graduation:

For information on requesting a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar's web site at <www.upenn.edu/registrar/trans.html> or call (215) 898-7511. For information on requesting a certification of graduation, which does not require a transcript, contact the School's Office of Student & Curricular Affairs at (215) 898-3525 or via e-mail at <student-affairs@vet.upenn.edu>.

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University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
3800 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047



Class Notes *continued*

Jennifer A. Smelstoys will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Surgery at VHUP.

2000

Benjamin M. Brainard will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Critical Care/Anesthesia at VHUP.

Kimberly B. Hammer will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Internal Medicine at VHUP.

Beth Overley will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Medical Oncology at VHUP.

Tara K. Trotman will be serving as an intern for 2001-02 at VHUP.

Staci P. Wiemelt will be serving as a resident for 2001-02 in Dermatology at VHUP.

2001

Samantha Murray, Heidi Phillips, and Robert W. Richardson will be serving as interns for 2001-02 at VHUP.

Deaths

1928

Claude W. Miller died on September 11, 2000.

1933

Ernest L. Stearly died on August 15, 2000.

1936

Morris L. Ziskind died on January 22, 2001.

1938

Irving G. Cashell died on November 8, 2000.

1941

Edwin A. Churchill, Boca Raton, Fla., a retired veterinarian who established the Spennock Equine Clinic in Chesapeake City, Md.; November 29, 2000. He treated the horses of

V.M.D. Announcements

Congratulations to **Harry L. Apfelbaum, V'79**, the winner of the raffle at the 2001 Penn Annual Conference for free registration at the 2002 conference.



For those of you who attended the **2001 Western Veterinary Conference** and were looking for the Penn alumni reception, please accept our apologies. While the Class of 1976 held its 25th Reunion at the conference, the Vet School did not host an alumni reception. Due to a misunderstanding between the School and the conference staff, an alumni reception was erroneously listed in the program.



Do you know that the **Agriculture Education Loan Forgiveness Program** helps agriculture and veterinary medicine graduates repay their student loans when they return

to help operate a family farm or practice veterinary medicine that includes agricultural animals in Pennsylvania? The program will forgive (repay) up to \$2,000 per year of Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency-guaranteed student loans for each year that the borrower practices veterinary medicine or is employed full-time in the operation of a family farm or a family farm corporation. The law limits borrowers to a lifetime maximum of \$10,000 in loan forgiveness payments.

Applicants must hold a degree in a field related to the production of agricultural products or veterinary medicine from a Pennsylvania school or college. They must be in their first year of full-time employment or work in the field on or after July 1, 1991. For more information or an application, call PHEAA at (717) 720-2800 or visit their web site at <www.pheaa.org/borrowers/b2.shtml>.

competitors on the U.S. and Canadian Olympic equestrian teams. Specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of lameness, his innovative approach to equine joint surgery gained him international recognition, and his research led to new techniques in the rehabilitation of racehorses. Dr. Churchill was a founding member of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a founding member and past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He was a former director of the Large Animal Clinic and head of surgery at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine. (From the March/April 2001 issue of *The Pennsylvania Gazette*).

1944

Morton Ben Zion Krechmer died on November 7, 2000.

Lt. Col. John L. Terry, Jr., died on August 17, 2000.

1951

Carlton R. Hower died on August 15, 2000.

1952

David G. Fridirici died on December 2, 2000.

1955

Robert W. Graham died on October 10, 2000.

1967

Robert W. Brown died on November 3, 2000.

Share news with your classmates about a new position or accomplishment, wedding or birth announcement, by sending your class note today! We accept pictures, too, featuring alumni gatherings, whether it's from a wedding or mini-reunion. Be sure to identify everyone in the picture. Pictures will be returned only upon request. Send all your submissions to:

Susan Mullins
Alumni Coordinator
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
3800 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047
Fax (215) 573-3544
E-mail <smullins@vet.upenn.edu>

FROM RUSSIA TO AMERICA

I can't recall having met Maurice (Morris) Leon Zurkow (V'10), yet I feel that I know him well. It seems more than likely that our paths crossed sometime between 1956, when I joined the Veterinary School Faculty, and 1974, when he died at the age of 87. But the extraordinary story of his personal and professional life was unknown to me until the appearance of an article in *Health Affairs*¹ about a Fellowship in Large Animal Reproduction established by his daughter, Gloria Rubin, and her husband Henry, to honor his memory.

Morris Zurkow was born on December 15, 1887, in Slutsk, a *shtetl* in White Russia (Belarus) without natural resources or its own rail connection. It was, nonetheless, a vibrant community, one of the foremost centers of Jewish learning in Eastern Europe. Mordecai Waxman, a distinguished American Rabbi whose father came from Slutsk, gives us a mental image of *huddled houses, of frequently mired streets, of a square girdled by synagogues, and houses of study*. In discussing the tiny city's heritage Waxman writes that *the Jewish philosophers of the middle ages, dead and forgotten in many other communities, were part of the intellectual fare of many in Slutsk, (a) community in which the modern spirit of the new era was fully alive side by side with ancient ideas and practices. This all-embracing spirit was carried by those who departed Slutsk into other lands.*

I like to think that this legacy, grounded in ancient wisdom — his father was a Talmudic scholar — and in the *Haskalah* (the enlightenment movement that swept East European

Jewry at the end of the nineteenth century), helps us to understand how Morris Zurkow was able to overcome so many hardships and to live his life so well. A succinct chronicle of his remarkable life's journey was acquired through various papers, and in conversations and correspondence with the Rubins.

From early on Morris hungered for an education, but chose not to follow in the religious tradition of his father. At 13, a tall boy with a wary eye for the brutal Czarist police's frequent round-ups of Jewish teenagers for army service, he somehow managed to book ship passage for America. On arriving at Ellis Island, he embraced the idea of a whole new way of life and the urgent necessity of learning a new language. He worked extremely hard at mastering English, and later took pleasure in relating how reading Shakespeare — he could quote entire passages, even late in life — helped him to acquire fluency. He was particularly proud of his ability to speak English without a trace of foreign accent.

Morris' ambition to make something of himself and his refusal to work in New York City's immigrant-ghetto sweat shops impelled him to seek out an agricultural trade school for immigrant boys sponsored by Baron de Hirsch, a French banker and philanthropist. The school was located on a 270 acre farm in Woodbine, New Jersey.

Working and studying at a self-sustaining farm was an eye-opening and immensely appealing experience for the young Morris, and it was there that his fascination with "the

science of veterinary medicine" began. He discovered that a classmate, Benjamin Chodos, also harbored an ambition to become a veterinarian, and following weeks of discussion they applied together for admission to Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine. Both were accepted.

During his student days at Penn, Morris supported himself by working as a street-car conductor and as a checker in the kitchen of Hackney's, a well-known seafood restaurant in Atlantic City. To make ends meet, he and Ben Chodos often walked from Woodbine to Philadelphia, thus saving the cost of train fare. A prescient quotation from the 1910 class yearbook, *Veterinary Record*, informs us that Zurk *has a good supply of push in him, and this will stand him in good stead when he gets out to fight his battles as a professional man.*

Upon receiving his VMD degree, Dr. Zurkow took a teaching position for a year at the New York State Veterinary College² at Cornell University, married Esther Raybin, whom he had met in New York City, and then, after a brief period in private practice in Pennsylvania, accepted a posi-



Dr. Zurkow in 1910, photographed on the occasion of his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.



the STORY of MAURICE

tion with the USDA Bureau of Animal Industry. While in government service during the next several years he was frequently transferred, first to Minnesota, and then to stations in Kansas, Indiana, Ohio, California, and, finally, Delaware. In California, his most challenging assignment, his job was to help stem an epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle grazing on public lands in the Sierra Madre Mountains. It was wild country in those days, but Dr. Zurkow, a robust, spirited man in the prime of life, loved the wilderness and the rugged outdoor life. To round up strays he rode into the mountains with ranchers and cowhands on horseback, covering great distances between water sources where the cattle were likely to congregate. Pack horses carried supplies and food, everything from salt pork to fragile eggs.

It was during Dr. Zurkow's last government assignment, in Delaware, that he reckoned it was time to put down enduring roots. Three of his four children had been born and would need stability and access to good schools. In 1924, the family settled on a farm near Dover, one of America's oldest cities.

Because there were only four veterinarians in the entire State, Dr. Zurkow soon had a very

busy practice, covering the southern counties of Kent and Sussex. He was on call day and night, seven days a week, often driving sixty miles between farms on narrow dirt roads in his Model T. When there was free time he sought relaxation and pleasure in sports, reading, and in working with the many varieties of roses, azaleas, and other plants in the large garden surrounding his house.

Dr. Zurkow's devotion to his clients was deeper than any personal issue. Healthy animals were the life-blood of the family farm and he believed passionately in the purpose and worth of his labors. He thought of himself as a *country vet* and he treasured his special place amongst the hardy, genuine people who worked the soil and tended their stock. When clients couldn't pay for his services, particularly through the years of the great depression, he accepted vegetables or other home-grown produce. There was always plenty of food on the Zurkow family table. Although his interest in clinical veterinary medicine was more applied than theoretical, he kept-up with the literature and took great pleasure in making a difficult diagnosis or in identifying a disease he had never seen before. He possessed the intuition,

judgment, common sense, and good hands that one finds in the best of practitioners. In some respects, he was ahead of his time, developing special competence in reproductive disorders; he was, for example, one of the first veterinarians to attempt the artificial insemination of dairy cows. In 1962, after fifty-two years of government service and private practice, Dr. Zurkow was honored by the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association, an organization he had founded. He took the occasion to assure his colleagues and the local press that the thought of

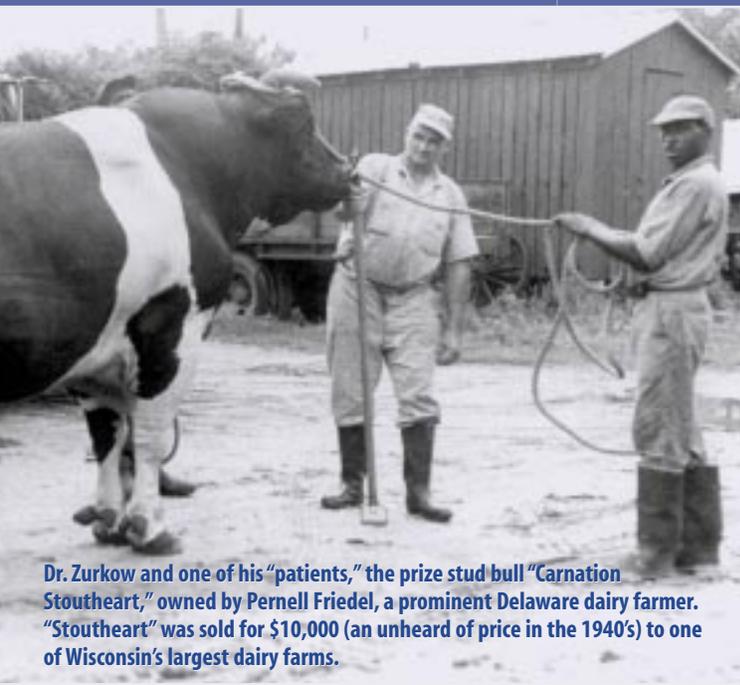


Dr. Zurkow in 1925 riding the range with the rangers in the Sierra Madre Mountains (California) of Stanislaus National Park as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture program to control an outbreak of Hoof-and-Mouth disease

retiring had not crossed his mind.

I was drawn to write this brief piece about a man I did not know, in part, because I shared a fragment of his vanished world as a large animal veterinarian³ during the 1940s and '50s, but mainly because it is the captivating story of a young boy on his own, escaping a country soon to be consumed by fire and darkness, courageously confronting the harsh immigrant experience, excelling in a career far removed from what would have been remotely possible in czarist Russia, where Jews were forbidden to work the land or to acquire a university education. And finally, this is very much a Penn story.

1. *Health Affairs* was a magazine published by Penn's four Health Schools. Dr. Zurkow's story appeared in the 1975 summer issue.
2. Renamed the College of Veterinary Medicine
3. Robert Marshak was in a dairy cattle practice in Vermont for eleven years, 1945 to 1956.



Dr. Zurkow and one of his "patients," the prize stud bull "Carnation Stoutheart," owned by Pernell Friedel, a prominent Delaware dairy farmer. "Stoutheart" was sold for \$10,000 (an unheard of price in the 1940's) to one of Wisconsin's largest dairy farms.

(MORRIS) ZURKOW, V'10

by Robert R. Marshak, D.V.M.



Dr. Christopher Hunter, assistant professor of parasitology, received two large five-year research grants from NIH for his projects “Immunopathogenesis of Toxoplasmic Encephalitis” and “of NF-kappaB in resistance to *Toxoplasma gondii*.”

Dr. Margret Casal, assistant professor of medical genetics, has become a Founding Diplomat of the European College of Animal Reproduction. Dr. Casal received a grant from the University’s Research Foundation for “Fetal Immunity to In Utero Transplanted Murine Fetal Hematopoietic Cells.”

Dr. Gerhard Schad, professor of parasitology, and **Dr. James Lok**, associate professor of parasitology, spoke at the Keystone Conference in Taos, N.M. in January.

Dr. Eric Birks, assistant professor of sports medicine, received a grant from Pulmonox, Inc.

Dr. Corinne Sweeney was promoted to professor of medicine. Dr. Sweeney and **Dr. Jill Beech, V’72**, professor of medicine, spoke at the meeting of the Finnish Veterinary Association of Specialized Practitioners (Equine) in Turku, Finland in March.

Dr. Leslie King, associate professor of critical care medicine, received the 2001 American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Achievement Award for “Advances in Ventilator Management of Acute Lung Injury.” Dr. King spoke at the ACVECC Postgraduate course in conjunction with the Society of Critical Care Medicine 30th Educational and Scientific Symposium, in February in San Francisco, Calif.

Dr. Patricia McManus, V’80, assistant professor of clinical pathology, **Dr. Linden Craig**, assistant professor of anatomic pathology, presented papers at the American College of Veterinary Pathologist meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. in December.

Dr. Fabio Del Piero, assistant professor of pathology, was an invited speaker at the meeting of the American Society of Theriogenology in December. He participated in a panel discussion on abortion and stillbirths and presented a talk. Dr. Del Piero was an invited speaker at the American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. in December. In January he delivered four invited lectures at the international meeting of SIVE (Italian Association of Equine Practitioners) in Salsomaggiore, Italy. **Dr. Pamela Wilkins**, assistant professor of

medicine and reproduction gave two talks at the same meeting.

Dr. Gail Smith, V’74, professor of surgery, and chairman, Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia, was the Yarborough Honored Lecturer at the Sports Medicine Symposium, held in January in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Ronald Hartly, assistant professor of microbiology, received a grant from the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation entitled “Functional Analysis of the VP24 Protein of Ebola Virus.”

Dr. Kathy Michel, assistant professor of nutrition, received a grant from Ralston Purina to

Reproductive Biology Centers Program to study proteins of the sperm flagellum and their potential roles in male fertility. Dr. Turner reported the results of some of her work at the Havemeyer Workshop on Advanced Current Topics in Stallion Veterinary Practice in Krakow, Poland in September and at the Third International Symposium on Stallion Reproduction in Fort Collins, Colo. in January.

The School was well represented at the meeting of Veterinary Orthopedic Surgeons, held at Lake Louise, Canada. **Drs. Garrett Davis, Amy Kapatkin, Philip Mayhew, David Puerto, Gail Smith** and **Susan Volk** presented abstracts.

Drs. Shelley Rankin and **Helen Aceto** attended the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System’s (NARMS) annual scientific meeting in Rockville Maryland and made two presentations; “Quinolone/Fluoro-

quinole resistance in veterinary isolates of *Salmonella enterica*” and “Characterization of multiple drug resistant *Salmonella* Newport strains.”

Dr. James D. Ferguson, V’81, associate professor of nutrition and **Dr. David T. Galligan, V’81**, associate professor of animal health worked in collaboration with Consorzio Ricerca Filiera Lattiero Casearia on Reproductive Efficiency and Milk Production in Ragusa, Italy during February and March. Dr. Galligan participated in teaching the international post-graduate course on Animal Health Economics in New Zealand. He presented an invited paper at the 2000 Animal Dairy Science Meeting, Baltimore, Md. on Economics of A-typical Milk Production.

Dr. Donald Munro, project director of the Salmonella Reference Center, presented the serotyping and phage typing portion of the NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) course held annually at the Georgia Poultry Laboratories in Oakwood, Ga. in March.

Dr. Charles Benson, professor of microbiology, received the first Egg Nutrition Center/ American Egg Board grant in Food Safety. The study entitled *Salmonella enterica* serovar Enteritidis (SE) concentration in shell eggs in the United States as determined by time and Temperature” is a collaborative study between Drs. Benson and Munro with Dr. Tom Humphrey of the Bristol School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Adrian Morrison, professor of behavioral neuroscience, served as a faculty member recently in a course on sleep medicine for

Rosettes & Ribbons

some recent accomplishments of note by faculty and staff

investigate the role of diet in the management of feline diabetes. In February Dr. Michel gave a day-long continuing education course for the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Karen Rosenthal, director of VHUP’s special species clinic, was elected president of the Association of Exotic Animal Veterinarians and she was re-appointed Chairperson of the Small Mammal Program at The North American Veterinary Conference. Dr. Rosenthal spoke on birds and small mammals at the BSAVA meeting in Birmingham, England in April.

Dr. Bernd Driessen, assistant professor of anesthesiology, together with his collaborators from the University of California Medical School, presented abstracts on blood substitute research at the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. in October, the 8th International Symposium on Blood Substitutes, San Diego, Calif., in November, and the 54th Postgraduate Assembly Meeting of The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, New York City, N.Y., in December. He also presented abstracts at the 75th Clinical and Scientific Congress of the International Anesthesia Research Society, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in March and at the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists’ Spring 2001 Conference, Uppsala, Sweden in May. Dr. Driessen was elected a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Dr. Regina Turner, assistant professor of reproduction, received a grant from the Mellon

Italian physicians in Bertinoro, Italy. His lecture was titled "Meccanismi del Controllo Motorio nel Sonno." Last September he participated in a symposium, "Sleep Medicine on the Eve of the Third Millenium" in Bologna, Italy.

Dr. Karen Overall, V'83, lecturer in behavior, gave presentations to and participated in workshops at the California Narcotic Canine Association meetings in Burbank in January. In February she gave talks to the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and participated as a presenter at the Veterinary Post-Graduate Institute course in Phoenix, Ariz.

Dr. Shelley Rankin, research assistant professor in microbiology, received a two-year grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture to study "PCR Detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in ruminants." Dr Fabio Del Piero is a co-investigator. Dr. Rankin gave a presentation at the PADLS Spring Diagnostic Conference in April on "Multiple Drug resistant *Salmonella* Newport strains in Pennsylvania".

Dr. Ina Dorbrinski, assistant professor of large animal reproduction, received a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: "Improving Fertility of Preserved Bovine and Porcine Semen," and a grant from the NIH/NICHHD: "Identification of Stem Cell Markers in Mammalian Testes." Dr. Dobrinski gave an invited talk earlier this year at the California Regional Primate Center, Davis, Calif.

Dr. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko, assistant professor of pathology, received funding from the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center for the project "Infection-mediated suppression of tumor vascularization and growth." It draws on the recent discovery by **Drs. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko** and **Christopher Hunter** that acute infection with *Toxoplasma gondii* leads to suppression of tumor angiogenesis and precludes neoplastic growth. This study, which is of potential therapeutic significance, has been recently accepted for publication in the Cutting Edge section of the *Journal of Immunology*.

Dr. Robert Whitlock, associate professor of medicine, has been awarded a two year research grant to develop a PCR based assay for John's Disease in Alpacas by the Alpaca Research Foundation in Kallisbell, Mont. Dr. Whitlock received funds from B-D BioSciences and Land-O-Lakes Foods to conduct an international survey of culture methods for John's Disease in 30 countries. This is first ever international survey to compare the diagnostic

Dean Kelly Makes the First Online Gift to the School



Online giving has come to the University of Pennsylvania! Alumni and friends of the School of Veterinary Medicine can now make a gift with their credit card through a secure transaction. Visit the online giving web site at <www.upenn.edu/gifts>, and join Dr. Kelly in seeing how easy it is to support the School online!

techniques for John's Disease among the leading diagnostic laboratories in the world. Dr. Whitlock recently presented several lectures on John's Disease to the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting in Indianapolis in January.

The University's Research Foundation awarded grants to: **Dr. Michael Atchison**, professor of biochemistry, **Dr. Gary Smith**, professor of population biology and epidemiology, **Dr. Francis Luca**, assistant professor of physiology, and **Dr. Quin Yu**, assistant professor of pathobiology.

James Kehler, V'02, was named a 2000 Morris Animal Foundation Fellow. Each year

students are nominated by principal investigators for their devotion and contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine through animal health studies. James was nominated by **Dr. Paula Henthorn**, associate professor of medical genetics.

Dr. Sue Kimmel, resident in medicine, received a grant from the IAMS Company and placed third in the 2000 Eukanuba Veterinary Diets®/BASFCASE Report Competition for Residents. The grants are awarded to eight veterinary residents for completing outstanding research studies or clinical reports that demonstrate the role of nutrition in managing common diseases affecting dogs and cats.

Nezpercius dodsoni

The March issue of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* contains a note entitled "A new fossil frog from the Upper Cretaceous Judith River Formation of Montana" by Richard W. Blob, Matthew T. Carrano, Raymond R. Rogers, Catherine A. Forster and Nora R. Espinoza. Rick Blob was a Penn undergrad who trained with **Dr. Peter Dodson**, professor of anatomy, in Montana for several years and who recently finished his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. He is now on a post-doctoral fellowship at the Field Museum in Chicago. Cathy Forster was Dr. Dodson's Ph.D. student. She is now associate professor of anatomy at SUNY Stony Brook.

The name of the new frog is *Nezpercius dodsoni*! The citation reads "Genus name honors the Nez Perce tribe. The type locality for the genus is within sight of Cow Island, where the Nez Perce tribe crossed the Missouri River as they were pursued toward Canada in 1877. Species name honors Peter Dodson for his contributions to paleoecological research in the Judith River Formation."

Animal Crackers



Most Popular Breeds

The American Kennel club registered 1,175,473 purebred dogs in 2000. For the 10th consecutive year, the Labrador retriever led, accounting for 14% of all AKC registrations for 2000. Golden retrievers were in second place, followed by German shepherd dogs, dachshunds, beagles, poodles, Yorkshire terriers, Chihuahuas, boxers, and Shih Tzu.

Breeds come and go from the top-ten list. However, only six have held the number one spot since 1925: German shepherd dogs (1926 to 1928), Boston terriers (1929 to 1935), cocker spaniels (1936-1952 and again from 1983 to 1990), beagles (1953 to 1959), poodles (1960 to 1982) and Labrador retrievers (1991 to present).

Rottweilers and chow chows were subject to fad levels of popularity in the 90's. Registration for both have decreased significantly, Rottweilers decreased 64% in the past seven years, and chow chows are down 92% in the past ten years. This shows the public's tendency to acquire the "in" breed often without sufficient consideration of what living with that breed entails.

The Labrador with 172,841 registered led the sporting group. Leaders in the hound group were dachshunds with 54,773 registered. Boxers had most registrations in the working group (38,803) while the top breed in the terrier group was West Highland whites with 3,364 registered. Leading the toy group were Yorkshire Terriers (9,365), tops in the non-sporting group were poodles (45,868) and leaders in the herding group were German shepherd dogs (57,660).

Dedicated breeders understand the importance of educating the pet-buying public and help them select a breed that will fit into their lifestyle.

PON

The Polish lowland sheepdog (Polski Owczarek Nizinny), sometimes referred to as a PON has been recognized by the American Kennel Club and now is shown in the miscellaneous class. It is expected to be in the herding group if it demonstrates continued growth. At this time, there are fewer than 2,000 in the United States.

The PON has been described as a tail-less bearded collie. In its native land it herded sheep

and geese. The breed suffered a major setback during World War II when most records were lost or destroyed. A Polish veterinarian is credited with resurrecting the breed from fewer than a dozen animals after the war.

The PON is said to have an incredible memory. They are working dogs and their innate suspicion may make them seem aloof and shy. They must be trained from puppyhood for showing.

Their coat is long, dense and shaggy. It mats quickly if not brushed several times a week.

The PON is not a breed for everyone. They require a strong-minded handler who understand the dog's working dog personality.

False Pregnancy

Pseudocyesis is an exaggeration of the normal physiologic signs shown by any nonpregnant bitch in the latter part of the estrous cycle. Signs include weight gain, mammary gland hyperplasia and lactation, nesting and mothering of inanimate objects. Absence of pregnancy can be confirmed by abdominal palpation or ultrasonography. Signs usually appear six to 12 weeks after estrus and disappear in one to three weeks. Treatment is not recommended unless the signs are unusually severe or prolonged.

There are reports that these bitches make good foster mothers.

Ovariohysterectomy will prevent recurrence.

Russian Blue

Russian blues are said to have originated in the neighborhood of Archangel in northwest Russia. Some say they were the favored cats of the Russian czars and that Queen Victoria had two as pets. There are stories of them riding into battle on the shoulders of Cossack militia. They probably were brought to England by merchant sailors. They made their first appearance at a cat show at the Crystal Palace in 1875 as the Archangel Cat, competing in a class with all other blue cats. They obtained recognition as a separate breed in 1912 and were accepted by the Cat Fanciers Association in 1947.

These cats are known as the ballerinas of the cat fancy. They are elegant, lithe and graceful. They may appear heavier than they actually are because of the dense, plush coat. They are bright blue with silver-tipped guard hairs that produce a silvery sheen. Their eyes are a vivid green.

Russian blues are good apartment cats. They are undemanding, playful and very intelligent. They will use their paws to open doors and cabinets — their curiosity and cleverness can make them interesting and challenging companions.

Most Russian blues are quiet cats but have a wide range of vocal tones and sounds. While they often are considered shy, their behavior stems from caution about unfamiliar people or situations rather than fear.

This is a minority breed on the cat fancy, ranking about 17th in CFA registrations. The average litter size is only three kittens.

Book Review

Dogs for Dummies, 2nd edition by Gina Spadafori (Hungry Minds, Inc., 909 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. \$21.99)

This is a reference book for the novice and seasoned dog owner. It also is useful for anyone considering purchasing or adopting a dog. There is a check list of signs that indicate that your dog needs immediate veterinary attention and a list of items for your canine medicine chest.

On choosing a breed — "Start with an open mind. Keep these factors in mind — size and space requirements, activity level, fur factor and trainability and dominance."

"Information about breeds and breed clubs may be found on the American Kennel Club Web site at www.akc.org. Bad breeders have discovered the Internet. Good breeders use their Web sites to educate; bad ones to merchandise. Proceed carefully."

"A proper diagnosis and an appropriate course of treatment are essential when your pet is ill. While learning all you can about a disease is a fantastic idea, you need to understand your limitations as a pet owner. No book, friend's advice or web site can make up for the expertise of a good veterinarian."

"According to the American Animal Hospital Association, the first eight months of a dog's life equal 13 years in human terms. At a year a dog is a teenager. After the age of two, when a dog is about 21, every dog year equals approximately five human ones. Giant breeds such as great Danes are senior citizens at six. A Lab may be considered old at eight. A little dog like a Pomeranian, however, could behave like a healthy adult well into her teens. Obesity not only shortens lives, but makes the years that

Animal Crackers

remain miserable, especially for older dogs with arthritis.”

“Reputable breeders don’t let puppies go until they’re a week or so older than seven weeks, and maybe longer for a tiny breed.”

“If all you want to do is go to a dog show, check out Infodog (www.infodog.com) for schedules of nearly every canine event.”

These excerpts should give you an idea of the wide range of information in the book.

What Labs Love (Hungry Minds, Inc. \$16.99). 100 photographs by Ed Camelli with text by Mike Singer reveal the characteristics that make the Lab one of the most sought after companion animals.

International Laminitis Conference

Dr. James Orsini, associate professor of surgery, organized the First International Equine Conference on Laminitis and Diseases of the Foot. The event, held February 8 and 9 at Palm Beach, FL drew more than 200 attendees from the USA, Canada, Europe and South America. It brought together veterinarians, researchers, farriers, trainers, breeders, owners and farm managers for a comprehensive overview of laminitis and the latest diagnostic and treatment options for this disease.

Topics discussed were: Clinical Review of Laminitis; Epidemiology of Laminitis; Introduction to Developmental and Acute Laminitis; Review of Current Diagnostic Modalities and Clinical Therapeutics; Clinical Management of Acute Laminitis; Chronic Phase of Laminitis. Among the speakers were Robert Sigafoos, farrier at New Bolton Center, and Dr. Eric Birks, assistant professor of sports medicine.

The event was supported by Mr. and Mrs. John Castle, who have provided extensive research support to Dr. Orsini. On Thursday evening, they invited the conference participants to their home, the former Kennedy compound. Corporate support for the conference was received from Merial and Fort Dodge. The Thoroughbred Charities of America also supported the conference.

2001 Penn Annual Conference

The 2001 Penn Annual Conference attracted more than 800 veterinarians, 225 technicians and 80 exhibitors. The two-day event was held at the Adam’s Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, January 31 and February 1. Several companies supported the conference as sponsors and patrons. Associate Dean Charles Newton presented plaques to the sponsors.

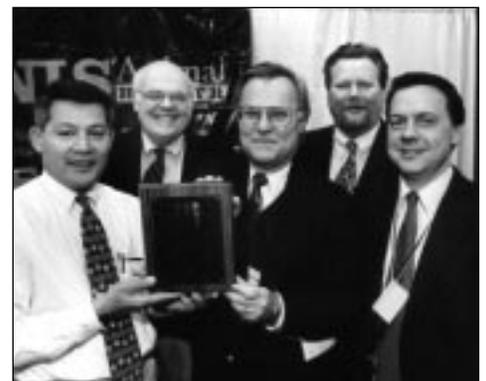
The 2002 Penn Annual Conference will be held January 30 and 31 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel.



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North American Veterinary Conference Alumni Reception



More than 100 School of Veterinary Medicine alumni and their guests attended a reception at the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Fla., on January 14, 2001. The alumni attending the conference represented class years from 1947 to 2000 and had traveled from states ranging from California to Maine. Although Dean Alan M. Kelly was unable to travel to the conference due to an illness, everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with fellow alumni during the conference.



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Teaching aids for Mongolian Veterinary School

The members of the **Student Public Health Club** collected textbooks, journals, slides and other teaching and study materials for the



veterinary school in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. The items were shipped there and presented by **Dr. Amanda Fine, V'97**, to the school and its students. The dean of the school, Dr. Orgil, presented Dr. Fine with a painting to be given to Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine in gratitude for the materials.

A Canine Hero

In the early morning of February 10 Wodan laid his life on the line to save his human partner. Harrisburg Police Officer Michael Lamonto and his canine partner, Wodan, a five-year-old Belgian Malinois, had been called to a disturbance at a bar in Harrisburg. A suspect tried to avoid arrest. The dog went into action and, according to Officer Lamonto, “was shot four times by a criminal attempting to avoid arrest. Wodan’s bravery saved my life and the lives of all the officers in the area as he kept the perpetrator busy even after being shot several times. This gave a fellow officer and I time to return fire as the perpetrator was firing at me. The perpetrator was hit and subsequently taken into custody.”

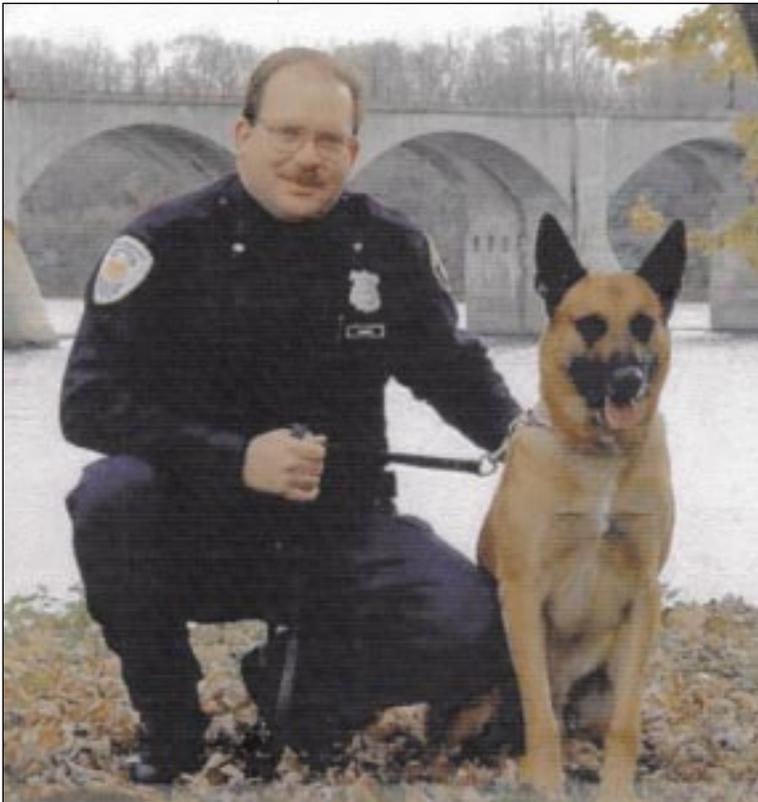
Wodan was critically injured. He sustained gunshot wounds to both front legs, his abdomen, chest and back. He was rushed to a local veterinary emergency clinic where his life was saved. The muscles, tissues, and blood vessels in his left front leg were torn apart by the bullets. The veterinarian feared that the leg might have to be amputated to save the dog’s life. Every attempt was made to prevent that.

On February 12 a Pennsylvania State Police helicopter airlifted Wodan to Penn’s campus and the dog was admitted to VHUP. Here surgeons attempted to save the leg. **Dr. Jeff Christiansen**, a resident in surgery, removed the destroyed tissue. He inserted antibiotic pellets into the large wound area to forestall infection. The dog also received intravenous antibiotics. No one was sure whether the leg could be saved because of the severe damage to the soft tissues and the blood vessels.

Due to his severe trauma and hemorrhage, Wodan was throwing blood clots to the tissue

the surgeons were trying to save. Wodan was admitted to ICU — he needed to be watched around the clock. He received heparin (a blood thinner), oxyglobin (hemoglobin, the molecule that carries oxygen. This is many times smaller than a red blood cell and can sometimes bypass clotted vessels that a red blood cell cannot), and vasodilators to increase the diameter the blood vessels. The dog received painkillers, fluids and parenteral nutrition because he would not eat.

Each day the wound needed to be cleaned and debrided. This involved surgery and anesthesia. Wodan, being a police dog, was very protective of his run, despite his injury. He wore a muzzle which was taken off by Officer Lamonto when he visited for a few hours each day. For about ten days it was “touch and go” for Wodan’s leg. For a while there was great worry about the blood supply to the lower leg and the foot, but gradually things improved



and the paw felt warm to touch. Infection was another danger, antibiotics and frequent debriding kept it in check.

The removal of muscle tissue was massive, particularly in the dog’s lower leg. He lost all of the muscles that would allow him to flex his carpus (equivalent of the wrist) Dr. Christiansen

was very worried whether the dog would have control over his foot or whether it would need surgery to stabilize it. Only time would tell.

The turning point came on February 23. Wodan ate on his own! He was bright and alert and very frustrated at being confined in an ICU run. His blood work looked good. Dr. Christiansen decided that the dog would

“Wodan’s dramatic story illustrated the need for speedy transfer of severely injured police dogs to VHUP.”

recover better at home. The next day a delegation from the Harrisburg Police Department arrived at VHUP to take the hero home. He tried to jump right into his K-9 patrol car. Officer Lamonto gave him a lift and the dog settled in.

Wodan was not healed yet. He needed to come to VHUP every other day for bandage changes and check-ups. His human partner gladly complied. Eventually Wodan’s regular veterinarian, **Dr. Deborah Keim, V’84**, took over the bandage changes and the frequent monitoring. Trips to Philly became more infrequent. VHUP’s nutritionist, **Dr. Cathy Michel**, prescribed a special diet for the dog who had lost a lot of weight. Wodan received hydrotherapy at Dr. Keim’s facility to strengthen his leg. It looks as if the carpus functions normally and will not need to be fused.

The dog has a big scar and he lost the tissue on his foot pads. This has grown back and daily Wodan puts more weight on his leg.

Wodan’s actions and injuries created a great deal of interest in the Harrisburg area. The dog received mail, people donated money to help cover his considerable medical expenses and the K-9 police officers of many police departments offered their support to Officer Lamonto. A web site was set up where his fans could and can follow his progress <www.wodan.pa.net>.

Wodan’s dramatic story illustrated the need for speedy transfer of severely injured police dogs to VHUP. PennSTAR, the medivac service at Penn’s human hospital, has offered to transport severely injured police dogs via helicopter to HUP from where they will be taken to VHUP by Penn’s police force. Everyone hopes that this service will not be needed too often.

A V.M.D. Serving in the Army Veterinary Corps by Second Lieutenant Scott Goldman, V03

When most people think of veterinary medicine, the phrase “world travel” usually does not immediately jump into mind. With the ever-growing importance of veterinarians in public health as well as wildlife and livestock management, however, their worldwide role has become increasingly well defined. Many jobs may offer veterinarians the chance to travel abroad, but one University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine graduate in particular seems to have a talent for finding ways to practice veterinary medicine in a truly global fashion.

When Dr. Kathleen M. Kral graduated from Penn in 1985, she initially pursued a career as a small animal clinician at hospitals in Cherry Hill, NJ, and Washington, DC. When small animal practice began to lose its luster for her, she started to look at other career possibilities. After writing to a number of veterinary societies abroad, Dr. Kral accepted a position in a busy small animal clinic in Singapore. There she found a unique combination of Eastern and Western veterinary medicine in practice and gained invaluable experience working with a variety of diseases that are rarely if ever seen by most veterinarians stateside.

With her interest in foreign service piqued by her experiences in Singapore, Dr. Kral continued to look for new opportunities in veterinary medicine outside of the U.S. While perusing the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) one day, she came across a job listing that ultimately led to her position as the Animal Health Coordinator for Cambodia with the American Friends Service Committee. Over her two and a half years in this position, she provided invaluable service in animal welfare to the people of Cambodia, including the daunting task of managing a laboratory that produced 600,000 doses of vaccine against hemorrhagic septicemia. During her stay in Cambodia, Dr. Kral managed to perform her duties despite incredible hardships and cultural obstacles including rampant crime, muggings, car thefts, a considerable language barrier, poverty, and the very real threat of mine fields throughout most of the country.

Upon her return to the United States, Dr. Kral again sought out ways in which she could practice a type of veterinary medicine considerably broader than that found in the typical clinic. Once again something in JAVMA caught her eye; this time it was a recruitment adver-

tisement for the United States Army Veterinary Corps. Inspired by her experiences overseas, and with a new, more intense appreciation for the rights and privileges of American citizenship, she decided to join and was commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army.

Her first overseas tour with the Army took her to Guam, where she was responsible for the general care of Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and service-members’ pets, as well as for public health services including sanitary inspections of military food providers in the Pacific. During this period, Captain Kral also conducted quarterly clinics for service pets in Singapore and visits to the military island of Diego Garcia to treat the MWDs employed there.

One of the many benefits of being a military veterinarian is the opportunity to engage and even direct a variety of unique and exciting programs both domestically and abroad. Two examples of this are Captain Kral’s spearheading of a small animal vaccination mission for stray and pet animals in the island nation of Palau and her work providing public health guidance and direction in Mongolia.

The Republic of Palau, found approximately two hours south of Guam by air, consists of 343 islands in the Pacific. Only nine of the islands are inhabited; most of the people live in the capital of Koror, where Captain Kral was sent on a joint Army-Navy mission to provide basic vaccinations for hundreds of stray animals. After overcoming initial political and communications barriers, Captain Kral and her team were ultimately able to vaccinate and deworm 750 animals in five days (far more than even the government of Palau expected)

and lay the groundwork for future missions and animal health initiatives for the country.

In Mongolia, Captain Kral was an integral member of a military team that provided education to the local population on food safety issues and inspections of food processing and storage facilities. The Mongolians have had little exposure to many of the food safety tech-

niques that we take for granted here in the United States, and Captain Kral’s team taught a variety of subjects, ranging from the types of food inspections available and the equipment used during those inspections to the proper implementation of food codes and the attainment of the considerably strict standards prescribed by the United States military.

Following her return to the States, Captain Kral chose to continue her career as an Army Officer and was therefore granted the opportunity to

pursue an advanced degree in a specialty area. Currently, she is finishing the Master of Public Health & Tropical Medicine program at Tulane University in New Orleans. As of February 2001, she has been promoted to Major, and following her completion of the program at Tulane, she will once again be sent abroad by the Army to provide her knowledge and expertise wherever it is needed most.

Second Lieutenant Scott Goldman, V’03, is attending Penn through the United States Army Health Professionals Scholarship Program. After graduation, he will enter the United States Army Veterinary Corps, which is responsible for research and development, animal welfare, and food safety for the armed forces. He hopes to pursue a board-certification in pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. For more information on the Veterinary Corps program, visit www.goarmy.com/job/amedd/avch.htm.



Canine Symposium

The 31st Annual Canine Symposium was held at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania on January 27, 2001. About 100 dog breeders and owners attended the event which was supported by Pedigree®.

Following are brief summaries of the presentations which focused, with the exception of the first, on emergencies.

Alternative Veterinary Medicine: An Overview

“Natural” and “safe” are not synonyms—and, in the context of clinical medicine, are sometimes mutually exclusive. So said **Dr. Robert Poppenga**, associate professor of pathology at the School. Dr. Poppenga discussed the safety and regulatory aspects of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM).

Dr. Poppenga presented the case of Jake, a 7-year-old, female German shepherd treated with pennyroyal oil, a botanical flea repellent. Within an hour of dermal oil application, Jake became listless and soon began vomiting. The next day, the dog developed diarrhea, coughed up blood and bled from the nose. He eventually died. The cause of death: pennyroyal oil toxicosis. The substance: All natural, but not without peril, said Dr. Poppenga.

“There is a perception out there that if something is natural, it’s going to be safe,” he said. “That is not true. Natural does not always mean safe.”

According to Dr. Poppenga, health food safety claims are often false. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is far less vigilant about regulating such CAM modalities as nutraceuticals, phytomedicines and dietary supplements than about traditional medicines. Therefore, the safety of these therapies is poorly assessed, and the quality control in their manufacture loosely policed.

This regulatory laxity has not dampened the popularity of CAM treatments. In fact, some 50 percent of people questioned in one survey use some form of CAM. In the human sector, homeopathy is a growth industry, with retail sales — \$200 million in 1995 — increasing at a rate of 20 percent annually. Dr. Poppenga estimates a similar growth rate for these therapies exists within the veterinary sector.

In 1996, The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recognized the following CAM modalities — acupuncture, acutherapy, nutraceuticals, chiropractic physical therapy, massage, homeopathy, botanical medicine and holistic medicine — and developed general

guidelines for their use. Before prescribing CAM therapies, Dr. Poppenga urges veterinarians to thoroughly evaluate them by reading about them in open-review journals and critically assessing the quality of the studies that claim their benefits.

“CAM in veterinary medicine is not going to go away. We tell our veterinary students to keep an open mind, look at things based on scientific evidence, and communicate closely with their clients.”

Neurologic Emergencies Affecting the Brain

Momentary electrical disturbances in the brain, seizures, can have serious consequences in our pets. **Dr. William Bush**, resident in neurology at VHUP, discussed the types, neural mechanisms, clinical signs and sequelae of seizure disorders.

A seizure, explained Dr. Bush, is abnormal activity of populations of neurons in the central nervous system, resulting in brief changes in behavior. Neurons are tightly regulated to maintain negative internal charges relative to their external environment. When a neuron becomes positive due to the influx of positively-charged ions or the efflux of negatively-charged ions, an action potential occurs and neurotransmitters are released. A seizure occurs when a group of inappropriately-positive neurons trigger disorganized, uncontrolled action potentials. Inhibitory mechanisms exist that maintain surrounding populations of neurons in their delicate balance. These, however, can fail. When this happens, the seizure can spread throughout the brain via normal anatomic pathways. A seizure has three phases. During the pre-ictus phase — or “aura,” which corresponds to the initial excitation of neurons in a sensory area of the cortex, a dog might, among other things, become restless, vocalize, stare absently, seek attention or hide. Ictus — the actual seizure — follows, and is characterized by persistent muscle contractions, rhythmic jaw movements, stiffness of the neck, falling over, and loss of autonomic control resulting in salivation, urination, defecation, and dilation of the pupils. During the ensuing post-ictal — or recovery — phase, the dog may exhibit aimless pacing, increased thirst and blindness. Seizures can lead to synaptic reorganization that renders the patient more prone to future seizures. A particularly damaging type of seizure is status epilepticus, which is a continuous seizure

lasting at least five minutes or two or more discrete seizures between which there is incomplete recovery of consciousness. A potential cause of multi-organ failure, Dr. Bush said, “status epilepticus must be addressed promptly. It’s an emergency and many patients die.”

Another seizure condition is idiopathic epilepsy, or recurrent seizure without discernible cause. The epileptic dog usually experiences its first seizure between one and five years of age, and may have seizures throughout its life. Thought to result from a DNA error, epilepsy in dogs is typically controlled by the phenobarbital derivative, phenytoin.

Spinal Cord Emergencies

Spinal cord lesions may deteriorate rapidly, leading to permanent damage and loss of function. **Dr. Amy Kapatkin**, assistant professor of surgery at VHUP, presented a variety of spinal cord emergencies in dogs.

The following questions must be answered when assessing a patient with a spinal cord emergency: Does the patient require surgery? If so, how soon must it be accomplished? And which procedure should be performed? The patient’s prognosis depends on the location and severity of the lesion, chronicity of the problem, cause of the insult, and selected treatment.

The most common spinal cord emergency is intervertebral disc disease (IVDD). “This is what we all think about as the classic spinal cord emergency,” Dr. Kapatkin said. Two types of IVDD exist: Hansen type I, which features acute extrusion of the disc material and subsequent spinal cord compression. It is more common in Basset hounds, dachshunds and other chondrodystrophic breeds; Hansen type II is chronic spinal cord compression, more prevalent in older dogs.

The main diagnostic tool for IVDD is myelography. Treatment depends on the chronicity of the problem. If the patient’s neurologic status deteriorates rapidly over a few hours, or if deep pain sensation is absent, immediate surgery to decompress the spinal cord is likely indicated. Conservative treatment can be used if the presenting neurological signs are mild. They may include corticosteroids and cage rest.

Another spinal cord lesion is atlantoaxial instability, which involves the C1-C2 joint. Patients present with neck pain and

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neurological signs ranging from mild to severe paresis or paralysis. They are usually young, small breed dogs that have either a congenital malformation of their dens or trauma. Another cervical problem is caudal cervical spondylomyelopathy, or wobbler's syndrome. Clinical signs — which are generally chronic — range from cervical pain to neurological weakness in all four limbs. Spinal fractures and luxations can also occur, and are often accompanied by potentially life-threatening injuries affecting other organ systems. These can be surgically stabilized with a variety of techniques.

The spinal cord can get infections, called discospondylitis, vertebral osteomyelitis or phylitis. Affected animals typically present with fever, pain on palpation of the affected vertebrae, and occasionally neurologic dysfunction.

Like IVDD, these other spinal cord lesions must be promptly characterized in terms of their location and cause. Diagnostic tools include conventional radiography, fluoroscopy, myelography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, and blood and cerebrospinal fluid culture. Treatment may be surgical or conventional (cage rest, splinting, analgesics and antiinflammatory drugs).

Canine Diabetes Mellitus: Diagnosis and Treatment

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a disease that deprives the body's cells of their most fundamental need — to procure energy. **Dr. Rebecka Hess**, staff veterinarian at VHUP, lectured on the pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of canine DM.

DM is a disease of the pancreas, which secretes insulin. Insulin is the problematic hormone in DM, which exists in two distinct varieties. Type I — or insulin-dependent — DM is the form typically seen in cats and dogs. Here, the pancreas does not secrete adequate insulin due to destruction of the beta cells that produce the hormone.

Dogs that present with DM are usually middle-aged or older, with a possible female predilection. Several breeds of dog are at high risk for DM, particularly samoyeds, miniature schnauzers, miniature/toy poodles and pugs. The clinical signs of DM are large volume of urine and excessive thirst (PU/PD), profound weight loss coupled with increased appetite, and acute blindness. On physical exam, affected dogs may manifest abnormalities, including

poor body condition, obesity, enlarged liver, lethargy and cataracts.

Diagnosis is made by blood and urine tests which, in the diabetic patient, may reveal persistent hyperglycemia, elevated liver enzymes, azotemia, lipemia, persistent glucosuria, ketonuria, proteinuria, and white blood cells and bacteria in the urine.

DM is treated with insulin, dietary changes, oral hypoglycemics and therapy for any concurrent diseases. At-home care for DM is quite onerous, Dr. Hess explained. "Owners need to be very much attuned to the dog, and they often have to be able to change their lifestyles to treat these pets."

This includes administering insulin twice daily after the dog has finished its meals (usually a high-fiber, complex-carbohydrate diet); monitoring the urine glucose; noting clinical signs like PU/PD, weight loss and appetite fluctuations; altering the insulin dose if the dog's food consumption changes; and bringing the dog to their veterinarian for periodic blood glucose curves to ensure that the insulin dosage is appropriate. Diabetic dogs must receive emergency treatment for seizures or ketonuria; the latter problem is an indicator of diabetic ketoacidosis, a complicated form of DM that carries a guarded prognosis.

Canine Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia

Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) is an important canine health problem, both for its high frequency and for its debilitating effects in dogs. **Dr. Beth Callan**, assistant professor of medicine at VHUP, described the disease process, causes, clinical signs, diagnostic procedures and therapeutic regimens for IMHA.

Red blood cells, or "erythrocytes," are produced by the bone marrow. They contain hemoglobin, which has the critical role of oxygen transport to the tissues. Erythrocyte levels are expressed as "packed cell volume" (PCV) — or "hematocrit" — which, in a healthy dog, ranges from 37 to 55 percent. The anemic dog experiences a drop in PCV. This reflects decreased erythrocyte mass, which disables the body's ability to transport oxygen efficiently. Thus, the main clinical signs of anemia are pallor and weakness. Icterus — or jaundice — may also result, as yellow-hued bilirubin, a breakdown product of erythrocyte destruction, is released into the tissues. Owners may also

observe pigmenturia; here, the urine becomes darkened or wine-colored as blood breakdown products are excreted into the urinary tract. IMHA may occur as either primary or secondary disease. In primary disease, or autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA), autoantibodies are produced against the erythrocytes; this may occur in autoimmune diseases like lupus, or in hereditary conditions affecting certain breeds (i.e., Cocker and English Springer spaniel, Old English sheepdog, West Highland white terrier). In secondary IMHA, erythrocyte destruction occurs as a result of infection (i.e., babesiosis), exposure to toxins (i.e., zinc, onions), iatrogenic insults (i.e., vaccines, drugs such as sulfonamides) or systemic disease (i.e., chronic renal failure, cancer). Diagnosis of IMHA is confirmed by the presence of one or more of three hallmark laboratory findings: autoagglutination, or erythrocyte clumping; spherocytosis, or presence of small, abnormal erythrocytes; and a positive direct Coombs test, which signals the presence of antibody-coated red blood cells. The investigative work begins, however, after IMHA is diagnosed, Dr. Callan noted. "Anemia itself is not a diagnosis," she said. "It's just a sign of another disease." Further testing may include chest radiographs, abdominal ultrasound, blood titers and smears, and lymph node and bone marrow aspirates. Treatment for IMHA includes blood transfusions, free hemoglobin solution (Oxyglobin), corticosteroids and other immunosuppressive agents, and supportive care that may incorporate four to six months of treatment and monitoring. Unfortunately, IMHA carries a guarded prognosis, with an overall mortality rate of over 40 percent.

Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus

Gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV) is a life-threatening condition requiring emergency surgical intervention. **Dr. David Puerto**, surgery resident at VHUP, discussed the pathogenesis, clinical signs, surgical procedure, predisposing factors and prognostic indicators for GDV.

GDV occurs secondary to rapid dilation of the stomach with food or air, resulting in rotation of the stomach. When GDV occurs, there is a malposition of the stomach that results in massive gastric distention. This abnormal gastric positioning causes the blood supply in the stomach and associated tissues to become

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compromised, resulting in endotoxemia, sepsis, hypovolemic shock and, in the absence of rapid surgical intervention, death.

The overall incidence of GDV is low, ranging from two to six percent. However, large-breed or giant breed dogs, such as the great Dane, Weimaraner, German shepherd and Irish setter, are at substantially higher risk (21-24%). GDV occurs more commonly in middle-aged to older dogs, with a slightly higher frequency in male dogs. Other risk factors for GDV include a once-daily feeding schedule, rapid food consumption, elevated feeding, stressful events, nervous temperament, and occurrence

of GDV in a first-degree relative.

The main clinical signs for GDV are vomiting, retching, salivation, restlessness, reluctance to lie down, depression and abdominal distention. Diagnosis is made by abdominal radiography. Although derotation of the stomach is sometimes achieved through gastric tubing and decompression, surgery is usually required.

“The goals of the surgery,” said Dr. Puerto, “are to decompress the stomach and reposition it back to normal.”

Once the stomach is intraoperatively repositioned, a stomach tube is passed and the stomach lavaged. Abdominal exploratory is per-

formed to assess ischemic damage to the gastric wall, and necrotic portions are removed. The final step is a gastropexy, by which the stomach is sutured to the body wall to reduce the likelihood of GDV recurrence.

The overall survival rate for GDV is 85 percent, with rapid admission to surgery being a critical factor for survival. By contrast, negative prognostic indicators include depressed or comatose state upon presentation, preoperative arrhythmias, elevated lactate levels, and gastric or splenic necrosis.

J.C.G.

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 in honor of my parents Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sampson

The following gifts were made to Friends of New Bolton Center in memory of a special pet:

Mr. and Mrs. Keith R. Adams in memory of "SEBASTIAN"
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 Ms. Tamar Small Greif in memory of "GEORGE" and "GRACIE"

Mary Beth Hamorski, V.M.D. in memory of "WILLIE"
 Beza and "SWEETIE" Leonardi
 Ms. Christine C. McCarty in memory of "ADOLPH"
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 1977 - 1999

Ms. Holly E. Vansant in memory of "MOOSE"

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Ms. Judith Ann Allen in memory of Mr. Jack E. Trainor
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Mr. Kenneth E. Diehl in memory of Mr. E. P. Althouse
 Mr. Eric Haas in memory of Dr. Eric Tulleners
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 Vella Rosenthal Potash, Esq. in memory of Mr. Jack Balsler
 Arthur and Doris Boucher Ritter in memory of William Boucher, V.M.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Sessler in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Mark W. Allam

Ms. Nancy Spagnola in memory of Helen and Lewis Kerchner
 Jeanne L. Van Nuys, V.M.D. in memory of L. Martin and Kenneth Van Nuys

The following gifts were made to the Dr. M. Lynn Sammons Award in Bovine Medicine in memory of Dr. M. Lynn Sammons:

Dairy Management Consultants
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Sammons
 The doctors and employees at Willow Creek Animal Hospital

A gift was made to Equine Research at New Bolton Center in memory of the following person:

Hudson Valley Veterinary Medical Society in memory of Patrick Ferraro, M.D.

A gift was made to the Evan Stubbs Research Facility, The William and Doris Boucher Loan Fund and Friends of New Bolton Center:

Mrs. Sara G. Sperling in memory of her husband, Dr. George Sperling

A gift was made to the Tamworth Fund in Honor of the following persons:

Mr. George Elser in honor of his father, Henry, and his brother Andy

Special Gifts to the School

The following made gifts to the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building at New Bolton Center in honor of Mrs. Allaire duPont:

Ms. Caroline duPont Prickett
Mr. and Mrs. William Wright

The following have contributed gifts to the Dean's Fund in honor of those listed:

Black Cat Cigar Company in honor of VHUP staff from Amos & Andy
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Ms. Jean Ruhl in honor of Dr. Katia Marioni, VHUP & her dog "BRANDY"
Mr. David Stein in honor of Dr. Shannon Parsons

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Mr. Brian Braslow in honor of "SIGGY"
Ms. Staci Ann DiMattia-Endicott in honor of "SCARLETT"
Ms. Sally A. Lauderback in honor of "PETE" Lauderback
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Newmark in honor of "CHELSEA"
Ms. Veronica A. Pignuolo in honor of "MATTI," "SPOT," "TIGER," "EZZIO," & "JUDY"
Ms. Jean Ruhl in honor of Dr. Katia Marioni, VHUP & my dog "BRANDY"
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sroka in honor of "DAGMAR"
Two B's in honor of "LINUS" & "LUCY LUCK"
Ms. Andrea D. White in honor of "MIMI"

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Mrs. Roberta Odell in memory of Mr. Marshall Jenney
Michael P. Ratner, V.M.D. in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Allam
Brooke Roberts MD in memory of Dr. Mark Allam
Sallie C. Weltie, V.M.D. in memory of Carl Kirkpatrick, V.M.D.

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Mr. Terry Brooks in memory of "EKIM"
Mr. Leo Brukman in memory of "KOKO" the cat (1991-1998)
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Ms. Judith Gelfand in memory of "ZEKE"
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott Green in memory of "MAGGIE"
Ms. Patricia W. Henry in memory of "MAXWELL" (1991-1999)
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Huber in memory of "SNOOPER"
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Mr. Robert C. Magley & Ms. Sharon Traino in memory of "CHELSEA"

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The following have contributed gifts to Veterinary Annual Giving Fund in memory of those listed:

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Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hyman in memory of "LICORICE"
Ms. Angela Martello in memory of "SABLE" the greyhound
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Arden in memory of "WEBSTER"
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Cox III in memory of "WHIMSEY"
Neal and Paula Shook in memory of "SAMANTHA"

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Mr. Joseph R. Cassidy in honor of Dr. Charlie Reed
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Ms. Audrey Meles in honor of the VHUP Staff
William Truban, V53 in honor of Dr. Arthur Bartenslager
Ms. Shirley Walters in honor of Dr. Donna M. Greybek
William V. Zeman, V.M.D. in honor of Dr. Frank Kral

The following have contributed gifts to Veterinary Annual Giving Fund in honor of a special pet:

Mr. and Mrs. George Brainard in honor of "SMOKEY"
Ms. Diane Ellingsworth in honor of "BUTKUS" & "CHOP CHOP"
Ms. Dorothy A. Volpe in honor of "RUDY"

The following have contributed to the Clinical Studies Chairman's Fund in honor of a special pet:

Mr. Robert E. Curtin in honor of "LINWOOD"

The following have contributed to the Marookian Scholarship Fund in honor of Dr. Edward Marookian, V54:

Mr. Steven L. Feldman

The following have contributed gifts to the Jay Jasan Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. Jay Jasan, V93:

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\$2 Million Gift for Teaching and Research Building

continued from page 2

practice position was at the Nantucket Animal Hospital, 15 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. That particular practice was owned and operated by Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. For two and a half years I was the only veterinarian on Nantucket Island. It was a real mixed practice. It was a place where it was not easy to refer cases. So even with only a year of experience under my belt, it was a very fast learning curve because I was really on my own. Of course, you could get on the phone and consult with the doctors at Angell Memorial, but really you were on your own out there. I developed a lot of expertise quickly. After four and one half years on Nantucket, we moved west to Martha's Vineyard and entered a new, developing practice. That's where I have been ever since.

When you came into this practice did you see that there was a growing need for veterinary medicine at Martha's Vineyard due to its popularity as a resort?

At the time I came here there was only one other practice which had been here for many years. It had grown to the point where it really couldn't expand any further. Another practice was a welcome addition to the island. There were certainly enough people, particularly in the summer and in the shoulder seasons, to make it feasible for a second veterinary hospital to operate. It seems that the island assimilated both practices very nicely and then as time went on two other practices opened here and they are doing well.

Given the resort nature of the island what keeps you busy in the winter?

The practices are still busy in the winter-time. It's never completely quiet. When I first came here winter could be fairly slow, so you might see one or two cases a day. Those days are long gone now, even in the dead of winter it's just manageable. In the summer it borders on being out of control. During the winters you can spend more time with your clients and try new procedures that you may not have done before.

Do you do house calls?

Yes, we do. We do farm calls and house calls. Because we have two veterinarians in our practice we are able to have one doctor in the office when one is out doing house calls. I'd say we

do many more horse and farm calls than we do house calls.

Given that you're on an island, have you had to set up or structure your practice in any ways that are different than a mainland practice?

That's a great question and the answer is yes. There are many things that we have had to do that are a little unusual for a suburban practice. I think all remote rural practices face some of the same obstacles: access to specialists, laboratory testing facilities, and consultations with colleagues. Being on this island we need to keep the ferry schedule in mind if we have an emergency case, particularly a horse that requires extensive or unique surgery. Arrangements have to be made before the ferry lines shut down so that you can get that case to a proper facility with 24-hour supervision. We've tried to become as self sufficient as possible by performing almost all of our laboratory work, including microbiology and culture sensitivity here. We send little laboratory work out. We use telemedicine and transmit our radiographs, ultrasound images, cytopathology slides, pictures of eyes or skin conditions to board certified specialists and get the answers back within a short time. Telemedicine and in house lab work have made it possible to offer services that many seasonal clients are used to getting from their mainland veterinarians. This has enabled me to develop close friendships with physicians in various specialties. For example, I have a friend who is a plastic surgeon on the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. We have worked together on cancer surgeries and reconstructive surgeries. We've been able to do that here rather than send the animal off island because of our mutual interests.

Steve, what do you do in the few hours that you have available to yourself when you're not practicing veterinary medicine?

The number one off duty activity is tennis. We're lucky to have an indoor tennis facility right next to the hospital. Sailing is another big interest of our family. Everybody, including the kids, likes to sail. We charter a large schooner sailboat, but we also have a smaller racing sailboat. We're fairly new to sailing but we have a lot of fun sailing during most of the year. Skiing in the wintertime is a big passion of mine, too.

You have a picture of Walter Cronkite holding kittens in your office and you've shown me a picture of you with Bob Dole. Given Martha's Vineyard's celebrity status, who are some of your more famous clients?

It varies from year to year depending on who is down here in the summer time. It really runs the gamut from Beverly Sills to Carol Burnett, Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd, Carly Simon, Mike Nichols, Diane Sawyer, and the author, David McCullough. There are the politicians, of course, that seem to populate the island in the summertime. The late John F. Kennedy, Jr. had a little black cat and a dog that we saw. His sister, Caroline, has a nice golden retriever that we have met. They all seem to love their animals. When they're here on the island they are not much into the celebrity thing, they just seem to want to take care of their animals.

Scholarships

The Pfizer Scholarship has been awarded to **Erin Mairs V'02**. **Rachael Feigenbaum, V'01**, received the Barnstable County Agricultural Society scholarship. **Christina Fuoco, V'01**, was awarded a scholarship from the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation. The Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation has awarded the Dr. Samuel B. Guss Memorial Scholarship to **Lori Miles, V'01**, the Dr. Samuel F. Scheidy Memorial Scholarship to **Regan Williams, V'01**, three Palace H. Seitz Memorial Scholarships to **Tracy A. Filler, V'02**, **Robin C. Valentine, V'02**, and **Rachel A. Kaufman, V'02**, three PVMA Auxiliary Scholarships to **Steven R. West, V'02**, **Christopher J. Gibson, V'02**, and **Ian B. Spiegel, V'02**, and the PVF Trustees Scholarship to **Adam D. Miller, V'01**. The Edward Bangs Kelley and Eliza Kelley Foundation, Inc. has given a scholarship to **Rachael Feigenbaum, V'01**. **Frieda Rest, V'02**, received a scholarship from the AVMA Professional Liability Insurance Trust. The Lloyd's Brokers and Kentucky Agents Joint Equine Research and Educational Program has awarded a scholarship to **Jamie Murphy, V'01**. The Maine Community Foundation for the Clifton K. & Martha A. Hale Scholarship Fund awarded a scholarship to **Carlin Jones, V'02**.

Upcoming Events

May 2001

18

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Alumni Weekend 2001

Classes Without Quizzes

"Free-Running Horses: The Natural Life and Lessons Learned"

by Sue McDonnell, Ph.D., the founding head of The

Havemeyer Equine Behavior Program at New Bolton Center

Irvine Auditorium, G16

3401 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board

Meeting

VHUP, Room 2061

18-20

Alumni Weekend/Reunions for Classes ending in "1" or "6"

For more information, visit the Alumni Weekend

2001 web site at <<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/>

2001alumniweekend.htm>.

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School of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2001

Commencement

July 2001

15

6:30 p.m.

Alumni Reception

American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention

Sheraton Boston Hotel

Boston, MA

August 2001

5

Saratoga New Bolton Center Day at the Races/Luncheon

In memory of Marshall Jenney, a true friend and

benefactor of New Bolton Center

For more information, contact Patricia Hall at (610)

444-5800 x2500 or via e-mail at

<phall@vet.upenn.edu>.

15-19

Alumni Reception (time and location to be announced)

Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association Meeting

The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Hershey, PA

September 2001

13-16

American Gold Cup, Devon Show Grounds, Devon, PA

Four day Olympic-caliber jumping competition to

benefit the School of Veterinary Medicine

January 2002

30-31

Penn Annual Conference

Adam's Mark Hotel

Philadelphia

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please visit the
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at
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