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Scholarships

\$2 Million Gift for Teaching and Research Building

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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**.