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## Saly Glassman, Opportunity Scholarship Sponsor

Susan I. Finkelstein  
*University of Pennsylvania*

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by Susan I. Finkelstein

"The Opportunity Scholarship Program is dear to my heart. Veterinary medicine is very important to me, and I'm just delighted to have a real relationship with the University of Pennsylvania Vet School. Penn cares about me as a donor, and I care about the students." So says **Saly Glassman**, highly successful financier, accomplished equestrienne, wife, mother of two—and Opportunity Scholarship sponsor.

Several years ago, when asked by Opportunity Scholarship Committee member **Andy Elser, V'87**, to sponsor a veterinary student in need, Saly immediately seized the chance to get involved. Her love of horses—and their prominence in her life—made **Ann Kroken, V'04**, a natural choice for the recipient of Saly's scholarship.

Ann has been a lifelong owner and trainer of Standardbred horses, has an interest in riding hunter/jumpers, and has been a member of the Equine Club since 2000. Raised in Lisbon Falls, Maine, Ann would like to return her home state to pursue a career in equine sports medicine and lameness diagnostics and treatment after graduation.

Growing up in Cheltenham, Pa., Saly developed an early attachment to animals; at the age of five, she began riding horses, and a lifelong passion was born. She eventually switched from hunters to jumpers and dressage, and has competed extensively as an amateur show jumper.

Eight years ago, while looking for a trainer, Saly spotted Irishman Kevin Babington at a show, and his exceptional ability immediately

was apparent. Kevin soon started training Saly and riding her horses competitively. And so a dynamic, long-term partnership was formed: Kevin has ridden Carling King, Saly's chestnut Irish sport horse, to several international titles.



Carling King was eighth in the World Equestrian Games in Jerez, Spain 2002, won multiple international Nation's Cups in 2003, and was the 2001 Samsung Nation's Cup leading horse. Of her relationship with Kevin, Saly notes, "We have extremely high standards for ourselves and other people. We're opposites of each other, but together we make each other whole."

As a student at Cornell in the late 1970s, Saly studied psychology—including animal

psychology—but discovered upon graduation, in the thick of the early 1980s recession, that her Ivy League education did not gain her automatic admittance into the tight job market. "My father said, 'You belong in a

brokerage house,' and it turned out to be the perfect career for me."

Twenty-three years later, Saly is Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch, responsible for the investment strategies of high-net-worth clients (in the \$5-million to \$50-million market), and heads a team of six women whose collective experience exceeds 110 years. Saly's practice is ranked

among the top five in the firm and first in the Delaware Valley district. She has been listed multiple times as one of the top 20 financial advisers in the United States.

Saly now makes her home on her 128-acre "Kindle Hill Farm" in Gwynedd Valley, Pa., with her husband of 22 years, Allan Syphers, a self-employed architect, and their two daughters, Janice, 13, and Lauren, 7.

## Opportunity Scholarship Program Committee

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## 2004 Alumni Award of Merit Nominations Sought

Nominations are being sought for three recipients of the 2004 Alumni Award of Merit, which will be presented at the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) Annual Meeting during Alumni Weekend 2004.

The VMAS honors alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and the School with the Alumni Award of Merit. The award is given annually to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners, and benefit society through civic activities that foster the advancement of the profession and the School's good name.

Eligible 2004 recipients are members of the classes that end in "4" or "9," and who will be celebrating a five year reunion during Alumni Weekend 2004. Members of the VMAS

Executive Board will select the recipients from the pool of nominees. Nominations are due no later than December 31, 2003.

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

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

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 Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 School of Veterinary Medicine  
 3800 Spruce Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19104-6047