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Campaign News

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The groundbreaking ceremony for the **Teaching and Research Building** (see center pages) coincided with the public announcement of a \$100-million fundraising effort by the School of Veterinary Medicine. Entitled *Building New Levels of Excellence*, the campaign seeks to secure funding for the School's strategic priorities. The centerpiece of this campaign is the new building, with a goal of \$54 million. "This is our most ambitious fundraising campaign ever," says **Alan M. Kelly**, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "More than 14,000 gifts and pledges have propelled us forward, and I am confident that many new donors will help us reach our ultimate goal."

To date, the School has raised \$80 million toward its goal. The campaign began in July 2000 and seeks to raise approximately \$61 million for new physical spaces, \$25 million for endowment, and \$14 million in current operating support and planned gifts for future use.

"Beyond the Teaching and Research Building, key priorities include new endowed professorships and scholarships, faculty research support, imaging facilities for both campuses, and a new radiation therapy suite for the Ryan Hospital," reports **Mark Stuart**, assistant dean for development.

Almost \$10 million has been given by members of the School's Board of Overseers, its top volunteer advisory group. "For a small number of individuals to contribute or play a pivotal role in securing this sum is staggering," says Stuart. "The School of Veterinary Medicine is very fortunate to have dedicated volunteer leaders who give generously of their time, talent, and financial resources."

Building New Levels of Excellence is led by chairwoman **Laurie J. Landeau**, a 1984 graduate and first woman to complete the joint V.M.D./M.B.A. program with the Wharton School. Landeau is also an adjunct professor at the Veterinary School serving as associate director of AquaVet®, a summer educational program for students

who wish to pursue careers in aquatic medicine.

Serving as honorary co-chairs are **Charles Raker, V.M.D.**, and **Josephine Deubler, V.M.D., Ph.D.** Raker is a 1942 graduate of Penn Veterinary Medicine and a pioneering equine surgeon. Deubler is the first female graduate of the veterinary school (Class of 1938) and the first female veterinarian to earn a Ph.D. at Penn. "With Jo and Charlie endorsing this effort, our campaign is now standing on the shoulders of living legends in veterinary medicine. Their combined length of service to the School is unrivaled, and may, in fact, add up to more years than Penn has had a school of veterinary medicine," reports Dean Kelly.

Recent major gifts include:

- **\$500,000 from Gretchen and Roy Jackson** to support the Teaching and Research Building as well as an Equine Equipment Fund at New Bolton Center. Gretchen serves on the School's Board of Overseers.
- **\$125,000 from Anne (Mimi) French Thorington** to establish the School's first endowed Opportunity Scholarship which provides mentoring from alumni and faculty in addition to the financial support. The fund is named in honor of Charles Raker, one of the School's most revered faculty and founder of this scholarship program.
- **\$100,000 from Muriel Freeman** of New York City, a longtime friend of the School and significant figure in the dog show world, to support the **Josephine Deubler Bridge for Women in Veterinary Medicine** that connects the new building to the School's existing campus.
- **\$100,000 from Margaret Gerhard**, the founder of General Econopak, a maker of veterinary medical equipment in Philadelphia. This gift **endows a merit scholarship for students entering their fourth year of study.**



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