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Message From the President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society

James V. Stewart
University of Pennsylvania

President's Message

Only one event can lead my report of happenings since my last message: the April groundbreaking of the School's new Teaching and Research Building. I wish every graduate could have attended this memorable event, which took place on a beautiful spring day in the Old Quadrangle Court-yard—an area where all of us have walked, talked, laughed, and perhaps cried. The new building will be the first for the School in Philadelphia in 25 years, the fifth in 120 years—and as such, its place in history is assured.

Excellence in teaching and research—that is where we came from, that is who we are. Without it, we risk losing our identity as top-notch VMDs. On that historic day in April, University President **Judith Rodin, CW'66**, recognized “[the School's] wonderful alumni, who do so much in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,” and thanked us “for keeping Penn's name bright.” In addition, Russell Redding, the Executive Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, reaffirmed the School's critical role in Pennsylvania agriculture, the state's largest industry.

The 2004 Alumni Liaison Committee met at New Bolton Center in March. This year, as part of its review, the Committee focused on the Department of Clinical Studies—New Bolton Center. You will read a report of their findings in the next issue of *Bellwether*. Serving on the Committee is a great opportunity to interact with the School's administration, faculty, and students, and I encourage every alumnus to consider serving on the Committee. If you are interested in serving in the future, please contact **Marilyn B. Weber, V'75**, Alumni Liaison Committee Chairperson, at (732) 449-9224 or via email at seagirtah@msn.com.

This past year, the VMAS Executive Board's committees accomplished several important projects. The Off Campus Involvement Committee, chaired by **Elizabeth M. McMurtrie, V'88**, helped recruit alumni to volunteer at the

School's booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time this year, and we hope more will participate next year.

The On Campus Involvement Committee, chaired by **Jack Bregman, V'66**, is focusing its energies on Alumni Weekend 2004, Saturday, October 2, at New Bolton Center. The new autumn date offers many opportunities for enjoyment and will reduce the conflicts for alumni with the many weddings and graduations in May. In addition to the VMAS Annual Meeting, alumni picnic, seminars on Penn undergraduate admissions and veterinary school admissions, we also hope to offer hayrides with pumpkin picking, children's music, and storytelling during the day. In the evening, the alumni dinner will be held at the Stone Barn, a large, rustic, and beautiful facility with outstanding food, only 15 minutes from New Bolton Center. (An alumni golf outing may be held on Sunday, October 3.)

As the School's FY'04 Commonwealth

appropriation was reduced by five percent or nearly \$1.9 million from its FY'03 appropriation and as the FY'05 appropriation is not expected to include an increase for inflation, the generosity of our alumni and friends is more important than ever. These cuts have an adverse effect on the School in the form of higher tuition, a lower cap on faculty raises compared to the rest of the University, and more deferred maintenance.

As a result, opportunities like the Landeau Challenge must not be missed. **Laurie J. Landeau, V'84 WG'84**, will give \$150,000 to the School if alumni contribute \$150,000 in new and increased gifts to the Veterinary Student Scholarship Fund before June 30, the end of Penn's fiscal year. As of April 30, the contributions of more than 600 alumni have totaled \$135,000 toward meeting the Landeau Challenge. If you have already made your gift, you have my heartfelt thanks. If not, please be as generous as you can to help us meet the Landeau Challenge before June 30.

In the Shadows of Victory *continued from page 19*

ic, among the East Coast's most prominent, and busiest, equine hospitals catering to racehorses.

At the 140-acre, 44-stall hospital, which is owned by American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) president-elect **Scott Palmer, V'76**, Hogan, 39, performs four or five surgeries daily and sees the occasional noncritical medicine case.

And yes, Hogan—who is married to successful Standardbred trainer Eddie Lohmeyer and breeds her own Standardbreds—follows the ponies, particularly the ones who once had lain before her in the O.R. Her clients include a half dozen or so trainers involved in the last Kentucky Derby.

And then there's that standout patient who comes along once in a career: Smarty Jones, who graduated from Hogan's care last August to make his debut as a two-year-old in November. Although five months late to the starting gate as a result of both tragedy (his previous trainer was murdered) and injury, Smarty ran undefeated in his first eight races until he fell one victory short, by one length in the Belmont Stakes, of being the first Triple Crown winner since 1978.

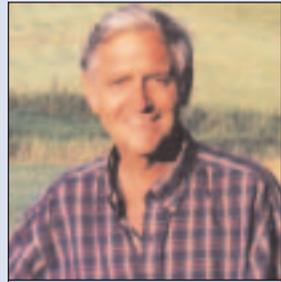
“I said to the staff, ‘Hey you guys, remember

Quasimodo?!’” Hogan, who covers New Jersey horse races as part of the AAEP's “On Call” program, which provides veterinary information to the broadcast and print media during all live-broadcast racing events, started a bulletin board at the clinic to post newspaper clippings from Smarty's races.

Following the Derby win, word got out that she had treated Smarty's head injury, and Hogan's clinic soon became inundated by media calls and film crews. And Hogan herself became rushed with praise. Smarty's owners, the Chapmans, “thanked me a million times.” Her boss, Scott Palmer, also had kind words: “This horse had all the natural ability to be a champion, but might not have had the opportunity if this injury were not treated and rehabbed so well.”

Hogan modestly spreads the credit amongst the team, including Smarty. “I'm just so proud of him and my staff, and also of our client John Servis for making all the right choices,” she gushes. “This is the pinnacle for someone who works with Thoroughbred racehorses.”

*Editor's Note: Smarty Jones's regular veterinarian is **Roger B. Clymans, V'71**, who is based at Philadelphia Park.*



James V. Stewart, V'68,
President, Veterinary
Medical Alumni Society