



10-1-2004

A Message From President Amy Gutmann

Amy Gutmann
University of Pennsylvania

A Message from the Dean

We had two substantial events in the School this summer. The first, and most exhilarating, was the start of construction of our new Teaching and Research Building. Road realignment is largely



completed and excavation started in August. As I write in September, we have a huge hole in the ground with pilings driven into the area outlining the perimeter of the building. The speed with which the

construction firm is progressing is impressive, and I have every confidence that the building will be completed by August 2006. With this in mind, I felt bold enough to tell the incoming freshman class that I expect they will start using the new building in their junior year.

The other substantial event was the reopening of the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center. The multi-drug-resistant *Salmonella* Newport infection was the worst thing to happen to the Hospital in its 40-year history. But, as has been true from the

inception of New Bolton Center, we are blessed with a remarkable group of faculty and staff. They rolled up their sleeves and set about cleaning the Hospital, turning the response into one in which we could take pride. In the end, what the staff and faculty accomplished became the most important aspect of the whole incident.

For roughly 85 days in the heat of the summer, the faculty and staff removed everything that could be moved from Hospital buildings, even the light fixtures. These were either discarded or cleaned and stored. They then donned protective gear and set about scrubbing and disinfecting the 18 buildings that comprise the Widener Hospital. They scrubbed everything from floor to ceiling, and they scrubbed the driveways around the buildings. The amount of work is staggering, and we are profoundly grateful and proud of all who participated in the process; it was a remarkable job and it saved the Hospital. A special tribute must go to **Helen Aceto, V'97**, and her biosecurity committee, **Drs. Barb Dallap, Brett Dolente, V'96, Janet Johnston, and Kim Olson**, and to **Bruce Rappoport and Barry Haines**. This group

directed and facilitated the cleanup with just the right combination of humor and resolve.

We celebrated completion of the cleanup on August 27 with a lunch and special ceremony attended by **University President Amy Gutmann**. This was the first time our new president had visited New Bolton Center, and she enchanted everyone with her grace, informality, and enthusiasm. Dr. Gutmann was immensely impressed with what the faculty and staff had overcome and complimented everyone on their achievement. She also presented the Commitment to Excellence Award to New Bolton Center. This is a new University award designed to recognize exceptional service to the Institution. President Gutmann could not have chosen a better venue to introduce this award for it was so richly deserved, but she will have a hard time finding another group that emulates the standard of excellence set by the faculty and staff of New Bolton Center.

Alan M. Kelly

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

A Message from President Amy Gutmann

As a rider and a lover of horses, I am especially pleased to be president of a university that is home to one of the world's truly great schools of veterinary medicine. In my first months here, I



have learned that the one of the things that distinguishes Penn worldwide is the nature and quality of its School of Veterinary Medicine. Not only is the School one of the world's leading institutions for teaching, research, and treatment of animals, but it is also an active partner in the University's biomedical/life sciences initiatives. The historic and ongoing collaboration of clinicians and researchers from the schools of Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Arts and Sciences, Nursing, and Dental Medicine offers promise of new medical advances for "all creatures great and small."

I recently visited New Bolton Center to present faculty and staff with a "Commitment to Excellence" award from the University for their Herculean efforts in reopening the facility after the outbreak of *Salmonella* earlier this year. New Bolton Center will once again set the standard for care and research—a standard that so many people in Pennsylvania and neighboring states have come to rely on. While I was there, I toured the

facilities and marveled at the services offered by our veterinary faculty and staff. Like any visitor, I was impressed by the diagnostic and treatment capability that rivals any human hospital, as well as what I learned about Penn's services to the agricultural industry.

I am also struck by the services offered for companion animals at our wonderful Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital: a world-class emergency service and critical care center that never closes, kidney dialysis, and an Animal Blood-mobile, which is used in the largest voluntary canine blood donor program in the nation, to name just a few. Any veterinary school would be proud to offer just one of these services, but Penn offers these services and many more that result in lifesaving treatments for our pets.

One of the most exciting developments at the School of Veterinary Medicine is the construction of the new Teaching and Research Building. I look forward to the dedication of the new building in 2006, knowing that it will enable the School's faculty to have the kind of facilities warranted by the level of their work. It is amazing to think of what has been accomplished in the current spaces and wonderful to think of what more can be done with up-to-date spaces. How gratifying to know that the Kresge Foundation recognizes the importance of the new building and has offered a

challenge grant to spur contributions toward its completion. As we all know, the building is a key component of the campaign, *Building New Levels of Excellence*, which will enable the School to lead the way in veterinary education.

We are grateful for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's magnificent support of the new building, as well as for the School's annual appropriation. I want you to know that I am committed to working with the governor and members of the General Assembly to maintain the School's appropriation in the years ahead. (And I am delighted that our governor, Ed Rendell, C'65 HON'00, has been a client of the Ryan Veterinary Hospital.)

As I begin to meet more Penn alumni—in Pennsylvania, across the nation, and around the world—I look forward to talking with graduates of the School of Veterinary Medicine. You are among those who have taken the University's mission of teaching, research, and service very much to heart. And in the years ahead, I will also meet a wide variety of people who have been clients of our two veterinary hospitals. I know that I will hear wonderful stories about the extraordinary care provided by our veterinarians.

I feel fortunate, indeed, to have this new association with the School of Veterinary Medicine and with all of you.