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## A Message From the Dean

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# A Message from the Dean



Alan M. Kelly

As I contemplate retirement, I find myself thinking about all the things that must be accomplished between now and next September, when I leave the Dean's Office. It's a challenging list and I shall be very busy for the next nine months; I don't intend to be a lame duck.

The first of October was selected for my retirement, as it coincides with the completion of the Kresge Challenge. Last June the School was awarded a \$1.5-million Challenge Grant from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan. The funds are for the new Teaching and Research Building, and the grant is a feather in our cap since it is the largest ever awarded by Kresge to a veterinary school—or to any academic institution in Pennsylvania. To earn the Challenge, the School must raise \$13.9 million from living donors by October 1. If we do not raise the match, we get nothing from Kresge. So, I can't afford to relax until October rolls around.

For several years now, and well before the multi-drug-resistant *Salmonella* contamination in Widener Hospital came to light, we knew that we had to initiate a major rebuilding program at New Bolton Center. Many of the Hospital buildings were built in the early to mid-sixties with a projected lifespan of 30 years. They have

served us well but are now 40 years old and in poor condition; surgery facilities do not meet code; and, if we are to progress, our isolation facilities must be replaced.

Last year we were successful in persuading the Governor's Office to insert a \$30-million line for New Bolton Center into the Commonwealth's capital budget. In light of the problems in the Hospital last summer with *Salmonella*, we employed SRG Partnership, Inc., an architectural firm in Portland, Oregon specializing in veterinary facilities design, to address the issue of biosecurity and draw up feasibility plans for a new hospital. This is now complete, and, armed with the plan, we must entreat Governor Rendell to release the funds so construction may begin. This will require work in Harrisburg, but I am optimistic we will succeed, for the Commonwealth has a very large horse population—the fourth largest in the United States. Further, the industry already provides many thousands of jobs for Pennsylvanians, and this number is destined to expand with the introduction of slot machines on racetracks in the Commonwealth. The governor needs the revenues from these slot machines for his legislative initiatives, so investing in the health of the horse is economically sound.

New Bolton Center also is woefully deficient in laboratory space; most of the faculty do not have research labs. We need to expand the Center for Germ Cell Research and Animal Transgenesis, which is doing very well, and we must provide

new facilities for infectious disease research at NBC. The ideal would be to put up a 40,000-square-foot research building, but the cost at the going rate of \$550 per square foot is prohibitive. So we are exploring the possibility of installing prefabricated lab modules at a fraction of the price. I hope to have the first of these installed before I leave office.

In Philadelphia, funding for the new Teaching and Research Building must be completed. In particular, resources are needed to make the bridge linking the new building with the rest of the School facilities usable. The bridge intersects the Quadrangle Building in the middle of the student surgery suite, so this area must be completely renovated. Due to an error in the feasibility study, this was not included in the original cost estimates for the new building.

Since I have been in the Dean's Office, the Section of Oncology has petitioned for a linear accelerator to enable them to provide adequate radiation therapy for their patients. The Department of Clinical Studies in Philadelphia also needs an MRI, at an estimated cost of \$4.3 million. We have been raising the funds for several years, and I am now enormously pleased and grateful to the Rosenthal family for a major contribution, which will make this facility a reality. It will be located in the present Ryan Hospital parking garage. I hope to see this completed as dean.

As I said, I am in for a busy time.

—Alan M. Kelly



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## Campaign Update

*Coming to a location near you!*

As part of the School's \$100-million capital campaign, *Building New Levels of Excellence*, Teri L. Drean, V'02, and Catherine Cheng, V'02, joined Dean Alan Kelly last November at the California home of former Dean Robert Marshak and his wife, Margo Post Marshak, for one of the numerous dean's receptions that are taking place around the country. Plans are currently under way to hold receptions on Long Island, and in Connecticut and western Pennsylvania. Thanks to generous donors across the country, we have raised approximately \$89 million to date.

