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Class of 2006 White Coat Ceremony

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A Talk with Alan Kelly

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basic science and the clinical departments.

This is particularly important in clinical departments for there are so many opportunities and so many things that can be done using animal models, but these faculty need to be competitive for NIH funding.

HW: During your deanship, research funding at the School has increased.

AMK: When I was appointed dean, sponsored research funding at the School stood at \$11.8 million, of which \$7.4 million came from the

“Most other veterinary schools... don’t have the huge biomedical research complex that we have on our doorstep. We are very lucky.”

NIH. Last year we secured \$25.2 million in sponsored research funding, with \$17.8 million from the NIH.

HW: Have you increased the number of faculty?

AMK: There was 112 faculty when I came in—we had approval for 116—and it is 131 today. It has not increased that much, when you think the appropriation has gone up threefold. We haven’t increased the faculty because you never know from one year to the next what

the appropriation is going to be, so you try to minimize increases in fixed costs.

HW: It seems that more recruitment occurred in the basic sciences. Did you deliberately set out to increase the basic sciences faculty?

AMK: I am not sure that is correct. You have to look at the demographics of the different departments. There was more faculty coming to retirement age, particularly in Animal Biology, so there are new faculty in this department, but not more faculty. They keep reminding me of this, and I am sure they will do the same to my successor.

The other factor is that Animal Biology had space that could be renovated, whereas Pathobiology had almost no space that could be renovated for recruiting new faculty. I wanted both Pathobiology and Animal Biology to recruit faculty who, for example, had an interest related to oncology because I wanted to build a major oncology program here—we have an amazing opportunity. We have not been able to

get the veterinary molecular oncologist to lead the program that I was seeking. Karen Sorenmo, head of the Section of Oncology, has done an outstanding job at building the program. She is an excellent clinician, but we also need a molecu-



Elizabeth Moran, Dean Alan M. Kelly, and Mrs. Mark Allam at the 1997 American Gold Cup.

lar oncologist who can link the two parts of the School and fully exploit our unique opportunity in this area. This is something I regret I haven’t accomplished. We tried and tried but there aren’t that many candidates. ■

(Part two will appear in the next edition of Bellwether.)

Class of 2006 White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony, a tradition from medical schools first introduced in 2001 at Penn Veterinary Medicine, was held for the Class of 2006 in the Zellerbach Theater at the Annenberg Center on December 13, 2004. Many relatives and guests of the students attended the ceremony and the reception that followed.

The ceremony marks the end of the students’ training in the classroom, and the beginning of their clinical rotations, where they will apply knowledge they have learned during the first two-and-a-half years of their four-year veterinary education. The evening also marked the final time the entire class would be together formally before Commencement in the spring of 2006.

Speakers included **Dean Alan M. Kelly**; faculty members: **Dr. Narayan Avadhani**, chair, Department of Animal Biology; **Thomas J. Van Winkle, V’75**, professor of

pathology; **Gail K. Smith, V’74**, chair, Department of Clinical Studies—Philadelphia; **David M. Nunamaker, V’68**, chair, Department of Clinical Studies—New Bolton Center;

Gregg M. Arbittier, V’06, class president; **Timothy J. Ireland, V’90**, president-elect of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association; **Jennifer A. Morris, V’99**, of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society; and Associate Dean **Jeffrey A. Wortman, V’69**. **William T. N. Culp, V’04**, an intern at the Ryan Hospital, spoke on “Graduation and Beyond.”

Sponsors of the ceremony included the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association and several of its local constitu-

ent veterinary medical associations: Lehigh Valley, Suburban, and Western. The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society gave the students Penn brass pins to wear on their white coats. ■



A group of Class of 2006 students after their White Coat Ceremony: (from left) Denise Newsom, Brett Kaspers, Mariah Gentes, Jaime Griffin, P. Blair Pendley, and Kathleen Hanlon.

Photos by Addison Geary.