



Spring 2005

Message From the President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society

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President's Message

In my first President's Message of 2005, I think it is only fair to recap the past year's milestones. The events listed below are not in order of occurrence or importance.

1. Alumni met the Landeau Challenge—a great accomplishment in both generosity and participation.
2. The AVMA Annual Convention was held in Philadelphia, with a significant imprint from Penn and unprecedented interaction with our alumni.
3. Alumni Weekend was moved from the spring to the fall with good success and acceptance.
4. Following a *Salmonella* outbreak, New Bolton Center was closed for nearly four months as faculty and staff worked tirelessly in the "Great Scrub."
5. New Bolton Center reopened with new biosecurity protocols that can serve as a model for the profession.
6. **Ralph L. Brinster, V'60**, achieved a great accomplishment in veterinary research: he and his colleagues identified the growth factors essential to allowing spermatogonial stem cells to exist in culture indefinitely.



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

7. A groundbreaking ceremony, followed by a dinner with Nobel Laureate Dr. James Watson, marked the beginning of construction of the new Teaching and Research Building.
8. **Gus Aguirre, V'68**, returned to Penn from Cornell. (This is important because he is the best ophthalmic researcher in veterinary medicine—and he is my classmate!)
9. It was officially acknowledged that our interns and residents have alumni status. Their contact information is being collected to bring them closer to Penn.
10. **Dr. Alan Kelly**, after 12 extraordinary years as dean, announced that he was stepping down on October 1, 2005.

As important as the first nine milestones, the last one is monumental! I have very positive feelings for Dr. Kelly, which are shared by most alumni.

As dean, Dr. Kelly faced many challenges including managing a \$100-million enterprise named Penn Veterinary Medicine. He was a tireless fundraiser, and he did not allow the School to become a second-rate institution by resting on its laurels. Dr. Kelly challenged the faculty and staff to be forward-looking by asking them "Where should the School be?"

The School's priorities include the new Teaching and Research Building, a new Radiation Therapy and Imaging Center at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, and a new large-animal hospital at New Bolton Center. In the meantime, the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building

at New Bolton Center opened, the Special Species Clinic at the Ryan Hospital continues to enjoy a large caseload, digital radiography is now available at the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals, and hemodialysis is offered at the Ryan Hospital.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Kelly emphasized the importance of both basic and clinical research at the School, and bridging the gap between the two. According to him, the advancements in clinical veterinary medicine have resulted "from scientists working at the lab bench on fundamental questions of biology to astute clinicians recognizing patterns of disease among their many cases."

In addition, Dr. Kelly has worked hard to keep the cost of a Penn Veterinary Medicine education as low as possible. Due to his leadership, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dramatically increased its annual appropriation to the School during his tenure. As a result, the cost of tuition and fees for Pennsylvania residents has risen only six percent over the past ten years. In contrast, over the same time period at Penn, the School of Medicine increased its tuition by 45 percent, undergraduate tuition increased by 47 percent, and the School of Dental Medicine increased its tuition by 48 percent.

Dr. Kelly leaves us a remarkable legacy of consideration, congeniality, inclusion, and brilliant fiscal management. With your support between now and October 1, we will recognize and applaud his many contributions to our alma mater and the profession.

—James V. Stewart

2005 Alumni Award of Merit Nominations Sought

Nominations are being sought for three recipients of the 2005 Alumni Award of Merit, which will be presented at the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) Annual Meeting during Alumni Weekend 2005 on October 1 at New Bolton Center.

The VMAS honors alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and the School with the Alumni Award of Merit. The award is given annually to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners,

and benefit society through civic activities that foster the advancement of the profession and the School's good name.

Eligible 2005 recipients are members of the classes that end in "0" or "5," and who will be celebrating a five-year reunion during Alumni Weekend 2005. Members of the VMAS Executive Board will select the recipients from the pool of nominees. Nominations are due no later than May 31, 2005.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mark A. Stuart, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni

Relations, at (215) 898-1482 or via e-mail at <msuart@vet.upenn.edu>. For a list of previous Alumni Award of Merit recipients, please visit <<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/alumniawardofmerit.html>>.

To make a nomination, please send a letter of explanation to:

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