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Editor's Note

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Reader Response

Last Saturday, I received the latest edition of *Bellwether* and started reading it before getting out of the car. Your new format and articles were so terrific I read it from cover to cover in the pouring snow. I remember having Dean Hendricks as an instructor and I felt like I was back at Penn making new memories with her and the staff. You've done a terrific makeover of my favorite publication.

I would make one suggestion for future issues. New Bolton Center should get equal (if not more) coverage to stimulate outside giving. It definitely needs a massive renovation and expansion and the *Bellwether* can help. If you notice in this issue: (1) only two articles are mentioned from NBC, and (2)

We appreciate your kind words and are happy to announce that the summer 2006 issue of Bellwether will feature some of the excellent work underway at New Bolton Center. As you know, we are beginning a major initiative to take the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals, as it becomes a model large-animal hospital for the

no research briefs are noted from NBC.

My devotion to Penn is unquestionable and I would do anything within my power to ensure its continued success and expansion. Please keep up the good work and I look forward to the next issue.

—NEAL RALSTON, V'85



21st century. We hope you will enjoy this upcoming focus on a truly outstanding component of the School.

—ED.

Editor's note

Our cover story in this issue of *Bellwether* focuses on the contributions to stem cell research being made by researchers on both campuses of the School of Veterinary Medicine. From the groundbreaking germ cell work of **Dr. Ralph Brinster, V'60, GR'64**, to **Dr. Mark Oyama's** stem cell research that might be used to treat dogs with heart disease, Penn Vet remains a key player in biomedical discoveries.

This emphasis on our mission of discovery has been reinforced by the recent appointment of **Dr. Phil Scott, GR'80**, to the position of associate dean for research. On p. 5, Dr. Scott talks about the importance of research at Penn Vet and his new role. Be sure to read more about him in our enhanced online *Bellwether*, where you can also enjoy a new feature, *Many Species*. . . (www.vet.upenn.edu/bellwether/manyspecies.shtml). This Web page will highlight some of the more unusual species that faculty and staff from our two hospitals have handled—

learn about “Du” the snow leopard’s surgery and “Thor” the camel’s lameness. Our *Special Gifts* section has been updated, as has *Rosettes and Ribbons*, our faculty accomplishments feature.

One big change you’ll notice in this print version of *Bellwether* is the advertisement on the back cover from one of our Penn Annual Conference partners. We’re excited about offering this opportunity to Pfizer Animal Health, a company that shares our commitment to protecting the health of pets and farm animals and the productivity of livestock.

We hope you will enjoy reading about developments at the School, and as always, we look forward to your feedback.

—GAIL LUCIANI