



1-1-2006

Obituary: A Goodbye to Wil Weber

Mindy Cohan
University of Pennsylvania

family for two decades and has been a shining example of the best of humanity.”

At Aquavet, Laurie encourages young veterinary students and veterinarians to pursue aquatic animal medicine as a career. “The program has been important to the practice of aquatic veterinary medicine in the sense that today almost everyone of a certain age who works in aquatic animal medicine has come through Aquavet. If you look at public display aquaria on the East Coast—Boston, Baltimore, the Carolinas, Camden—most of the veterinarians are graduates of Aquavet.

“Because of Amy Gutmann’s idea that we are moving from excellence to eminence, I like to say the Veterinary School is already eminent.”

“The two growth areas we see [in aquatic veterinary medicine today] are lab-animal medicine and aquaculture. Increasingly fish and shellfish are being used as laboratory models, and therefore you need laboratory-animal veterinarians who know aquatic animals, which up to now, no vet really did. . . . The problem we have is that most people go into that program thinking they want to work with dolphins and whales, but that’s not really a growth industry. So we try to steer them in other directions.”

Off the job, it’s not just sea animals that Laurie spends time with. She and her husband, Bob Maze, share their home with a chow-border collie mix “who was completely feral, caught out of a dog pack.” They also have two cats: a polydactyl tabby Laurie adopted from a humane society and a kitten recently rescued in a parking lot in Huntington, N.Y. By land or by sea, Laurie Landeau truly is a veterinary renaissance woman. ▀

A Goodbye to Wil Weber

Dr. Wilfried T. Weber, emeritus professor of pathology, died June 28, 2005 after a long battle with lymphoma. The Veterinary School students and faculty lost a beloved teacher, colleague and friend.

The oldest of six children, Dr. Weber spent his early years in Rosenheim, Germany. At 18, he traveled to the United States to attend Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor’s degree and DVM degree.

In 1966 he earned a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and subsequently became an assistant professor of pathology. Dr. Weber was promoted to associate professor of pathology in 1969 and became professor of pathology in 1975. From 1983 to 1989, Dr. Weber served as chair of the Pathology Department. He was named emeritus professor in 2004.

During a transatlantic crossing, Dr. Weber met his future wife, Irmgard Rother. Their two children, Andrew and Christine, pursued careers in health care: Andrew is a radiologist in North Carolina and Christine a nurse practitioner in Colorado. Both children also share their father’s love for skiing. Dr. Weber was an avid and accomplished skier who enjoyed the slopes in Colorado as well as those in Europe. He loved travel and hiking. One of his favorite and most memorable trips was to see African wildlife.

Although he enjoyed teaching and working in the laboratory, Dr. Weber found getting acquainted with students outside the classroom very rewarding. He forged many friendships during Friday happy hours outside Room 13. The coveted prize of an evening with Dr. Weber at a local pub always fetched a high bid at the annual SCAVMA auction. Dr. Weber was honored with both the Lindback and Norden awards for distinguished teaching, a reflection of his popularity among students. He also received the Class of 2004 teaching award. Former dean Alan M. Kelly, a longtime colleague, reflected, “Wil Weber was an inspiration for the way he continued to teach, and teach well, despite a severe, debilitating illness. His fortitude and devotion to students was very moving.”

Dr. Weber is survived by his son and daughter, five siblings, and three grandchildren.

—MINDY COHAN, V’93



Dr. Wil Weber with Mindy Cohan, V’93.