



10-1-2007

VMAS President's Letter

Marilyn Weber
University of Pennsylvania

As I close my two-year term as President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS), I am very pleased with the current path of your alumni program.

Your VMAS continues to focus its priorities and create a framework for partnerships with the School. Penn Vet alumni relate to the School in many important ways—through support of students, academics, referrals to our large and small animal hospitals, and, perhaps most importantly, by carrying the Penn Vet legacy into your daily practice.

We will continue to support you in your professional life, and have many exciting programs at the School to enhance communication among our diverse alumni. Some of our current programs to stay connected with you include:

- *Class Agent Program* – By working with class liaisons, class leaders can connect to classmates directly about upcoming School activities.
- *Alumni Interest Survey* – We want to know what keeps you interested in your alma mater. Look for a questionnaire to be mailed this summer. Please share your candid thoughts with us!
- *Penn Vet Alumni Directory* – This directory, the first produced since 1998, will be available next year. Gathering updated alumni contact information begins October 2007.
- *Penn Vet Web site* – Penn Vet has begun an initiative to revamp the School's Web site to ensure our e-visitors discover all that we do. We value the ideas of our alumni

family and hope to make the Penn Vet Web site your portal for veterinary information. Please share your ideas on how we can enhance the delivery of information.

- *Alumni Liaison Committee* – The Alumni Liaison Committee brings key alumni leaders together to help strengthen the School's relationship with alumni. It accomplishes this through meeting annually with administration, faculty and students to discuss the state of education, practice, research and alumni relations at Penn Vet. Please see a full committee report of the May 2007 meeting at www.vet.upenn.edu.



Also, be sure to mark your calendars for October 27 to attend the Alumni Reunion Dinner at New Bolton Center, where we will be celebrating all reunion classes and honoring the Classes of 1982 and 1957 for their 25th and 50th reunions. Join us for dinner to “recognize, reunite and reminisce” at the beautiful Allam House. Dean Joan Hendricks invites you to her cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The presidency of VMAS will be transferred to President-Elect **Michael Moyer, V'90**, at the Alumni Reunion Dinner. I am confident your Society leadership will continue to play a crucial part of the School's legacy and its future. It has been an honor to serve, and I encourage you to get involved.

—MARILYN WEBER, V'75

Gift of a Lifetime: Dr. Josephine Deubler, V'38

Next year will mark 70 incredible years of service that one special VMD has given to Penn Vet, including more than 50 years of genetic research and decades of educating generations of veterinary students.

Dr. Josephine Deubler's value to the School—as its first woman graduate, a scientist and a teacher—is incalculable, but is even more impressive when combined with her unique talent and passion for raising money to improve animal health through research, teaching and clinical practice. As an involved member of the world of dog showing and breeding, she established long-time friends, many of whom also wanted to play a role in bettering animals' lives. One such friend was Isabel Prizer Robson, an award-winning equestrienne and breeder of dogs and horses, supported Penn Vet's two hospitals during her lifetime and left her \$10-million estate as a bequest to fund the research of leading Penn Vet faculty. Mrs. Robson's legacy, along with Dr. Deubler's, will touch the lives of thousands of dogs and horses, and the humans who love them.

Bequests like Mrs. Robson's—and other types of planned gifts—offer animal lovers flexible, tax-advantaged arrangements to make substantial gifts in ways that complement personal financial planning. These gifts can be designed to generate life-long income, obtain significant income-tax deductions and reduce or eliminate estate taxes. Planned gifts also can be a means of converting low-yielding assets into a higher income stream at a reduced capital gains cost. Penn's Office of Gift Planning offers a variety of life income arrangements, including charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. Planning staff also can help donors tailor bequests and structure gifts of life insurance and other assets to benefit the School.

Please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 800-223-8236 or visit www.alumni.upenn.edu/giftplanning to learn how we can assist you in meeting your philanthropic goals. ■

