



Spring 2008

VMAS President's Letter

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Recommended Citation

Moyer, Michael (2008) "VMAS President's Letter," *Bellwether Magazine*: Vol. 1 : No. 68 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://repository.upenn.edu/bellwether/vol1/iss68/13>

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The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) has been part of Penn Vet's world since the first class graduated in 1887, and I am honored to have recently assumed the position of president.

VMAS was founded to promote the interests of the School and the Alumni Society and to encourage and perpetuate the spirit of good feeling and commonality of interests. By participating in events, promoting scholarship and supporting faculty and administration through the annual work of the alumni liaison committee, we're proud to have contributed to Penn Vet's success.

Until this past fall, VMAS membership included only those who had earned a VMD, and yet many of us recall with fondness and appreciation the training from interns and residents, who represent many other colleges of veterinary medicine. Therefore, by a vote of more than 100 Penn Vet alumni, the VMAS bylaws were recently amended to include all interns, residents and post-doctorates in the Penn Vet alumni family. They are, by inclusion in VMAS, recognized for their invaluable contributions to the care of patients, their advancement of our knowledge and also the training of our students.

Also, the VMAS Board has worked with the Penn Annual Conference Educational Committee to build more alumni-related events into this year's conference. On March 6, 2008, young alumni of the most recent five years, along with fourth-year Penn Vet students, gathered for lunch. Later that evening, we awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award to **Dr. Gary Smith**, who was elected by young alumni, and offered 2007 Alumni Awards of Merit to **James Harper III, V'72**; **Lillian Giuliani, V'57**; **Lawrence Soma, V'57, FEL'63**; **Suzanne Smith, V'82**; and **David Wolfgang, V'82**. A lifetime achievement award was presented to **Daryl Biery, GM'67, HOM'74**, by **Sydney Evans, V'77, G'86, HOM'98**, who also presented the keynote address at this year's conference.



Michael Moyer, with daughter Carolyn Faith Moyer, at the Philadelphia Zoo.

Looking ahead, on May 15–17, 2008, Penn Vet will join all other Penn schools for Alumni Weekend. Watch your mail for information about a reunion reception and picnic for classes ending in '3 and '8.

We are also thrilled to support a new alumni initiative called the "Veterinary Specialists Club" which is hosted in the Rosenthal Imaging and Treatment Center's conference room. This small-group, peer-to-peer forum invites specialists to return to campus for monthly rotating topics to share their considerable expertise with clinical faculty and house staff. This "club" will also allow members to consider the Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation Conference Room as their "clubhouse" when they have other business at Penn, a place to stash their coats, and a place to link to the web.

There is much happening in the Penn Vet world, and I encourage the entire alumni family to stay connected by visiting the Penn Vet Web site for the latest information on news and events.

—MICHAEL MOYER, V'90
PRESIDENT, VMAS

Call for Nominations: 2008 Alumni Awards

Your Veterinary Medical Alumni Society board is seeking nominations for the 2008 Alumni Award of Merit and other awards for distinguished Penn Vet Alumni.

Presented at either the Penn Annual Conference or Alumni Weekend, these awards are given to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and to the School. Awards are 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.

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Board is seeking candidates from 2008 reunion classes or classes ending in '3 or '8.

Please forward your anonymous or signed nominations to Coreen M. Haggerty, director of Alumni Relations, at 215-898-1481 or haggertc@vet.upenn.edu.