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Penn Vet's 125 Years: Exceptional People Doing Extraordinary Things

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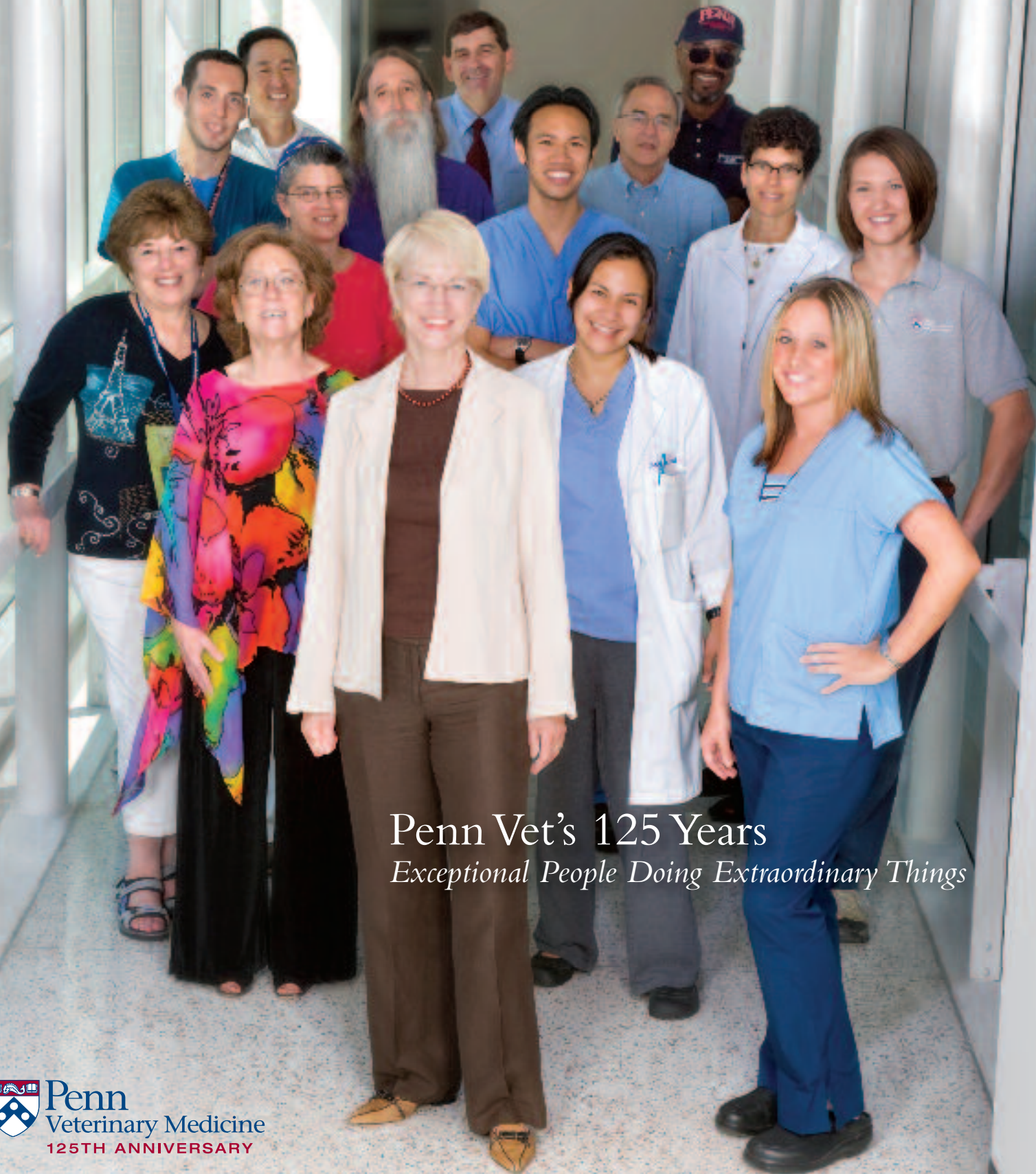
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Penn Vet's 125 Years
Exceptional People Doing Extraordinary Things

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about the cover:

Dean Joan Hendricks joins Penn Vet faculty and staff on the Deubler Bridge for Women in Veterinary Medicine, which connects the Vet Quadrangle, our oldest building, with the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion, our newest building. Find out who they are and what they have to say about Penn Vet on pages 6 through 8. Photo by Lisa Godfrey.

About the Cover

Bellwether 125th Anniversary Cover Key

The cover on this issue features an assemblage of Penn Vet employees and students. Through all the important work we do on two very different campuses—teaching students, conducting research and caring for animals at our hospitals—it is the people that make the school what it is. We gathered together a cross-section of the school—including students and staff, nurses and clinicians, teachers and administrators—and photographed them on the Deubler Bridge for Women in Veterinary Medicine, named after **Josephine M. Deubler, V’38**, the school’s first woman graduate. The bridge links the new Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion with the school’s Quadrangle Building, constructed in 1913.

We asked our cover participants the following question: “What significant changes have you seen or do you hope to see at Penn Vet?”



- 1) Dr. Joan C. Hendricks,
*Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of
Veterinary Medicine*
- 2) Ashra Markowitz,
*assistant dean for
student affairs*
- 3) Linda Schwartz,
*clinical receptionist, Ryan
Veterinary Hospital*
- 4) Dr. Hannah
Galantino-Homer,
*senior research
investigator in laminitis*
- 5) Kirk Breuninger,
*third-year student;
president, Class of 2010*
- 6) Dr. Mark Oyama,
*associate professor,
cardiology*
- 7) Dr. Mark Haskins,
*professor, pathology and
medical genetics, head of
the laboratory of pathology
and toxicology*
- 8) Dr. Ray Sweeney,
*professor and chief
of medicine,
New Bolton Center*
- 9) Derek Fong,
fourth-year student
- 10) Dr. Gus Aguirre,
*professor, medical genetics
and ophthalmology*
- 11) Sly Broxton,
*parking attendant, Ryan
Veterinary Hospital*
- 12) Dr. Cindy Otto,
*associate professor,
critical care*
- 13) Ashley Lester,
nurse, Widener Hospital
- 14) Monika Wright,
*nurse, ICU, Ryan
Veterinary Hospital*
- 15) Dr. Jeleen Briscoe,
*assistant professor,
special species*

Photo by Lisa Godfrey.

1) Joan C. Hendricks, V'79, GR'80

Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

I saw the clinician-educator track created in the early 1980s, which has enhanced our teaching and clinical expertise phenomenally. In 1981 I was here to witness the construction of our new small-animal hospital (originally named the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, then renamed for the late state senator Matthew J. Ryan), as well as our new research and teaching building, the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion, in 2006. There has been much-enhanced research training for VMD students and VMD-PhD students, substantially better care for animals at both hospitals, a great willingness by all to work together to achieve the school's missions and increased public service by students and others.

In the years to come, I would like to see more of the above: more new buildings and improved facilities for animal patients, teaching and research—especially at New Bolton Center. I hope we can keep improving how we teach vet students, care for patients, use farm and lab animals and train researchers to prevent and treat animal diseases. I would also like to see more outreach and more influence by veterinarians in the public sector and more leadership and public impact by veterinarians—especially those trained at Penn Vet! And finally, I hope we can accomplish an even greater integration of our training and expertise into the university's programs and the city's and commonwealth's decision-making groups.

2) Ashra Pearl Markowitz

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

It was 1970 when I began working as a secretary at Penn Vet. My life's dream was to be a veterinarian, but in 1970 female veterinarians were mostly an unknown species! The changes to the veterinary profession over the last 38 years have been breathtaking. Not only do women play an integral and important role today, but the profession itself has evolved to incorporate countless areas including public health, biosecurity and agro-terrorism; indeed, veterinarians keep our pets healthy, our food supply safe and our country protected.

3) Linda Schwartz

Clinical Receptionist, Ryan Veterinary Hospital

One of the most exciting themes of the veterinary school and hospitals is the continuing application of the most sophisticated cutting-edge medicine, gene therapy, radiation therapy, acupuncture and many other therapies to support and maintain the small-animal patient. Even during this time of economic and emotional turmoil, the concern and recognition of the importance of the relationship of human beings to their pets is never minimized.

4) Hannah Galantino-Homer, V'93, GR'00

Senior Research Investigator in Laminitis

Funding the laminitis research program has been a huge step forward for the school. . . . Since starting the laminitis basic research program last year, I have been thrilled and grateful to receive financial support and multiple opportunities for collaboration within Penn Vet as well as a platform for intellectual exchange and collaboration with laminitis researchers from other institutions. My hope for the future is to be able to translate this excellent opportunity into a full-fledged research program with significant extramural support.

5) Kirk Breuninger, V'10

The most significant change I've seen has been the appointment of SCAVMA (Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association) as the overarching governing body of the students. This has allowed for a direct dialogue between the student body and the administration and faculty, which has increased communication and cooperation to better student life and the future of the school. The long-term future change I'd like to see is a remolding of the curriculum so that students have more hands-on learning in clinical settings and less time in lecture halls.

6) Mark Oyama, DVM

Associate Professor, Cardiology

I would love to see Penn Vet expand its outreach into the Philadelphia community, targeting urban elementary school-aged children to introduce them to veterinary medicine.

7) Mark Haskins, V'69, GR'79

Professor, Pathology and Medical Genetics, Head of the Laboratory of Pathology and Toxicology

In my 34 years on the faculty, the most obvious and significant changes have been the construction of two new buildings on the Philadelphia campus, a dramatic growth in the clinical faculty, administration and staff and the increase in class size.

8) Raymond W. Sweeney, V'82

Professor and Chief of Medicine, New Bolton Center

When I was a veterinary student in 1978, what is now the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital was a giant hole in the ground. We watched it grow as our veterinary education progressed, and we occupied the brand new state-of-the-art hospital midway through my fourth year. Similarly, the Hill Pavilion has revitalized the educational facilities on the Philadelphia campus. The NICU/ICU and the Scott Sports Medicine building at New Bolton Center are two examples of important projects that have

helped provide the resources for great people to reach their full potential. While our faculty, staff and students are the heart of our operation, the bricks and mortar provide the all-important spine. For the future, I look forward someday to seeing the much-needed upgrade of facilities at New Bolton Center completed!

9) Derek Fong, V'09

I have been impressed with Penn Vet's new emphasis on public health and global issues, such as the support of the One World One Health initiative and the World Leadership Awards. I hope that Penn Vet will play an integral part in transforming the One World One Health initiative from concept into concrete actions. We are all citizens of humanity, and globalization only increases our interconnectedness with each passing day.

10) Gus Aguirre, C'66, V'68, GR'75

Professor, Medical Genetics and Ophthalmology

I see Penn Vet as a great working environment—collegial, progressive and supportive—with excellent leadership, which keeps improving the positive direction of the school. There is also wonderful mentoring and support for junior faculty to ensure their success.

11) Sly Broxton

Parking Attendant, Ryan Veterinary Hospital

I would like to see better parking facilities at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital. Parking is always at a premium for our clients; a leveled garage would be ideal. Otherwise, I'm the happiest person on the planet!

12) Cindy Otto, DVM

Associate Professor, Critical Care

There are two major changes I have witnessed and have been proud to be a part of. The first is the growth of the world-class emergency and critical care group. When I first came to Penn Vet, veterinary emergency and critical care was a new specialty, and personnel changes here had resulted in the reinvention of the program (under the leadership of **Dr. Joan Hendricks**). It is now recognized worldwide as the premier center for all aspects of emergency and critical care—including patient care, student training, advanced clinical training and clinical research. The second major frontier in which Penn Vet is leading the way is in clinical trials in animals. The organization of the Veterinary Clinical Investigation Center (again led initially by Dr. Hendricks) has allowed clients to participate with their animals in the investigation of novel therapies to benefit animals and

potentially humans. This visionary approach has the ability to create new knowledge for veterinary patients, improve the care of patients and advance medical understanding for all species—truly an embodiment of “One Medicine.”

13) Ashley Lester

Nurse, Widener Hospital

The change I would like to see would benefit the future vet students. As a nurse, I interact with the students quite frequently. One of their major concerns is their personal financial situations. By the time they get out of vet school, they are over \$100,000 in debt. In light of the current economy, and seeing that more and more students are unable to obtain student loans, I would hope that Penn would act to assist those who want to pursue a career they love.

14) Monika Wright

Nurse, ICU, Ryan Veterinary Hospital

In the few years that I have been an ICU nurse at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, I have seen a yearly increase in our patient caseload. People view their pets as family members and have become more dedicated to their health care. They are willing to spend the money to treat their critically ill pets. My hope is to see an expansion and renovation of our ICU to accommodate these patients.

15) Jeleen Briscoe, V'02

Assistant Professor, Special Species

This year marks my tenth year at Penn Vet, and I have to say the most remarkable change to me is what technology has done to this school. I am course organizer for two courses and heavily utilize the on-line course Web site to administer quizzes and mandatory course evaluations, interact with the students on real-time Web chats and post important notices, images and even videos. When I was a student just a few years ago, there were many of us who weren't even on e-mail, so this advance has really changed educational opportunities for students. Yes, it makes being an educator more demanding, but also more exciting because of the opportunity technology has given us to expand active-learning opportunities for our students. ▀