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President's Message: 125 Years of Innovation, Discovery and Service

Amy Gutmann
University of Pennsylvania

125 Years of Innovation, Discovery and Service

I am delighted to congratulate Penn Vet on its 125th anniversary and to join in celebrating the occasion with its faculty, staff and students. Since 1884 the school's commitment to improving the lives of animals and people has been a model not only for other veterinary schools but also for the Penn community itself. It is a strong partner in our world-changing enterprise.

The words of **Dr. William Pepper**, the university's provost and himself a descendant of **Benjamin Franklin**, ring as true today as they did when he urged the university to establish a Department of Veterinary Medicine: "One of the characteristic features of the present age, springing from its vigorous humanizing spirit, is the large share of attention that is paid to improving the condition of the lower animals...and it is desirable that careful study be given to the best means of promoting their health and comfort." The "vigorous humanizing spirit" flourishes more than ever today at one of the world's best schools of veterinary medicine.

From its origins as an extension of the medical school with 13 teachers, 29 students and one building, Penn Vet has grown into the standard-bearer for excellence in scientific research and veterinary care and education, with two campuses spread over 35 miles and more than 6,000 graduates. The multi-disciplinary Penn Institute for Regenerative Medicine, established in 2007, will advance knowledge in stem cell biology and regeneration and translate these discoveries into new, previously unimaginable



Penn President Amy Gutmann helped the School launch its capital campaign in October 2008. Photo by John Donges.

therapies to alleviate suffering and disease. Through both its pioneering research and the sterling quality of its graduates, Penn Vet will continue to have an ever greater impact on the world's health.

I salute Penn Vet, for 125 years of innovation, discovery and service, and I look forward to its future achievements.

—AMY GUTMANN
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

