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Impact of Donors Through the Years

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Impact of Donors through the Years

BY KATE JUDGE

The words of University of Pennsylvania’s founder, **Benjamin Franklin**, resound in the actions of thousands of donors to the School of Veterinary Medicine. Over the school’s 125 years, tens of thousands of people, companies and organizations have given to support

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

~ Benjamin Franklin



Joshua B. Lippincott

veterinary medicine at Penn and animal medicine as a whole has been changed forever.

The School of Veterinary Medicine has been built and sustained in great part through the generosity of its friends. Among the first was a great Philadelphian, Joshua Bertram Lippincott, who served on the first board of advisors and often balanced the school’s budget by writing the checks to fill in the gaps. When the school was formed, Lippincott—also an early supporter of the

PSPCA—informed his fellow university trustees that he was contributing \$10,000 (approximately \$212,340 in 2007 dollars) to the endowment fund specifically for the “purpose of establishing a Veterinary Department under the control of the University of Pennsylvania.” Other great families who have significantly helped the school over the years include the Connellys, Morans and Duponts.

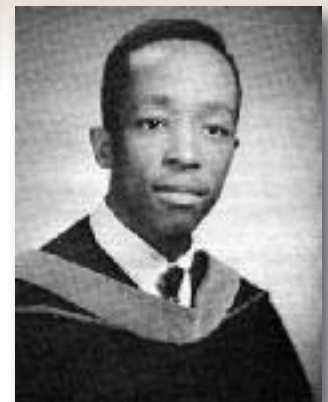
Many who have followed Franklin’s advice to choose “an investment in knowledge” have come from the school’s more than 6,000 alumni. Gifts date back to the early 1900s. One such alumnus was the late **Alfonzo Edmiston, V’67**.

Edmiston celebrated his 20th reunion by establishing an endowment to help minority students purchase text books. Edmiston, a graduate of Lincoln University, went west after graduation to be a small animal practitioner in California. As a final commitment to help the next generation of veterinarians, he left funding for an endowed scholarship in his estate.

Literally thousands of alumni have contributed over the years. A number have made it a regular habit. Thirty-two Penn Vet alumni have made a gift every year, without fail, since 1983 – 25 years of support. [See <http://www.vet.upenn.edu/Alumni/FeaturedPennVetAlumni> for a full list of Penn Vet’s most consistent alumni donors.]

Faculty and staff have given beyond their professional expertise as well. In addition to such stalwarts as **Dr. Charles Raker** (see page 14) an example is **Dr. David Detweiler C’41, V’42, G’49**.

Veterinarians know Detweiler for establishing veterinary cardiology, being an outstanding scholar, clinician and teacher. A donor during his tenure on



Alfonzo Edmiston



David Detweiler

ard, Hofmann, Marookian, Huebner,
, McCrane, Duprey, Stubbs, Scott, Carruth, Coult,
ey, Sullivan, Davies, Bontecou, Blunt, French, Orsini, Malone, McDevitt,
Kahn, Cole, James, Glover, Castle, Alexander, Resovsky, Peterson, Lowitt, Seitz.

the faculty, Detweiler has continued to invest in the future of veterinary medicine. Students today know him as a mentor of a several Opportunity Scholarships and sit in the seats he funded in the E.R. Marookian Auditorium.

Former staff member **Helma Weeks** began supporting the school even before she arrived at Penn in 1983 and became the director of communications. Now retired, Weeks still works part time for the school and still gives. Over the years she has supported the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, clinical research and the Hill Pavilion where she has a seat in the Patricia L. Billhardt Auditorium.



Helma Weeks

Finally, those who have helped build Penn Vet have often come from those whose animals were cared for at Penn or by Penn Vet alumni. In the school's history several names stand out: Gladys and Alfred Rosenthal whose names grace several Penn Vet buildings in Philadelphia; Vernon and Shirley Hill whose generosity and vision made possible the school's state-of-the-art research and teaching building, the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion; Isabel Robson whose long career in breeding and love of horses inspired her to give Penn Vet the largest gift in its history to advance the science and treatment of horses and dogs.

Truly the work of building and sustaining a great institution is never done. As we celebrate Penn Vet's 125th anniversary and its international reputation for excellence for educational leadership and extraordinary animal care, we salute and thank the donors whose support makes Penn Vet a reality every day. ■



Bequests... Gifts that assure Penn Vet will always lead the profession in education, research and care for the animals that mean so much in our lives.

Benefits of an Estate Intention:

- Establishes a lasting legacy
- Enables you to make a significant contribution that may otherwise not have been possible during your lifetime
- The value of the estate intention is removed from your taxable estate
- When set up as a percentage, an estate intention allows for changes in the value of your assets
- Your bequest will help transform Penn Vet's future

If you have already included Penn Veterinary Medicine as part of your estate plan, thank you. If you would like information on ways to do so, please contact Lynn Ierardi at 800.223.8236 or lierardi@upenn.edu or visit www.upenn.planyourlegacy.org.

Your gift qualifies you for membership in the Veterinary Heritage Circle and the Harrison Society.

Setting the Pace:
MAKING HISTORY



Penn
Veterinary Medicine
125TH ANNIVERSARY