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VMAS President's Letter

Michael Moyer
University of Pennsylvania

There is always surprise discovering that yet another year has passed in a flurry of events, celebrations, professional and volunteer obligations—and the seemingly endless list of things to do grows rather than shrinks.

As Penn Vet celebrates its milestone birthday of 125 years in 2009, the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society has also seen 121 flurried, hurried years pass by, while I have just racked up one year as president of this group that serves as the voice of our alumni body.

All Penn Vet alumni can look back to our predecessors with pride and respect, but ought to appreciate that our school has even more accomplishment lying ahead.

Ultimately, our legacy begins every year as a new, fresh class begins its veterinary path at Penn Vet, as evidenced by the incoming Class of 2012. For this expanded class (134 students, quite a bump from the usual 105), the Admissions Committee found record applications (approximately 1,500), record qualifications (GPA/GRE scores as high as they've ever been) and secured a "full" class plus captured several deferred matriculants—a head start, as it were, on composing next year's class. And a hopeful composition: more production animal interests, more PhDs, more public health interest—areas that have been struggling to attract veterinary recruits, but areas of veterinary medicine the world now demands and respects. Our students arrive knowing a lot more about our program; they do their homework before even making appli-

cation; they are poised and diverse. Our new Web site (www.vet.upenn.edu) is one resource they (and you!) can use to answer questions.

I encourage all to pull down the menu under "Alumni" on the Penn Vet Web site, and take a look at the class listservs. Ping your classmates, and give them an update on your life. Or ask them about theirs, post a knotty medical problem or regale them with a humorous anecdote. I'm always pleased to bump into a V'90 at a meeting or on campus and get brought up-to-date.

And two awesome opportunities to bump into your classmates and some of your faculty are the Penn Annual Conference in March and Alumni Weekend in May. The Penn Annual Conference now serves as our largest "unofficial" homecoming for Penn Vet, with 700 attendees attending over two days from March 12 to 13, 2009. Return to campus for Alumni Weekend on May 15 and 16, 2009, see the exciting improvements to the campus and share a bit of birthday cake with us as we tip our hat to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

—MICHAEL MOYER, V'90
PRESIDENT, VMAS



Honor your patients by participating in the Penn Vet Pet Memorial Program!

Established in 1982, Penn Vet's Pet Memorial Program consists of a large group of practitioners throughout the region making thoughtful contributions to the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Pennsylvania's only small animal teaching veterinary hospital, in memory of their clients' pets. The program provides much needed financial support to help fund the treatment and care of Penn Vet's animal patients.

Cost:

\$150 for a pack of 12 cards
10% discount on your order of 3 packs or more
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For more information and an order form, go to www.vet.upenn.edu/Giving/Pet_Memorial_Program or call 215-746-7460.



"For over 25 years, we have utilized the Penn Vet Pet Memorial Program. We are not only expressing sympathy for the loss of a loved one, but financially supporting the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital, and spreading awareness of Penn Vet's contributions to animal medicine."

*Hank Croft, VMD, V78
Owner, Loyalhanna
Veterinary Clinic*



As a participating practice, you will receive a live link from the Penn Vet Pet Memorial page to your website!