



10-1-2009

Obituaries: Dr. Josephine “Jo” Deubler and Dr. Gerhard “Gerry” Schad



Dr. Josephine “Jo” Deubler, V’38, GR’44

Dr. Josephine “Jo” Deubler, V’38, GR’44, the first female graduate of the School of Veterinary Medicine, passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 17, 2009. She was 92.

Dr. Deubler hailed from a long family legacy of veterinarians, including her father, **Ernest C. (V’1911)**, brother, **James A. (V’1943)**, uncle, **Ezra S. (V’1905)** and two cousins, **Leonard P. (V’1938)** and James. She was also the first woman veterinarian to earn graduate degrees at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving an MS degree in 1941 and PhD in 1944. She served on the school faculty until 1987, keeping an office in the Ryan Veterinary Hospital into the 2000s.

She was legendary within the dog fancy world, and cherished Dandie Dinmonts. She became an AKC licensed judge in 1962 and was the show chair of the Terrier institution, the Montgomery County Kennel Club, since 1977 and show chair of the Bucks County, PA Kennel Club, since 1969. In 1998, Dr. Deubler held the prestigious position of Best in Show judge at the Westminster dog show. She retired her judge’s book after doing the Hound Group at the Kennel Club of Philadelphia in 2000, but remained active with the Westminster Kennel Club into her final years. In 2003, the AKC recognized “Jo” with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The School of Veterinary Medicine established the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory, which is part of a service that encompasses a genetic testing and counseling program in Penn Vet’s Section of Medical Genetics. The bridge connecting the Hill Pavilion and the Ryan Veterinary Hospital is also named after Dr. Josephine Deubler—a fitting testament to connect Penn Vet’s newest building of teaching and discovery, to the small animal Ryan Veterinary Hospital and the historic Old Vet Quad.



Dr. Gerhard “Gerry” Schad, HON’77

Dr. Gerhard “Gerry” Schad, HON’77, Professor of Parasitology in the Philadelphia Department of Pathology for more than 35 years, died after a long battle with cancer on April 25, 2009. He was 81.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Schad earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology from Cornell University in 1950 and earned a master’s degree and doctorate in parasitology from McGill University in Montreal, in 1952 and 1955, respectively.

Dr. Schad worked for the US Department of Agriculture in State College, New Mexico, where he studied the transmission of parasites from wild to domestic ruminants. He then changed his primary area of study from wildlife parasitology to ecological and evolutionary parasitology. After a short time at Johns Hopkins University in the mid-1960s where he ran a parasitology program in Calcutta, India, he came to Penn in 1973 where he became Professor of Parasitology at Penn Vet and a professor in the Graduate Group in Parasitology and of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Group (CAMB) in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Highly published, Dr. Schad gained worldwide recognition as an authority on the population biology of helminth parasites and their behavioral neurobiology, and made significant discoveries about the epidemiology of hookworm, a major tropical disease. In the last ten years of his work, he focused his research on the sensory biology for parasites to help better control parasites in the future.

Of his many awards and accolades, he was most proud of the American Society of Parasitologists’ Clark Read Mentor Award in 2005 in recognition of his sage advice and encouragement of young scientists. In fact, graduate students voted Dr. Schad’s veterinary parasitology course one of the best doctoral courses at Penn.