



10-1-2009

Campaign Update: We Educate and Inspire the Next Generation of Teachers and Leaders

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Over the last year, more than 1,150 donors have made gifts to support student scholarships and fellowships at Penn Vet. Alumni, corporations, foundations, hospital clients, and friends have endorsed the importance of world-class veterinary education through their contributions.

Penn's 494 veterinary students, including those participating in the unique VMD/PhD Program, rely on scholarships to help fund their educations. Today, a Penn veterinary student graduates with an average debt of \$160,000 which most often is in addition to their indebtedness for their undergraduate and other graduate education. The burden of this debt dramatically limits graduating veterinarians from pursuing public health roles such as shelter medicine or service to the agricultural community.

Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet includes a goal of \$12 million dollars for student financial aid.

Recent gifts to support student aid have included:

- > A gift of \$108,000 from the Kathy and Jerry Wood Foundation to support 50 percent of a student's tuition for four years and provide living expenses and monies for books. This scholarship, the third from the Foundation, is in memory of the late Kathy and Jerry Wood, leaders in the Annapolis, Maryland community who loved animals.
- > Gifts to the Alumni Scholarship Fund totaling \$170,000, and gifts to the Opportunity Scholarship Program of more than \$174,000 in fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).
- > A gift of \$106,000 from the Armour-Lewis Foundation to support VMD/PhD students. The Foundation has helped educate the brightest veterinarian researchers for more than nine years.
- > A gift of more than \$100,000 from Mrs. Betty Chuska for a new endowed scholarship. In addition, Mrs. Chuska has chosen to make a bequest in her estate to add to this scholarship and support the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital.
- > Over \$53,000 in contributions from Penn Vet alumni towards their class endowed scholarships.

“The education of veterinarians in the 21st century is a public health issue and a national imperative.”

— Dr. Joan C. Hendricks,
The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Alumni participated from the classes of '54, '57, '63, '68, '73, '77, '78, '79, '80 and '82.

- > A gift of \$35,000 from The New York Farmers Fund to support veterinary education. They have provided scholarship support for over 30 years.
- > Gifts in memory of beloved members of the extended Penn Vet community for the purpose of aiding students. These community members included **Drs. Charlie Reid; Josephine Deubler, V'38, GR'44; St. George Hunt, V'86; Robert Kenney;** and **Robert Fairchild, C'64**, and a member of the School's Board of Overseers.

We hope that those who depend on the skill and commitment of veterinarians for the care of their animals will choose to invest in the education of these dedicated students who will become the next generation of practitioners. For more information about supporting financial aid, contact Kate Judge at 215-898-1482 or judge@vet.upenn.edu. 🐾