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VMAS President's Letter

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coach for 20 years, and is presently in his second term as president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

However, Dr. Bowman cites his family life as his most meaningful accomplishment. He married his high school sweetheart, Chris, and they have five children and eight grandchildren (soon to be nine). “Chris is definitely the strength of our family,” he says. “In addition to being a busy mother and now grandmother, she continues to be our farm business manager, practice manager, and was until recently, our night watchman during foaling season—all of this despite enduring multiple surgeries for joint replacements related to rheumatoid arthritis. She is an inspiration to all who know her.”

Sons Tom and Brooke, and daughters Becky, Margaret and Quin grew up working on the home farm in Chestertown, Maryland. Becky manages the family farms and is a successful equine sales agent. Margaret is a food safety veterinarian in Omaha, Nebraska. Brooke

is entering his fourth year of veterinary school at Purdue University and Quin has recently decided to return to school – perhaps veterinary medicine.

The Fork in the Road... Take it!

Dr. Bowman prefers to focus on the *reasons* for his accomplishments. “We all have experiences early in our education that shape our life story. Being a product of New Bolton Center gave me the education, confidence and credibility to pursue my career of working with broodmares.” Dr. Bowman reflects, “I recently was invited to speak to the students at Ross University Veterinary School about career choices and practice ownership. I felt compelled to repeat Yogi Berra’s wonderful advice... ‘when you come to a fork in the road, take it!’ In my case, I took the right fork and ended up in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.”

vmaspresident’s letter



Dear Fellow Alumni,

As I approach my six-month anniversary as President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Board, I call on fellow alumni to join me in helping our Alma Mater. Even in the most difficult times, alumni can and do continue to give generously and respond quickly.

We can support the School. By writing dozens of letters this summer, our collective voice was heard by Pennsylvania legislators and the Governor regarding the School’s appropriations. We increased alumni annual giving 5% this year from last, growing the Pet Memorial Program and infusing the School with much needed unrestricted funding. We can serve as ambassadors to rotary and community groups, place Penn Vet’s Web link on our practice Web sites, and encourage clients to also support the School.

We can support students. Through VMAS, we support New Student Orientation; host families of first year students at Parents and Partners Day; fund the first “Welcome to Campus Happy-Hour” of the school year; pin third-year students at the White Coat Ceremony; host the young alumni luncheon at the Penn Annual Conference; and provide graduating students with information and resources at Commencement. In

addition, we can employ and mentor current students in our own businesses and practices, and hire students after graduation. Time spent now with current students offers us a way to learn the needs and skills of our newest alumni, while supporting our legacy.

We can support each other. Join us at Penn Vet’s alumni receptions at national veterinary conferences, to share your ideas and network. Stay connected with classmates through our VMAS class listservs of vmdclassofXXXX@lists.upenn.edu (replace the “xxxx’s” with your class year, ie. 2006). Visit vet.upenn.edu/alumni for current information and resources. Follow us on Facebook (Penn Vet School) and tweet us on Twitter (pennvet).

Learn, share, network and reunite with us at Penn Annual Conference March 3 – 5, 2010. Return to campus Alumni Weekend on May 14-17, 2009 for reunion activities at New Bolton Center and in the new green courtyard in Philadelphia. Call on your classmates and invite them to reunite and re-visit campus.

All of us in the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society, which includes you, have the opportunity to be proud of, engaged with, and supportive of Penn Vet. We have a real opportunity to make an impact on our School – please join in the effort.

—CARLA CHIEFFO, V’86 GR’98