



4-1-2010

VMAS President's Letter

Carla Chieffo
University of Pennsylvania

110th Penn Annual Conference Honors Faculty and Alumni

Penn Veterinary Medicine hosted its 110th Penn Annual Conference from March 2 - 5, 2010 at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The *VMAS Excellence in Teaching Award*, selected by Penn Vet young alumni and fourth year students, was awarded to **John Lewis, V'97**, Professor of Surgery at Ryan Veterinary Hospital. **Dr. David Holt, BVSc**, Director of Critical Care Surgery, was awarded the inaugural *Charles W. Raker Opportunity Scholarship Award* to recognize a Penn Vet faculty or staff person who fosters mentoring, communication, example and encouragement to students.

The prestigious *Alumni Awards of Merit*, given annually by VMAS to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance the veterinary profession and the School's good name, were awarded to **Uri Bargai, V'59**; **Dennis Burkett, V'84**; **Laurie Landeau, V'84 WG'84**; **Sheldon Steinberg, V'59, GRM'67**; and **Jeffrey Wortman, V'69**.

VMAS Executive Board Members were elected at the *Annual Meeting*: **Heather Berst, V'00**, **Henry L. Croft, V'78**, **Kristin Dance, V'98**, **Mattie Hendrick, V'78**, **Linda Rhodes, V'78**, and **Robert W. Stewart, Jr., V'99**. Current members are **Susan Emeigh Hart, V'83**; **Susan Jacobson, V'77**; **Eileen Mera, V'86**; **Dominick A. Pulice, V'86**; **William J. Solomon, V'68**; **Brenda Lewis Stewart, V'70**; **Sheldon (Shel) Steinberg, V'59**; **Raymond W. Stock, V'75**; **Jacob (Jake) Werner, V'00**, in addition to VMAS President **Carla Chieffo, V'86 GR'98** and President-Elect, **Peter Herman, V'69**. Active past presidents were also recognized for their continuing service and included **Eric Bregman, V'95**; **Jack Bregman, V'66**; **Michael R. Moyer, V'90**; **Suzanne Smith, V'82**; **James V. Stewart, V'68**; **Robert Stewart, Sr., V'68**; **Marilyn Weber, V'75**; and outgoing board member **Alexandra Wetherill, V'80** was also acknowledged.

Thanks to **Dr. Kathy Michel**, conference advisor, Educational Committee Chairs **Linda Baker, V'84 G'93**, **Meryl Littman, V'75**, **Dr. Rose Nolen-Walston**, **Michelle Traverse**, the entire Penn Annual Conference Educational Committee, and **Darleen Coles** and **Coreen Haggerty**, lead planners. ■



VMAS President, Carla Chieffo V'86 GR'98, and Alumni Award of Merit winner Sheldon Steinberg, V'59 GRM'67.

vmaspresident's letter

Dear Fellow Alumni,

My first year as President of VMAS has been historically interesting. The state of our economy affects all things, including the success of higher education schools that rely on government funding to sustain, such as our own School of Veterinary Medicine.

The veterinary profession is not unlike any other business in today's economy. But even in an era of cut-backs, there are significant positive changes within our profession – more women are entering veterinary medical careers; more young alumni are pursuing non-traditional careers such as industry and public health; more of the world understands the impact that veterinarians have on our society – socially, economically and environmentally. Penn Vet remains an amazing springboard for us all.

In that regard, it is important for us to get (and stay) involved with our alma mater. Alumni Weekend allows

us to gather together and help each other in our careers and our lives. As times pass, we should be in a position to give back to the School – as a personal thank-you and a professional commitment to the students and future of our profession. We can provide support in so many ways – mentor a student, donate payment for your “side-work” to the School, join in the fun at the SCAVMA auction. Contact the alumni office and ask, “How can I help?”

As President, I am looking for new, novel ways to reach out to all alumni in this next year. Call us and share your ideas.

—CARLA CHIEFFO, V'86 GR'98
PRESIDENT, VETERINARY
MEDICAL ALUMNI SOCIETY