



Fall 2011

### Class Notes

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## 1940s

**Jack Robbins (V'45)**, the last remaining founding director of the Oak Tree Racing Association in California, stepped down as the organization's president and assumed the chairmanship of the board of directors in May 2011.

## 1960s

**The Class of 1961**, under the direction of classmates **Don Abt**, **Don Abrutyn** and **Dick Smalley**, created and produced the *Class of 1961 – 2011 Scalpel*, which was provided to all classmates to celebrate the 50th reunion.

As part of its Good Works For Horses Campaign, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has named **Ron Genovese (V'64)** the July 2011 honoree for helping therapeutic riding horses at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, stay on their feet. About once a month, ailing horses from the clinic are brought to the clinic for diagnostic work-ups and therapy at reduced prices.

## 1970s

**Jean Cunningham Smith (V'70)** provided an interview and chapter called "Your Puppy's First Visit to the Vet," in the 2010 book *The Golden Retriever Puppy Handbook*, written by R. Ann Johnson and published by the Darwin Press, Inc.

**Lawrence Gerson (V'75)**, provides veterinary support to the non-profit organization Allegheny Abused Animal Relief Fund (AAARF!), which was formed 10 years ago to provide public funding for medical and other costs associated with the care of abused and neglected animals. With Dr. Gerson serving as the clinical lead, AAARF! approves payment to shelters, veterinarians, rescue groups and individuals who request funding for stray and abused animals to cover costs of care and medical needs on a case-by-case basis.

## 1980s

**Steven W. Atwood (V'80), MD, MPH, MRCVS**, received a master of public health (MPH) degree in public health practice from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and School of Public Health on May 13, 2011. His master's thesis was titled "The State of Umbilical Cord Blood Banking, Umbilical Stem Cell Transplantation and Public Health Implications." Dr. Atwood was also recently elected co-chair of the Veterinary Medicine Academy of the National Academies of Practice, an organization of distinguished practitioners representing 10 different healthcare professions, working

together to advance coordinated, accountable, accessible healthcare for all.

The Morris Animal Foundation recently awarded \$64,217 to **Noah Cohen (C'79, V'83)**, MPH, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) over the period of two years for his research on "Recognizing Age-related Differences in Immune Response of Foals."

**Jeff Meyer (V'83)**, owner of Granville Small Animal Hospital in Middle Granville, New York, along with wife Lynn and the practice staff, has been hailed by clients as a compassionate provider of care to small animals.

A veterinarian who specializes in animals used in biomedical research, **Neil Lipman (V'84)** ensures the welfare of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Center's research animals. As director of the Research Animal Resource Center, he has expanded facilities, technology and services to help Memorial Sloan-Kettering investigators drive their research forward.

**Monique Y. Wells (C'81, V'85)** is co-founder of Discover Paris! ([www.discoverparis.net](http://www.discoverparis.net)) and the creator of Entrée to Black Paris™ tours and activities ([www.discoverparis.net/african\\_americans.html](http://www.discoverparis.net/african_americans.html)). These walks and presentations provide an historical and a contemporary view of the black experience in Paris.

**Robert M. Thompson, Jr. (V'85)**, owner of Lums Pond Animal Hospital in Bear, Delaware, was named the 2010 H. Wesley Towers Veterinarian of the Year by the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association.

Rotary Club of West Orange, New Jersey, of which **Dorie Cappiello (V'86)** serves as past president, works to support college scholarships, provides every third grader in West Orange with a dictionary, funds local summer camps for disabled children, supports the WO First Aid Squad and local food banks as well as many other local community organizations.

**Steve Wolfson (V'88)**, now retired from his position as university veterinarian at Arizona State University, volunteers his time at the Humane Society of New York in New York City.

## 1990s

**Michael R. Moyer (V'90)** assumed the 2011-2012 American Animal Hospital Association presidency during the joint AAHA/Ontario VMA conference in Toronto in March 2011. In addition, Dr. Moyer was honored in September 2011 with the Delaware County SPCA Animal Welfare Leadership Award.

**Jaime V. Modiano (V'91, GR'91)**, laboratory principal investigator at University of Minnesota, discovered a gene pattern that distinguishes the more severe form of bone cancer from a less aggressive form in dogs. Dogs are the only other species besides humans that frequently and spontaneously develop this disease. The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute, the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Fund.

**Lisa Cawley (V'92)** opened the Christmas City Veterinary Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in June 2011.

**Jennifer MacLeod (V'99)**, DACVS of the Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center in Langhorne, Pennsylvania completed surgery on a three-month-old piglet that was hit by a car, which required several pins and a screw implanted into her fore-limb. **Christopher Keefe (V'97)**, handled the post-operative care of Charlotte the pig at Creek's Edge Animal Hospital in Hainesport, Pennsylvania.

**Anna Marie Lange (V'99)** of Berlin, Maryland, opened a veterinary house-call service, A. Lange Integrative Veterinary Medicine, LLC, in March 2011, which integrates western and eastern medicine.

**Ellen Wiedner (V'99)** is a staff veterinarian at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

## 2000s

**Mathieu Glassman (V'04)** DACVS recently joined the Friendship Hospital for Animals in Washington, DC as Chief Surgeon. The hospital has gained attention for recently waiving the surgical bill through its donation-based fund of a US marine whose four-year-old pit bull sustained a traumatic leg injury. Dr. Glassman had

performed five hours of ankle stabilization surgery using a new device, vacuum assisted closure.

**Karen O'Connor (V'04)** married Bart Knoch on March 4, 2011.

**Mary K. Coughlin (V'05)** who works at Perkiomen Animal Hospital in Palm, Pennsylvania, was the winner in a drawing called "Win a Cold Laser for your Alma Mater" by Companion Therapy Laser at the NAVC Conference in January 2011. Subsequently, Ryan Hospital received a companion class IV therapy laser in June 2011. Thank you, Dr. Coughlin!

**Kirk Breuninger (V'10)**, who served as class president and vice-president for SCAVMA while at Penn Vet, is applying to the Peace Corps to volunteer for an animal husbandry mission, the goal of which is to enhance farm families' nutrition and household income through better land-use and management techniques in developing countries. Kirk also is the recipient of the 2009 George B. Wolff Legislative Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.

**Thomas Nebzydoski (V'10)** returned to Pennsylvania from a one-year internship in farm animal medicine and training at the Ohio State University to join his father, **Henry Nebzydoski (V'72)** and sister **Beth Spinelli (V'02)** in a mixed-animal veterinary practice in Pleasant Mount at the Carbondale Veterinary Hospital.

## deaths

- 1936 **Leonard H. Sherman** on June 23, 2011.
- 1944 **Bernard Zackon** on October 3, 2009.
- 1949 **Arthur Fulton Morrison** on May 16, 2011.
- 1949 **Norma B. Menghetti** on August 19, 2011.
- 1954 **Norman Dale Heidelbaugh** on January 28, 2011.
- 1955 **Elmer H. Lerner** on June 27, 2011.
- 1961 **Peter Laffan** on April 8, 2011.
- 1982 **Stephen Woodard** on January 13, 2011.
- 1992 **Stephanie Marie Imperatore** on May 14, 2011.

Have you received a promotion, gotten married, had a baby or received an award? Have you volunteered somewhere special, moved into a new building, ventured into a new business or discovered the cure for avian flu? Please share with us all of your good news to include in the CLASS NOTES section of the *Bellwether* and the vet.upenn.edu website. All residents, interns and fellows are also invited to share!

Forward all alumni news to Jillian Marcussen, director of stewardship and special projects, at jillian2@vet.upenn.edu or write Office of Alumni Relations, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172 E, Philadelphia, PA 19104.