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Dean's Alumni Council Update: An Alumni Relations Director Perspective

Kristen McMullen
University of Pennsylvania



THE MISSION OF THE DEAN'S ALUMNI COUNCIL IS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATION ON VARIOUS PROJECTS TO CONNECT ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND THE PUBLIC TO THE PENN VET COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP, COMMUNITY AMBASSADORSHIP, AND STUDENT INTERACTIONS.

An Alumni Relations Director's Perspective

The Dean's Alumni Council is gearing up for the fall season. Having been an alumnus volunteer myself for numerous years, I understand the dedication, sacrifice, and passion it takes to serve in this role in order to be a knowledgeable ambassador for the institution and a strong advocate for the voice of the alumni whom you represent.

Since my start date on July 10, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our Dean's Alumni Council members. They come from all walks of veterinary life including small animal practice, large animal practice, academia, regulatory and industry. They travel from as far as Florida, New York, Virginia and California. Their graduation years range from 1959 to 2006. Their interests and professional experience are as vast as those of our alumni body as a whole.

I could not be more excited to be working with this Council and I look forward to carrying out many of the plans already in the works for alumni and student programs and events. The Dean's Alumni Council full-day fall meeting includes a dynamic agenda with activities to help inform members of the activities of Penn Vet in order to make them even stronger ambassadors for the school. Members will be viewing the new Penn Vet Web site, having an interactive lunch with student leaders, conducting project group meetings and hearing from a wide variety of speakers from across the school and university. The Council members will also be taking a tour of the new Penn Vet Working Dog Center and attending the White Coat Ceremony, a newer tradition for third-year VMD students.

The Dean's Alumni Council is comprised of project groups covering topics such as the class agent program, student events and fundraising, national conferences, awards, speaker's bureau, communications and social media and the Opportunity Scholarship program. As your school's new alumni director, I would like to thank these alumni volunteers for their involvement and efforts on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and we invite all of our alumni, former residents and interns to keep an eye on the new alumni newsletter for ways to get involved.

If you are interested in serving in this kind of leadership role or if you wish to nominate a fellow alumnus, please contact me directly. You can also update your email address and other contact information by emailing me at kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

—KRISTEN MCMULLEN
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS