Fall 1981

The Loyal Red and Blue

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In addition to the traditional good feelings that come from renewing old friendships, Alumni Day 1981 offered another exciting attraction—the dedication of the new Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The formal dedication of this magnificent building had taken place on the previous day, Friday, May 15, but a second ceremony, for alumni, was held on Saturday. Some alumni made it a long weekend by attending both functions and a few arrived on Thursday to attend the Benjamin Franklin Associates dinner. It was a busy weekend and all who were present are certain to remember it as a major milestone in the history of the Veterinary School, which will celebrate its Centennial in 1984.

Over 600 alumni were present and many of them attended the annual business meeting, presided over by President Loy Awkerman (1952) in his own inimitable fashion.

Dr. Josephine Duebler, historian and secretary, presented the history of the past year and this was followed by an introduction of past presidents and recognition of the Old Guard. The oldest member in attendance was Colonel Jesse D. Derrick (1916), followed by Dr. Samuel F. Scheidy (1929), and Dr. Lester D. Barto (1930). Twelve members of the 50th Year Class were also at hand.

Dr. Donald G. Lee (1936), Chairman of Alumni Giving, reported good news—602 alumni had contributed a total of $122,501.23. Following Dr. Lee, the Reunion Class Chairmen of the following classes presented facsimile checks, representing their class contributions, to Dean Robert Marshak: 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966.

Dean Marshak then addressed the group followed by Dr. Kenton S. Stokes (1968), Chairman of the Alumni Liaison Committee. Both speakers lauded the fine degree of cooperation that exists between the staff of the school and the alumni.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Dr. Stuart Fox (1953) presented the slate of candidates for officers in 1981-82. The following were elected unanimously: President, Dr. A. Cleveland Brown (1959); First Vice President, Dr. Nancy O. Brown (1973); Second Vice President, Dr. Kenton S. Stokes (1968); and Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. M. Josephine Duebler (1938).

A special highlight of the meeting was the presentation of Alumni Citations to Dr. Martin M. Kaplan (1940), Dr. David K. Detweiler (1942), and Dr. Margaret L. Petrak (1952). (See Rosettes and Ribbons, in this issue.)

The newly-elected President, Dr. Brown, assumed the chair and congratulated Dr. Awkerman for his service during the past year. (A great job, Loy, thank you!)

Following the meeting, the group moved to the courtyard of the new building for ceremonies to commemorate the structure. This was followed by a grand tour which was punctuated with many Ooos and Ahs by alumni who obviously liked what they saw.

In the evening, over 300 alumni, family, and friends gathered for an excellent dinner-dance, held in the parking facility of the new building.

The weather cooperated, the speeches were good (and short), and there was an abundance of good fellowship. It was a grand and glorious day! See you next year.

Dean Robert R. Marshak and the staff offer heartfelt thanks to the loyal alumni who have supported the School of Veterinary Medicine in such generous fashion. We are happy to report that since Alumni Day there have been additional contributions to Alumni Annual Giving. We now have 710 donors with contributions totaling $148,379.93. Our goal was $140,000, so we are over the top!

For information about alumni affairs and continuing education contact Elizabeth Caulk, Director of Veterinary Annual Giving and Continuing Education, 3906 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.