From the Dean

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Dear Friends:

Many schools and colleges of veterinary medicine have gone through a transition from an era of economic growth and academic complacency, to one of financial constraint and academic reality. What is happening in veterinary medicine is no different than in higher education in the United States, which is clearly under financial siege.

Veterinary education has been struggling to clarify its identity for the next century. The profession itself faces a diminishing influence as the agricultural enterprise of the country continues to shrink and the competitiveness and entrepreneurial nature of veterinary practice changes.

As an institution built on a historic foundation of leadership, we have survived through this economic strife. By the time that this message is printed, I am hopeful that we will have once again justified a restoration and, in fact, an increase in our support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our ability to maintain a quality core will always depend on state funding. However, our ability to grow, meet new demands and optimize our strengths, will depend on new sources of funding.

In my recent five year report to the faculty, I detailed our many accomplishments through these difficult times. I also reflected on the planning and task force efforts which resulted from the Pew Process, and which suggested that the School's greatest strength lies in its research ethic. Our focus for the future, therefore, is clear.

First, we must maintain all of our sources of core funding, most importantly that from the State. Second, we must develop a means of funding our growth, our new initiatives and, the further strengthening of our existing programs. Third, we need to direct our focus to research in all of its dimensions, but without sacrificing the quality of our educational or service programs.

Those educational institutions with a clear purpose and sustained funding will be the leaders in the next century. This is especially true of schools and colleges of veterinary medicine. We at Penn have every intention of being at the top of that category.

Your continued support of our efforts and interest in the School is appreciated.

Edwin J. Andrews, V.M.D., Ph.D.
Dean

Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Barn

The Weaver Barn, located at the Hofmann Center, was renamed and dedicated the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Barn on April 9, 1992. The 19th century Pennsylvania bank barn was recently renovated to house an equine reproductive behavior and physiology research facility. The renovations, funded by the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation, Inc., included tie and box stalls for ponies, a small office area, a laboratory, storage and an observation area. They also included repair of interior structural elements, and exterior elements such as existing windows and doorways, to preserve the appearance of this historic structure while providing up-to-date animal facilities and research space.

New Chairman for Board of Overseers

Mr. William Schawbel was appointed the new chairman of the School’s Board of Overseers. Mr. Schawbel is a 1961 graduate of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce. He spent 19 years at The Gillette Company where, among other assignments, he served as general manager, Gillette-Japan, and president of its Braun North America division. In 1981 Mr. Schawbel formed the Schawbel Corporation in order to acquire Braun North America from The Gillette Company. The Gillette Appliance Division was acquired the following year. The acquisitions were the forerunners of the company’s involvement in the personal care appliance business. In 1983 the company was expanded by its addition of H.A. Hovey Company, an institutional food distributor. The Schawbel Corporation has developed and been involved in the creation of numerous business and products in the housewares, hardware, food, and consumer products industries, and, with its patented ThermoCELL technology, is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of butane powered personal care appliance products.

Mr. Schawbel and his family reside in Needham MA. He serves as co-chair of the Minority Permanence Committee of the University of Pennsylvania, and is a member of the Board of Advisors at the Wharton Entrepreneurial School. Mr. Schawbel also serves on the board of The Boston Latin School Foundation, is chairman of their Case Study Committee, and serves on the board of A Different September Foundation, and Junior Achievement of Eastern Massachusetts.