Winter 2000

School Honors Alumni: Robert L. Ticehurst, John D. McCullough, Donald A. Abt, Jack Bregman

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School Honors Alumni

Dean Alan M. Kelly recently honored four alumni for their outstanding support to the School. The School’s Bellwether Medal was presented to each. Following are the citations:

A citation of gratitude to
Robert L. Ticehurst, V.M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 1934

A loyal and supportive alumnus, after graduating in ’43, you moved to Clarion County, Pennsylvania with Dorothy and practiced—mostly bovine—veterinary medicine until 1952. Ever the adventurer when your country called you to serve, your willingness to stay in the Air Force provided many opportunities to continue to treat patients and travel Overseas and throughout the country.

Your financial savoir-faire was evident even as a student, and continues with the Haines City Cooperative where your Florida orange grove has flourished. The oranges from your grove provide yet another example of the kindliness you have show to people at the School of Veterinary Medicine. We are most appreciative to be the recipient of your myriad talents.

The School is endlessly indebted to the generosity shown by you and Dorothy with the innovative idea and creation of the John D. and Dorothy W. McCullough Research Fund at New Bolton Center. By providing an opportunity for faculty to take sabbatical leave and pursue special training, new research programs are developed and the faculty is revitalized. You have set a sterling example of forethought for the future of the School of Veterinary Medicine. For this we are profoundly grateful.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine pays tribute to you and to your exceptional accomplishments. We applaud and are thankful for the distinguished recognition you bring to the School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania and present to you today the Bellwether Medal.

January 12, 2000

John D. McCullough, V.M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 1943

Alumni Day
May 21, 2000

Leadership Medal. We celebrate your thoughtful compassion and contributions to society in general and the School of Veterinary Medicine in particular.

January 16, 2000
almost forty years ago you entered the School of Veterinary Medicine and it has never been the same; your influence permeates the very core of its education, policy and procedures, and aquatic animal medicine. After graduation in 1961 your career began as an instructor in anatomy and within five years a move to an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology Biostatistics. It was there that your fame began with the profound observation that half the people in the world are below average.

While working on a leukemia project, it was noted that you maintained a desk that was always orderly, precise, uncluttered and immaculate — clearly the sign of a very sick mind! However, Dean Mark Allam was impressed and in 1970 appointed you to Associate Dean to organize the new Core-elective curriculum — a curriculum which you voted against! No other faculty member had the talent to pull all the details together. It was no accident that this curriculum became so complicated that only you could understand it. For nineteen years with little change to this day — and under three Deans — the education component of this School was successful under your tutelage. It has served the School extraordinarily well and for this we owe you an enormous debt of gratitude, praise and thanks.

From summers sailing on Cape Cod your experience ingrained a belief that you were destined to be an old salt. It was instinctive that you would become the Rear Admiral behind Dean Marshall’s Admiral of the Fleet, in an era marked by facial characteristics of all administrators — as hair left the top of heads in increasing amount and shifted to chins — you, Don, increasingly looked like the old man of the sea. Thus, with a beard full grown, organizing Aquavet was a natural progression of your career, doing the two things you love best: teaching and sailing on Cape Cod. Not satisfied to be by the water only in the summer, in 1990 you moved to Cape Cod permanently and headed the Aquatic Animal Medicine & Pathology Lab in Woods Hole while continuing the success of Aquavet training. It is to your credit that there is not a single person holding a significant position in aquatic animal medicine in the US today who has not graduated from the program you created.

We have honored you in the past with the Alumni Award of Merit and the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine has recognized you many years of leadership in promoting aquatic animal health and today, The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has chosen the occasion of the Penn Annual Conference 2000 to pay tribute to you and to your myriad accomplishments. We applaud your dedication to your alma mater and are proud to present to you the School of Veterinary Medicine Bellwether Medal.

January 26, 2000

Graduating in 1966, you are a rare man who absolutely loves your job, loves veterinary medicine, loves the School and does everything you can to promote both the profession and the School.

From specializing in equine practice in New York City to companion animals in your own Midbrook Animal Hospital in Brooklyn, you have successfully expanded your hand in partnership with your son Eric so that now you have three additional practices with increased emphasis on feline care.

For your extensive contribution to your profession with the City of New York Mounted Police Department, to your efforts in veterinary education in your role as a Deputy Examiner, to your persistent commitment and avid support of the School, we are grateful. Your service on the VMAS Executive Board for many years and your leadership as its president in 1991 demonstrated your belief in the ideals of education. Your continued support of the School led you to revamp Alumni Day, doubling the attendance and making it the most successful it has ever been. From focusing on making it a family day at New Bolton Center, to organizing the Alumni Golf Tournament, you have promoted good will and spirit among our alums. By your example, your son has taken the reigns of Alumni Day.

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has chosen the occasion of the Penn Annual Conference 2000 to pay tribute to you and to your myriad accomplishments. We applaud your dedication to your alma mater and present you with the School of Veterinary Medicine Bellwether Medal for Leadership.

January 26, 2000