Penn Vet Students Awarded $100,000 as 2009 Student Inspiration Award Winners

Catherine Brinkley

Catherine Brinkley, of La Crosse, MI, is a second-year student at Penn Vet and is enrolled in the school’s VMD-PhD program. Her winning project was entitled “Design for Health.” Her plan blends veterinary medicine with city planning to create a unified and cross-disciplinary approach to animal care and urban life. “I am honored and beyond thrilled to be chosen for the Inspiration Award,” she said. “The prospect of bringing Design for Health to life has been a dream for the past five years for me, and I am greatly indebted to the Hills and Penn Vet for giving me the chance to make it happen.” Ms. Brinkley also has been accepted into the Urban Planning PhD Program at Penn to pursue the study of “Design for Health: Planning Animal Facilities to Prevent Infectious Disease Spread.”

Alison Barnstable
& Laurel Redding

Alison Barnstable, of Narbeth, PA, and Laurel Redding, of Philadelphia, two second-year students at Penn Vet, won with a project entitled “Increasing Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries.” “I am so excited to receive this award, as it creates an opportunity for me to join the global health community, addressing the issues of health, poverty and hunger,” said Ms. Barnstable. “This award will allow us to create a sustainable veterinary involvement in global health through collaboration with Heifer International. I hope this work will benefit veterinary students, animal health providers here and abroad and developing communities. I cannot thank Mr. and Mrs. Hill enough for their generosity.”

Their project involves a partnership with Heifer International, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people produce their own food, with a program that encourages the development of para-professional veterinary services to ensure the productivity of donated animals. They also plan to create opportunities for veterinary student volunteerism and research and increase the flow of information concerning the needs of developing countries into veterinary schools in the U.S. “I am truly honored and thrilled to have received this award,” said Ms. Redding, who is enrolled in Penn Vet’s VMD-PhD program. “The Inspiration Awards are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to make a contribution to veterinary medicine as students. I am very excited about launching this project and undertaking a meaningful collaboration with Heifer International in the field of global public health.”

“I am proud of all our outstanding students,” said Dean Joan C. Hendricks. “The level of talent and commitment exemplified by these Student Inspiration Award winners is truly amazing. I am confident they are on the right track for changing the world.”

The jury

Penn Vet World Award Selection Jury

The selection jury for the Penn Vet World Award was led by Alan Kelly, BVSc, MRCVS, PhD, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus of Veterinary Medicine. Other committee members were Leland Carmichael, John Olin Professor of Virology (ret.), Baker Institute for Animal Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University; Ron DeHaven, executive vice president, American Veterinary Medicine Association; George Gunn, BVSc, MRCVS, PhD, CEO, Novartis Animal Health; Richard Halliwell, dean emeritus, Royal Dick School of Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh, Scotland; Shimon Harnus, DVM, PhD, DECVC, director, Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Leo Jeffcott, dean, University of Sydney, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Sydney, Australia; Lonnie King, DVM, director, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector Borne and Enteric Diseases, CDC; Andrew Rowan, executive vice president and CEO, Humane Society International; and last year’s award recipient, Bernard Vallat, dvm, director general, OIE (World Organization for Animal Health), Paris, France.