

New Laboratories Dedicated

The School dedicated two new laboratories in the Myrin Building at New Bolton Center on October 29, 1998. The Margaret McGrath Rockefeller Laboratories in Animal Reproduction and the The Marion Dilley and David George Jones Laboratories in Animal Reproduction are major components of the School's Center for Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research.

The dedication was attended by the University's Board of Trustees and by members of the late Mrs. Rockefeller's team who, along with her, came to New Bolton many years ago to learn about bovine reproduction.

The Rockefeller Laboratories, named after the late Margaret Rockefeller, will concentrate on germ cell biology and animal transgenesis. The work will incorporate basic science and clinical approaches and will involve the Section of Reproduction. Mrs. Rockefeller, a breeder of Simmental cattle, spent many



Ms. Patricia Kling, representative of the Jones Trust, and Dean Kelly after unveiling the plaque.

hours at New Bolton Center to increase her understanding of animal reproduction and genetics. She was generous in sharing her experience and knowledge, and once organized a basic animal husbandry course for cattle breeders.

The Jones Laboratories will focus on the basic science aspects of germ cell research. The late David George Jones, a 1924 graduate of the Wharton School, maintained dairy cattle on two farms in Marlton, NJ. He was particularly interested in research that led to better reproductive health of food producing animals. The new laboratories will con-

tinue and foster this intent of David George Jones at both the basic science and applied level.

The Center for Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research was established to capitalize on the more than 30 years of pioneering research in the development of transgenic techniques by scientists at the School of Veterinary Medicine. One of the goals of the Center is the development of new approaches for producing transgenic farm animals and understanding germ cell biology.

Current research at the Center focuses on several aspects of germ cell biology. These include studies on genetic regulation of the earliest events that identify cells destined to produce sperm or eggs. In addition, modifications that preprogram the genes in sperm and eggs are being investigated. A major initiative of the Center will be to culture and transplant spermatogonial stem cells, which are responsible for generating spermatozoa. These approaches will generate a more comprehensive understanding of farm animal reproduction, as well as provide the framework to develop new methods for introducing beneficial genes into farm animals to enhance their health and productivity.

Funds for the construction of the two laboratories were provided by the Estate of Margaret McGrath Rockefeller, the Estate of David George Jones, and the Commonwealth and General Assembly of Pennsylvania.



Guests tour the new laboratories in the Myrin Building.



Mr. Don Homer displays "Peggy's stitches" during the ceremony. Mr. Homer, part of the team that accompanied Mrs. Rockefeller to New Bolton many years ago, explained that clinicians at NBC taught them about bovine reproduction and about Caesarian sections as their farm was on an island and veterinary help was hours away. These stitches were made during suture practice sessions.



Dr. Roy Vagelos, chair of the University's Board of Trustees during the ceremony. On the podium Dr. Ralph Brinster, principal clinical investigator of the Center for Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research and Dr. Michael Kotlikoff, director of the Center.