



Photo by Lisa Godfrey

It's the first rainy weekend in months and Penn Vet classes are in full swing after a long, hot summer. With autumn comes a change in seasons I love, with temperate conditions and a crispness in the air. But in addition to a welcome change from the sweltering summer, recent events and happenings at Penn Vet have brought us to a more hopeful, felicitous, optimistic place.

Simply put, it's a new day at Penn Vet. I can tell because the most common greeting people gave me at alumni receptions and chance meetings throughout the summer was that they hear that we've "turned the corner."

They are, of course, talking about the difficult – but wise and effective – downsizing we had to implement over the last 18 months or so, as well as the news that Pennsylvania's appropriation and budget process has been stabilized for the 2011 Fiscal Year. While we must keep a wary eye on the state's political and economic fortunes, we are striving mightily to take this opportunity to move forward with our clinical services, our educational mission and our stunningly successful research.

You will see evidence of this forward momentum throughout this issue of *Bellwether*. Over the last several months we have collected much good news to share (including a brand new Class of 2014 which totals 125 students with an average incoming GPA of 3.6) and have laid out some of the highlights within these pages. Our cover story is one such piece of good news.

For the third consecutive year, we have honored three remarkable individuals with the most prestigious awards in veterinary medicine, the World Leadership in Animal Health Award and Student Inspiration Awards. In addition to our coverage on page 4, *JAVMA* broke the story with an exclusive article on Dr. Mo Salman, this year's World Vet Award winner, and included information on our Penn Vet Student Inspiration Award winners Brittany Gross and Nikkita Patel. The awards, which are graciously coordinated by former Dean Alan Kelly, are supported by a generous gift from the Vernon and Shirley Hill Family Foundation. (Nominations for the 2011 World Vet and Student Inspiration Awards are now open and guidelines can be found on our website, www.vet.upenn.edu.)

Also in this issue, I note with pride that Penn Vet is continuing to revolutionize veterinary medicine

with innovative programs to broaden the public perception of our profession. On page 16 in "The Expanding Role of Veterinarians," we examine this revolution – which positions our students and graduates as authorities in developing ways to improve food animal production. We have noticed a shift in what students are looking for in a veterinary degree and are thrilled that they are eager to do good nationally and internationally by helping to feed the world and eliminate hunger.

In order to pursue such interests, students are actively seeking out travel opportunities to learn, teach and serve in areas such as Costa Rica, Thailand, Botswana and China. The opportunity for these international programs has never been greater, and, combined with students' eagerness to help end malnutrition in developing countries, the curriculum of what is taught in the classroom has been expanded to meet those needs.

Our long-standing focus on animal welfare is also highlighted in this issue of *Bellwether*. On page 29, we examine how advances in this arena continue to shape public thinking and take a look at the trend of anthropomorphism. How have "pet owners" become "pet parents?" And how have areas like research, shelter design, food options and behavior modification training for our companion pets been influenced by this shift in thinking?

Of course all of this good news – recognizing student and professional leaders, shaping the future of the profession and pace-setting patterns of thinking – would be impossible without our friends and supporters.

We have included a Campaign Update on page 18 of this issue where you'll see that with just two years remaining in our *Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet*, we have already met more than 75 percent of our goal. The completion of the \$125 million will enable us to continue our leadership in veterinary medicine by building state-of-the-art facilities for optimal patient care and teaching that will continue to attract the finest researchers, clinicians, staff and — most importantly — students.

Together, we can provide opportunities to students who will revolutionize the field, advance translational research and offer the ultimate in care to our patients. I hope you'll continue to support Penn Vet's legacy of leadership. It is an exciting new era, indeed.

—JOAN C. HENDRICKS, V'79, GR'80
THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE