

## From the Dean

The School recently completed an interesting and worthwhile exercise. Last November, we were reviewed by six well recognized academicians from the leading veterinary schools in the U.S. This was the first academic external review ever at the School. Moreover, I believe it was probably the first of its kind in the U.S. for my fellow deans are unaware of a similar review of any other veterinary school.



The initiative to review schools came from Judith Rodin when she was appointed president in 1995; this year it became the turn of the School of Veterinary Medicine. In preparation for the two-day visit we were required to assemble an exhaustive self study that looked at every aspect of our academic programs. This three-month process was one of the most useful aspects of the entire exercise as it forced us take a detailed examination of the School's programs and operations and acknowledge both our strengths and weaknesses.

The external review team brought these into sharp focus. They were very supportive of the School for the opening lines of their report read *"the School deservedly enjoys a superb reputation as one of the very best schools or colleges of veterinary medicine anywhere. The School is well managed, the educational programs are strong and several basic science and clinical programs are undeniably the best in the world."* The team was also struck by the high level of morale in the School, especially among the senior students and junior clinical faculty. The review team continued by recognizing that the School faces some difficult and important challenges, two of which stand out.

First, we do not have computerized systems to support a number of our administrative, teaching, and service

programs, including maintenance of clinical records and, further, there are inadequate electronic links between New Bolton Center and Philadelphia. The criticisms are accurate and not unanticipated. Having successfully steered the School through the Y2K issue, Carol Katzman, assistant dean for computing, and her IT group are now devising a comprehensive new system for the School and plan to introduce it by the Fall. I expect this will revolutionize the way we operate and look forward to it; the plan will include the opportunity for referring veterinarians to follow their cases in the hospitals on a daily basis.

A second criticism concerned the quality of our teaching and research facilities. The team states *"existing lecture rooms and research space are totally inadequate and cannot be renovated to meet current and future needs. The School of Veterinary Medicine's future is in jeopardy unless a new teaching and research facility is constructed as soon as possible."* Not only is the analysis accurate, it is extremely helpful as it is an external, impartial evaluation of the state of our facilities. I intend to use the admonition in Harrisburg and elsewhere as we pursue the quest to raise funds for a new teaching and research building. 🏠

Alan M. Kelly  
*The Gilbert S. Kahn*  
Dean of Veterinary Medicine

## Opportunity Scholarships Added

Alumni and supporters of the School contributed nine new Opportunity Scholarships during recent months. The Opportunity Scholarship Program, an alumni initiative, is designed to foster scholarship and alumni mentoring. The program was begun in 1998. The four-year-term scholarships match first year students with alumni or faculty mentors. The following donors provided Opportunity Scholarships for the incoming Class of 2004:

Dr. Andrew Elser, V'87  
*In honor of faculty members*  
Dr. William Chalupa and  
Dr. Charles Ramberg  
Ms. Monica Hawkins  
*In memory of Dr. Jay Jasan, V'93*  
Dr. Steven Melman, V'73  
Dr. Harold Schaden, V'40  
Mrs. Anne F. Thorington  
*In memory of Dr. Eric Tulleners*  
Drs. Brenda, V'70, and  
James Stewart, V'68, and  
D. Robert Vallance, V'70  
Catherine A. Popovitch, D.V.M.  
and A. Jon Nannos, D.V.M.  
Dr. William McCormick, V'73  
*In honor of Dr. Rooney*

## Increase in Gifts to the School

Contributions to the School of Veterinary Medicine in FY 99 (7/1/98-6/30/99) increased by 5.7% over the previous fiscal year. In 1999, more than 3,500 contributions provided \$7,597,524.00 in gifts and pledges. Of this amount, \$2,467,000.00 was contributed by veterinary and other Penn alumni.

Contributions in FY 98 (7/1/97-6/30/98) in gifts and pledges were \$7,188,296.00.

Research funding increased by 28% to \$17,134,536.00 in FY 99 from \$13,420,225.00 in FY 98.

Contributions to the School in FY 2000 through January 31, 2000 totaled \$3,227,685.00 in gifts and pledges.