

Remarks by Judith Rodin at the 2002 Rush Shippen Huidekoper Society Dinner

Good evening. While I am unfortunately unable to join you in person this evening at the Independence Seaport Museum, thanks to



modern technology, I can share some of my own thoughts with you as we celebrate Penn Veterinary Medicine and its record of wonderful excellence.

By every measurable standard in teaching, research, and care, Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine is among the best in the world. Admittedly, some of my own standards are somewhat subjective and based on my personal experiences and observations. Our family's beloved dog, Butterfinger, received outstanding care at VHUP. For that alone, Penn Veterinary

Medicine will always hold a special place in my heart.

I also had the pleasure of touring the Scott Sports Medicine Building at New Bolton Center, an amazing facility that gives Penn the inside post position in equine sports medicine, service, teaching and research.

And I know from the time I have spent with Dean Alan Kelly and our outstanding faculty and students that the road to major discoveries and breakthroughs in clinical research and care will pass through the Veterinary School at Penn.

But I am also aware that it takes the time and talent and resources of our alumni and volunteers and grateful clients to keep the Veterinary School and its two campuses moving in the right direction.

I am happy to report that this past year was one of the best ever for fundraising. The Veterinary School ranked fifth among the 18 schools

and centers at Penn for new gifts and commitments, which surpassed \$13.6 million. I was especially pleased that the new Teaching and Research Building received the lion's share of the School's gift support last year.

With \$7.5 million to count on, University Trustees have given the official go-ahead for the building, and I know that Dean Kelly and his team are hard at work on finding the right architect to move this project forward.

By 2006 our Veterinary School facility will have it all. It will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and group study areas for our students. It will house the finest laboratories for faculty to study infectious disease, cancer, medical genetics, and germ cell biology. Rising at least five stories over University Avenue, this new building will establish a dramatic presence for the Veterinary School.

However, a great university is more than state-of-the-art buildings and much more than the sum of its outstanding research centers and professional and graduate schools.

What makes Penn great is how these different parts work together to boost our intellectual firepower. A dynamic and collaborative spirit permeates our whole campus. For example a faculty member from the Veterinary School is always just a short walk away from partnering with colleagues from the Medical School, the Wistar Institute, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

We have veterinary students who earn dual degrees at Wharton or pursue doctorates at one of the more than 500 laboratories located throughout the campus. These opportunities for synergy set Penn and the School of Veterinary Medicine well apart from our peers.

But these synergies are not restricted to Dean Kelly, the faculty, or our remarkable students. You are a critical part of our synergistic swagger. Your philanthropic support strengthens the School's ability to fight disease while saving lives and improving the health of all animals, large and small, including Homo sapiens.

Whether you funded scholarships, physical plant improvements, faculty research, or unrestricted support to meet current and pressing needs, you have kept the Veterinary School on its upward trajectory.

On behalf of the University of Pennsylvania, I thank you for all that you do to sustain and promote the best School of Veterinary Medicine in the world.

Ethel Carruth receives Bellwether Medal



Dean Alan M. Kelly visited Ethel Carruth at her home in Houston to present her with the School's Bellwether Medal, given to honor the School's most loyal supporters. Mrs. Carruth, a 1943 graduate of Penn's School of Education, and her late husband, Buddy, a 1942 graduate of the Wharton School, have supported the University and the School for many years. In 1992 they established the Ethel G. and Allen H. Carruth Dean's Scholarship at the School. Most recently, Mrs. Carruth made a gift for a laboratory in the new Teaching and Research

Building. The laboratory will be for the Center for Infectious Diseases and Food Safety Research.

On their ranch in Texas, the Carruths bred and raised Santa Gertrudis Cattle, and Mr. Carruth served for many years as the chairman of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Both were very active with the Houston SPCA. Mrs. Carruth continues to be closely involved with the Houston Zoo and is particularly interested in the role it plays in protecting endangered species.