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HARNESSING THE POWER OF GENOMICS: Introducing Penn Vet's Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease

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- Campaign Impact & Annual Report
- Spotlight on Comprehensive Cancer Care
- Paynter: A Racing Success Story
- Working Dog Center Year in Review
- A Day in the Life of a Penn Vet Alum

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Penn Vet launches the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease. Penn Vet researchers are collaborating with Penn Med to answer questions about how microbes interact with their hosts and affect health and disease.



HENDRICKS

As I write this on a sweltering hot summer day, it's hard to believe the crisp, refreshing days of fall are nearing. With the change in temperature also comes much change at Penn Vet. I am also very conscious that my time as Dean is more than 60 percent complete – there is a lot going on and a lot yet to accomplish!

I look forward to the fall bringing us new students who will fill our classrooms (learn more about the next generation of veterinary leaders on page 44). Groundbreaking new research will also begin (read about the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease on pages 4-13). New puppies will join the Working Dog Center (read about the remarkable accomplishments from the Center's first year of operation on page 18). And new patients will be seen, many of them through new comprehensive services at Ryan Hospital (explore our Comprehensive Cancer Care service on page 14).

In addition to turning the spotlight on these exciting developments – many of them in our tradition of historic firsts – this issue of *Bellwether* also provides an opportunity to give thanks. On pages 22-39 you'll find our Annual Report, highlighting some of our most steadfast supporters. I am always amazed by the generosity of our friends who so graciously help us fulfill our mission. On behalf of everyone at the School, I sincerely thank you.

As we continue to build upon our strengths and demonstrate in new ways how Penn Vet leads, I would like to share with you some of the impactful work that was carried out over the summer that will undoubtedly result in meaningful collaborations for the future.

In July, accompanied by Dr. Zhengxia Dou, Penn Vet's Professor of Agricultural Systems, I embarked on a trip to China. Dr. Dou and I were fortunate to visit four academic/research institutions – China Agricultural University, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University, and the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding (where amazing photo opportunities abounded!) – as well as two for-profit institutions – Ringpu Biology (a pharmaceutical firm specializing in animal health products) and Hua Xia Dairy Farm.

As a result of our visits, we are forging new interactions and academic exchanges. One such example is a collaboration between Dr. Dou and Dr. Ming Xu of Inner Mongolia Agricultural University to investigate waste and food security issues throughout a dairy cow's life cycle for the dairy industry. In particular, Penn Vet's



Center for Animal Health and Productivity has already proven to be a major resource for nutrition advising, using our CPM Dairy software.

I was also able to catch up with two Penn Vet students who were spending their summers in China – Gabriel Innes at the Hua Xia Dairy and Wanxin Liu at the Giant Panda Breeding Preserve.

China's commitment to giant pandas is a matter of national pride. Throughout the trip, I was continually impressed by the rapid improvements and explicit interest in animal welfare, including for food animals such as swine and dairy cattle. In addition, an enormous increase in ownership of household pets has led to significant advances in their level of veterinary care. There is even a serious initiative to bring horse racing to the mainland, linked to speculation that gambling on racing may become legal.

There is an incredible opportunity to support Chinese veterinarians to keep up with this increased demand in the marketplace. However, as a national license is required to practice veterinary medicine in China, foreign vets do not qualify to provide additional help. But Penn Vet is poised to make an impact through continuing education courses, as well as management and business training through the Penn Executive Veterinary Leadership Program at the Wharton School (see page 40). In addition, the University is opening a Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing to facilitate outreach. The ability to supplement our revenues from international sources, while improving global veterinary care, may be an attractive means to help replace losses in US public funding for veterinary education.

Overall, my travels this summer reinforced yet again how Penn Vet leads. Our work is truly making a global impact, and I look forward to seeing these existing partnerships and new relationships flourish.

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



HARNESSING THE POWER OF • genomics

BY KATHERINE UNGER BAILLIE

Last summer Dean Joan Hendricks challenged Penn Vet's faculty to come up with a big idea to advance the profession. This wasn't just an idle "ask." She planned to put money where her mouth was.

"I said to the leadership – and the entire community – that while we had to be very disciplined and careful about routine spending, we actually had some reserves, and wise investments in exciting ideas with huge potential were possible," says Hendricks.

Dean Hendricks' challenge got the gears turning for Dr. Christopher Hunter, Chair of the Department of Pathobiology.

"I started to think about ways to make our faculty better; not in recruiting new faculty necessarily, but in improving the skills of the people already here," he says.

This idea, one that would invest in Penn Vet's already world-class faculty while simultaneously supporting cutting-edge research, has given birth to what is now known as the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease. The Center is designed to teach, facilitate, and encourage collaboration on the use of genomics technologies to gain insights into



how bacteria, parasites, viruses, and other organisms interact with their human and animal hosts in ways that both maintain health and lead to disease.

“The proposal sparked my imagination,” says Hendricks. “It would make us both a leader on the campus and a leader in our profession.”

With support from Dean Hendricks, Associate Dean for Research Dr. Phil Scott, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Robert Schieri, and others, the Center has begun by funding five research projects, each led by Penn Vet faculty, which will probe these interactions. These pilots promise to augment society’s understanding of the complex relationship between microbes and health, and carry Penn Vet’s scientific enterprise to new heights.

HOT TOPIC

In retrospect, this proposal may seem obvious, as it capitalizes on the School’s existing strengths in the study of microorganisms, including a focus on bacterial, viral, and parasitic pathogens, while addressing an aspect of science that has evolved rapidly over the last several years: genomics.

A decade ago, it cost 25 to 50 million dollars to sequence a genome. Today, that price has dropped to less than \$10,000. As a result, genome sequencing has become a relatively accessible scientific tool, one that has the potential to open up new realms of research. Studies of the microbiome, or the collection of microorganisms that reside on the skin, in the gut, or in other specific environments, have exploded thanks to these techniques.

“We always knew there were microbes there, but we didn’t know what they were. You couldn’t grow them, nor could you work with them,” explains Hunter. “But the genomic approach now allows you to look at them and associate them with disease.”

Yet despite genome sequencing dropping in cost and rising in availability, Hunter realized that many faculty members lacked the



“We always knew there were microbes there, but we didn’t know what they were. You couldn’t grow them, nor could you work with them. But the genomic approach now allows you to look at them and associate them with disease.”

—Dr. Christopher Hunter
Chair of the Department of Pathobiology

training and familiarity with these approaches to use them, or to make the most of their power. Even those faculty members with knowledge of how to utilize genomics tools can easily be overwhelmed by the vast amounts of data that the techniques can generate.

“Many faculty, especially more established faculty who set up their labs 15 or 20 years ago, may be unfamiliar with these techniques, or reluctant to invest in new technologies,” adds Hunter.

EDUCATE, UNIFY, FACILITATE

To overcome these hurdles, one of the first steps toward creating the Center involved hiring Dr. Daniel Beiting, an immunologist by training who gained expertise in genomics methods during a postdoctoral fellowship at Penn, in the lab of Dr. David Roos in the School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Biology. Beiting’s goal is to demystify the scientific approaches required to set up, conduct, and analyze genomics-based studies.

“There are people at Penn who have never used these technologies, there are people who dabble with them, and there are people who use them routinely,” says Beiting. “As a center, we have to act as a catalyst to help make it easier for everyone in all three of these groups.”

Indeed, even those faculty and students familiar with genomics can use assistance in the latter stages of experimentation – after the tests are over and data has poured in. If one imagines the quantity of information that can arise from one genome is extraordinary, the quantity that comes from an analysis of all the microbes living on a portion of a dog’s skin, for example, would be astronomical. Issues of data storage, management, and analysis have become some of the most challenging elements of experimentation.

“If you’re looking at microbes, you could be dealing with 30,000 different genomes in a patch of skin,” says Hunter.

“How do you parse out what is meaningful? How do you even store that amount of data? Those are the challenges that Dan is helping our community address.”

An early strategic decision was *not* to invest in hardware, as sequencing equipment is expensive and can quickly become obsolete. In addition, Penn has facilities, particularly within the medical school, that Penn Vet researchers can utilize. Beiting has been able to help to connect vet school students and faculty with the resources around campus that would best fulfill their needs while training them in the most effective ways to set up experiments and analyze data.

Partnering with the Perelman School of Medicine has also been a key facet of the Center, as certain Penn Medicine faculty are already engaged in studying the host-microbe interactions and using genomics regularly to address questions of basic science and clinical importance.

“Our School is in a unique position in that we have a medical school across the street and a dental school down the road,” Hunter says. “We’re ideally positioned to take advantage of their expertise and collaborate in ways that further everyone’s research aims.”

LAUNCHING RESEARCH

In the first year of the Center’s existence, five projects have received full funding – \$50,000 a piece – to pursue their aims, while three others received partial funding.

The five fully funded pilots include a multi-investigator study at Penn Vet’s Philadelphia campus, examining the role of microbes in canine atopic dermatitis, and another at New Bolton Center, which is studying how the rumen microbiome of dairy cows impacts their productivity and health (read more on pages 9 and 12). While not the sole focus of the Center, the microbiome also serves as the primary focus of the three additional projects.

One of these will be led by Dr. Christopher Lengner, Assistant Professor of Animal Biology at Penn Vet. A stem cell geneticist, his prior work has shed light on the idea that most cases of colorectal cancer may originate from a mutation in a stem cell that leads to unregulated growth. Yet other research has indicated that chronic inflammation, inspired by an immune response to gut bacteria, may also play a leading role in increasing cancer risk.

“With our project, we want to reconcile these two ideas,” Lengner says.

The pilot work will involve experimentally manipulating expression of the protein Msi, which Lengner’s lab has previously found to bind directly to RNA molecules that are involved in regulating immune responses.

“We believe these genes might provide a link between the transformation of the stem cell and regulation of the immune response to microbes,” Lengner adds.

Lengner and colleagues will track the response of the microbial communities as Msi levels are either knocked down or overexpressed. What they find may lead to the pursuit of other questions, such as how tumor development progresses in the presence or absence of various microbial communities.

“This is really just a first step to get a little bit of a handle on a very complex problem,” Lengner says. “As a relatively junior faculty member, I might have otherwise been reluctant to divert resources to a new project like this one. But because these resources are here now and the expertise is here, it lowers the barrier and makes it much more tenable for me to head down this path.”

Dr. Julie Engiles, Assistant Professor of Pathology at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center, is the primary investigator on another Center-funded effort. Her project will investigate the effect of pre-operative antibiotics on the gut microbiome of horses that come to New Bolton Center for elective surgeries.

Previous research has linked high-carbohydrate feed to the development of colitis. The mechanism may have to do with how a change in diet leads to alterations in the population of microbes living in the gastrointestinal tract, causing disruptions and illness. Likewise, administering pre-operative antibiotics could also lead to gut microbiome imbalances.

Engiles and colleagues do not lack for potential study subjects at the busy New Bolton Center. Their study method is simple and non-invasive: They will take fecal and serum samples on admission and at certain time points after surgeries to track variations in the horses’ gut microbiome. If, unfortunately, a horse develops an infection after its procedure, the researchers will evaluate whether the infectious agents match up to those in the gut or whether they match other microbes. The study will also track horses to see if they develop other post-operative complications, including two of the most troublesome maladies that strike horses: colic and laminitis.



Researchers from Penn Vet and Penn Med discuss the progress of their projects and share ideas and resources.





Using genomics in this study might help researchers identify the infectious microbes, which can be difficult to do using traditional culture-based approaches.

“I thought that this genomic approach would be a fantastic way to explore microbial shifts in horses that have been administered pre-operative antibiotics. We want to see if we can identify specific organisms or groups of organisms that may be associated with post-operative complications,” says Engiles.

The data Engiles and colleagues collect may feed into other studies, including one she is partnering on with Dr. Hannah Galantino-Homer, Senior Research Investigator at New Bolton Center, to search for biomarkers associated with an increased risk of developing laminitis.

Through her project, Engiles hopes to not only help improve treatments and protocols for treating horses, but also draw conclusions that could potentially impact human medicine.

“We say it all the time but I truly believe in ‘Many Species, One Medicine,’” she says. “As a pathologist, I see that, time and time again, we can bridge the species gap and get the bigger picture answer of how these infections arise.”

For Dr. Tracy Bale, Professor of Neuroscience at Penn Vet, the Center’s support provided an opportunity to explore connections between the microbiome and her primary area of focus: how maternal stress impacts the neurological health of offspring.

“While we are not immunologists or microbiologists, this is a novel way of thinking about a mechanism that might be contributing to outcomes in our maternal stress model,” she says.

The project Bale is leading will examine how a mother’s vaginal microbial community impacts her offspring’s brain development. Bale’s thinking is as follows: Because a baby’s gut is first colonized by bacteria from the mother’s vagina at birth, perhaps differences are produced in the population of microbes by a mother’s stress, and can lead to changes

in a baby’s own gut microbiome. This altered microbial community could then lead to differences in how important nutrients are absorbed in the offspring’s body, leading to differences in how the baby’s brain develops.

“Some studies on the gut microbiome have found associations with risk factors for autism and schizophrenia,” says Bale. “We’re now trying to put two and two together.”

Already Bale’s lab has collaborated with Dr. Elizabeth Grice of Penn Medicine and Dr. Michael May of Penn Vet, and determined that a female mouse’s vaginal microbiome is changed when she is stressed, and that these altered microbe populations are transferred to pups at birth. Further down the line, Bale hopes to determine whether experimentally manipulating the bacteria in the vagina leads to changes in brain development, and whether these changes could be “rescued” by various procedures like giving antibiotics or introducing particular types of bacteria into a baby’s gut.

With hard work and a little luck, says Hunter, the results of these pilots will enable Penn Vet’s faculty to produce preliminary findings that will give them a competitive edge in earning additional funding from outside sources. Already, a grant application submitted by Hunter describing the work of the Center was given a top ranking by the National Institutes of Health.

“This is an investment, with the expectation that it will pay off in the long run,” says Hunter.

SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE

All of the faculty with funded projects will be supported by monthly lab meetings where they will share data and provide each other with feedback. But the advantages of the Center do not end with the pilot projects. Beiting has made himself available to all of Penn Vet as a resource. Already he can be found in his office answering questions of students and faculty, or holding workshops to introduce or coach individuals in the techniques of genomics research.

Moving forward, Beiting is looking to design a course for postdoctoral researchers and graduate students in the area of genomics research. The Center is also considering creating a seminar series or sponsoring speakers to present in other established series around campus. Continuing to engage the medical school through learning partnerships and research collaboration will be an ongoing goal. And the Center plans to offer funding for another set of pilot projects next year.

“We strongly believe this innovative approach to health and disease will provide new insights into human and animal health,” says Hendricks, “and will build on the One Health concept in a novel and very impactful fashion.”

Adds Engiles: The Center is introducing me to techniques that I would not have had exposure to otherwise, but are very powerful and give you a different perspective. They allow you to answer questions that you would previously just scratch your head and wonder about.”



Above: Penn Vet dermatologists use an instrument to measure pH levels on the pinna of a dog's ear.

Below: A device quantitates the sebum on the skin.



skin deep

Exploring the Hidden World of Dogs (and Humans)

BY MANASEE WAGH

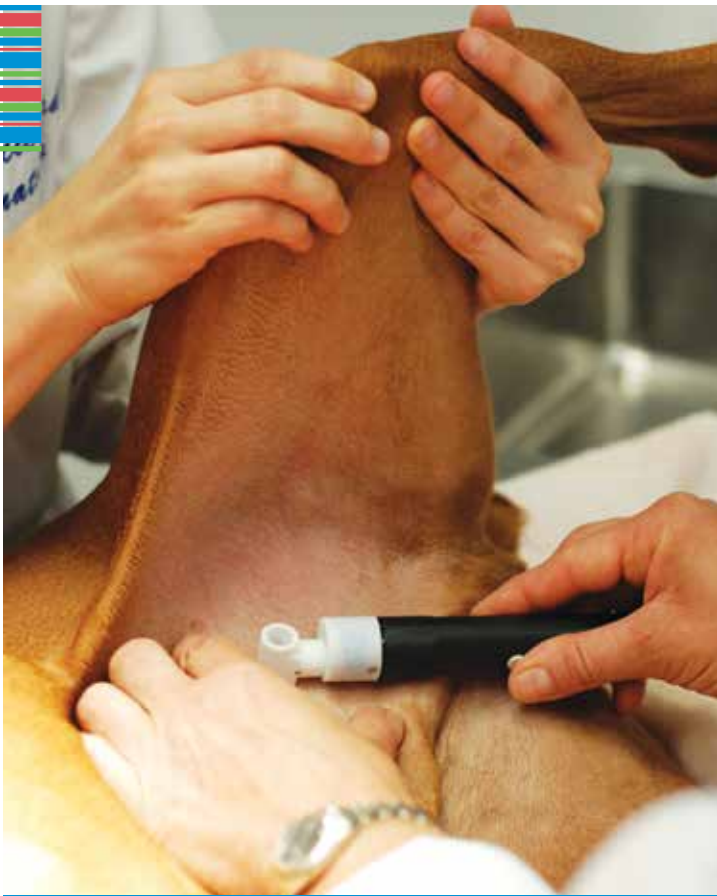
By current estimates, the human body contains 10 times more microbial cells than human cells. Acting in ways both beneficial and harmful, the microorganisms living on the surface of the skin, as well as in the gut and other organs, constitute a complex ecosystem known to influence digestion, allergies, and a variety of diseases.

Scientists are more interested in the microbiome than ever. At Penn Vet, researchers are crossing disciplines to seek greater understanding of how these diverse populations of “friendly” bacteria inhabit and interact with their host. Penn Vet’s new Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease is currently funding pilot projects that explore the microbiomes of both human beings and animals.

“There’s increasing evidence that the microbiome is important in regulating many diseases, and it may be something we can control or manipulate, either through dietary intervention, such as prebiotics or probiotics, or by medical means,” said Dr. Dan Beiting, Research Assistant Professor in Penn Vet’s Department of Pathobiology.

One of the collaborative studies the Center is funding is a one-year, \$50,000 project bringing together scientists from Penn Vet and the Perelman School of Medicine. Researchers will peer into the microbial world of dogs that have atopic dermatitis, a common allergic skin condition.

Precipitated by allergens such as pollen, dust, and molds, the disease is similar to human atopic dermatitis and commonly occurs spontaneously in about 10 percent of



Penn Vet dermatologists measure transepidermal water loss on the inside of a dog's leg.

dogs. In both humans and dogs, atopic dermatitis is treated with a wide array of interventions, some of which may include antibiotics and corticosteroids. Veterinarians at Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital treat dogs that present with typical symptoms such as itching and then progress to scabs, hair loss, and secondary bacterial infections that can often be resistant to antibiotic treatments.

Veterinary researchers will examine the bacterial population on the dogs' skin and follow changes in the microbiome of each dog during treatment. The goal is to understand the role of resistant microbial organisms in the innate resistance to infection, the onset of infection, and the development of antimicrobial resistance once infection does occur.

"The skin is a wall between the body and the world. We're looking at the relationship between the bacteria and the skin, and the different components of the dog's skin that affect its barrier function," said Dr. Charles Bradley, a Pathobiology Lecturer at Penn Vet. Dr. Bradley is part of the research team, which brings together the knowledge of people that specialize in human medicine and veterinary dermatology, pathology, and microbiology.

Globally, researchers study the microbiome primarily

"There's increasing evidence that the microbiome is important in regulating many diseases, and it may be something we can control or manipulate, either through dietary intervention, such as prebiotics or probiotics, or by medical means."

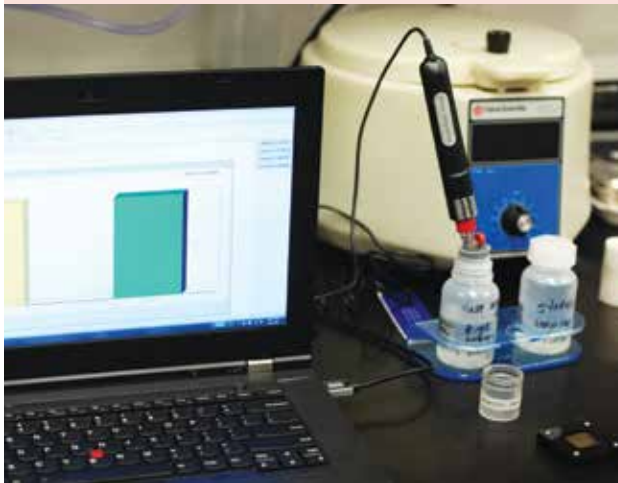
—Dr. Dan Beiting, Research Assistant Professor in Penn Vet's Department of Pathobiology

in humans and in mouse models of disease, but very little is known about the dog microbiome. Since dogs develop spontaneous and complex diseases, much like humans, they serve as ideal models for understanding how both animals and humans can go from being healthy one day to dealing with a chronic or recurring disease the next day.

Because culturing bacteria and other microbes in a lab can be time consuming, and may be biased and error prone, today's researchers prefer genomic approaches such as directly sequencing bacterial DNA from skin swabs to identify the microbes that are present.

Dr. Elizabeth Grice, Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, is devoted to studying the skin microbiome of humans. Instead of growing bacteria in cultures, her approach to identifying bacteria starts with observing them directly from a skin sample. She has teamed up with Penn Vet researchers who will use her lab's methods to investigate atopic dermatitis.

"We'd normally use bacterial cultures, but those don't capture the full diversity of bacteria present on the skin. Now we can target bacterial genes and identify the types of bacteria present with greater precision than before," Dr. Grice said.



New diagnostic equipment and software allow Penn Vet researchers to measure the efficacy of the skin barrier directly on the skin.



This is a less biased method than growing bacteria by microbiologic culture, because cultures are highly selective for particular environments, nutrient sources, temperature, and other growth conditions that may favor some types of bacteria over others. By using genomic, culture-independent approaches, researchers see a more precise picture of the microbes.

“A whole-community analysis allows you to see that many different organisms are present at time zero, and after antimicrobial therapy, the population may have shifted to two or five or 10 organisms that dominate the skin. We’d recognize those as causing the infection, because those are the ones that have overgrown,” said Dr. Shelley Rankin, Associate Professor of Microbiology at Penn Vet and a member of the project team.

In addition to assessing the dog microbiome, the veterinary group will also be measuring the integrity of the skin barrier, which is provided by the stratum corneum – the topmost, non-porous layer that is the body’s first line of defense against the environment.

“In humans with atopic skin disease, that skin barrier is defective and allows allergens to penetrate the skin and cause allergic reaction,” said Dr. Elizabeth Mauldin, Associate Professor of Pathology and Dermatology at Penn Vet and another researcher involved in this interdisciplinary study. “We want to know what role the barrier plays in dogs with allergic skin disease. Are they losing too much water through their skin? What’s the pH, and is it different from normal? In people, these characteristics could have a genetic basis. We don’t really know that much about dogs yet.”

A major complication following the treatment of atopic dermatitis and similar skin infections that compromise the natural defense mechanisms of the skin is that antibiotic therapy can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant

bacteria. Dogs that start with a mild case of itching may progress to a drug-resistant staph infection.


Is the skin’s resident population of *Staphylococcus* becoming resistant to antibiotics during antibiotic therapy? According to Dr. Rankin, it may be that there are small numbers of drug-resistant staphylococci already present on the skin, and because antibiotics kill the susceptible bacteria, those antibiotic-resistant bacteria get the chance to propagate – unhindered.

“One of the goals of the study is to determine the character of the skin’s microbiome during the development of these complications,” said Dr. Dan Morris, a member of the research team and Chief of the Section of Dermatology and Allergy at Penn Vet.

The researchers will selectively look for genes associated with drug-resistant strains of bacteria such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus*, before and after therapy.

“We see a shift toward resistant populations during antimicrobial therapy, but we don’t have a good grasp right now of how that occurs. Are we amplifying an existing population? We’re spending a lot of time considering this question,” Dr. Rankin added.

Scientists believe that the answers they find in the canine microbiome will provide a better understanding of human medical dilemmas such as drug-resistant bacterial infections and the role of microorganisms in normal skin functioning. Encouraged by the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease, this unique collaboration will bring researchers closer to finding answers to these important questions.

“Hopefully, what we discover will be used by dermatologists in the human medical field, and lead to prevention and treatment for people as well as for our canine patients,” Dr. Rankin concluded. 



The Rumen Microbiome

Dairy Cow Health, Productivity, and the Importance to Our Food Supply

BY JANE SIMONE

The word “sustainable” has become part of the daily lexicon – we hear it routinely as it applies to numerous aspects of our lives. Probably one of the most important areas of sustainability is the global food supply. As the global population continues to grow, and is predicted to reach anywhere between 8.3 and 10.9 billion people by 2050, the availability of nourishing food for everyone is increasingly worrisome. Among the many scientists bringing their considerable intellects to bear on the problem are veterinarians, and Penn Vet is doing groundbreaking research designed to find ways not only to make animals healthier and more productive, but also to impact the related issues of animal nutrition, compromised feed supplies, and environmental degradation.

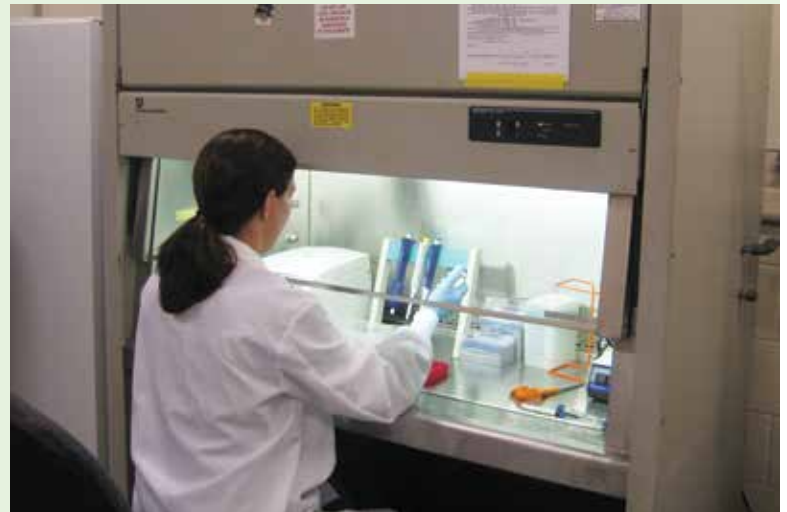
Research being conducted through the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease by Dr. Dipti Pitta, Assistant Professor of Ruminant Nutrition at Penn Vet’s New Bolton Center, focuses on improving food animal productivity through the study of ruminant nutrition and microbiology. She has worked extensively with farmers in such diverse countries as India, New Zealand, and the US on matters related to nutrition. That background and the research findings that emerged from her work are directly applicable to improving agricultural land use and animal production.

Why is this necessary? In developing countries, populations are growing, the demand for protein continues to rise, and communities will need to ensure improved health of

their livestock as well as the protection of ever-diminishing land, crop, and water resources. Dr. Pitta sees a direct connection between a ruminant animal’s ability to process food – as a result of the very complex microbiome present in their digestive tracts – and the potential to have the animals thrive on food sources unsuitable for humans, thus protecting crops for human consumption while growing healthy food animals as a protein source. In simple terms, perhaps the microbes normally present in a ruminant’s belly could break down plants traditionally thought of as indigestible, thus reducing the need to feed grains, which could then be reserved for human consumption.

Dr. Pitta is also looking at both the good and bad aspects of the microbial populations, or microbiomes, in animals because it is increasingly important to understand how they change with the animal’s diet, production phase, and environment. Her goal is to identify the role players that are important for production and eliminate invaders that could be of least value, such as pathogens that can contaminate food products. Clearly, a sick animal without any clinical symptoms will be much less productive than a healthy one, and where groups of animals are herded together, the problem is exacerbated if infections spread. All of these considerations are critical to herd health, to the quality of the meat and milk produced, and thus to the human populations dependent on these animals for nourishment.

As a ruminant, the cow’s digestive tract offers a rich source of information pertinent to the study of microbial



Top: Agricultural System and Microbial Genomics Laboratory at New Bolton Center; Bonnie Vecchiarelli extracts DNA.

Bottom: Bonnie Vecchiarelli performs PCR prepwork; a thermal cycler.

environments. Dairy cows are more prone to metabolic problems immediately after calving, as the animal has to adapt quickly from a non-lactating to lactating phase. The “dry” cow’s nutritional needs are much less than those producing milk, so lactating cows are generally fed a much higher energy diet than dry cows. Dr. Pitta is studying the effect of changes in diet and metabolism that occur during the transition from dry to lactation period on the microbial populations, as these are the mechanisms that drive the fermentation processes to release substrates required for producing milk.

Simply stated, this research is important on a number of levels. First, can the understanding of the ruminant’s inherent gut microbiome tell us what and how to feed them to improve milk production? Secondly, will that understanding make it possible to come up with new genes or enzymes that can target locally available, less expensive, and alternative food sources for the animal’s maintenance and production? Thirdly, will it allow us to understand how diseases erupt in an animal that are related to diet or metabolic shifts, thus leading to the ability to either prevent disease or treat it more rapidly and effectively? If so, we have the chance to raise more animals – and *healthier* animals – on less than in years past.

As a by-product, we may then be able to reduce greenhouse (methane) gas emissions, since ruminants are the primary source of such gases, as well as environmental

degradation through nutrient waste, and the exponential diminishing of forests and grasslands as a result of poor husbandry practices.

Veterinarians are critical to maintaining a safe and adequate food supply for everyone. Dr. Pitta’s work through the Center for Research on Microbes in Health and Disease and the Center for Animal Health and Productivity at New Bolton Center is one manifestation of veterinary medicine’s contribution to that effort. Her research findings have the potential to significantly change the way dairy cattle are fed and handled in developing countries, leading to healthier animals and better productivity. At a time when the sustainability of the world’s food supply is in question, her unique approach to helping solve the problems of food animal productivity is not only important – it is vital. An ancient Indian Upanishad (a philosophical text forming the theoretical basis for the Hindu religion) says, “All that is born is born of *anna* (food). Whatever exists on earth is born of *anna*, lives on *anna*, and in the end merges into *anna*. *Anna* is indeed the first born amongst all beings.”

Dr. Pitta is applying 21st century knowledge and expertise to the fundamental element of all life’s survival – food. Her work, and that of many colleagues at Penn Vet and around the world, will bring optimism and solutions to the problems surrounding the future of the planet and its inhabitants – both animal and human. ♥

From Diagnosis to Recovery: Nero Fights Cancer with Ryan Hospital's Comprehensive Cancer Care Team

BY HELEN RADENKOVIC

Few things are as devastating and scary for pet owners as a cancer diagnosis for their beloved pet. And that is exactly how Nancy and Gary Lewis felt when they received the news that their 13-year-old Golden Retriever/Black Labrador mix, Nero, had a soft tissue sarcoma on his right front leg. Sarcomas are malignant tumors that arise from various sources including connective tissue, fat, blood vessels, nerve sheaths, and muscle cells.

Since his adoption from the Morris Animal Refuge in Philadelphia 12 years ago, Nero has been a treasured member of the Lewis family, providing many years of joyful companionship. When he needed advanced care for his cancer, the Lewises chose to bring him to Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital.

THE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CARE APPROACH

Cancer is a diverse and complex disease with a wide range of clinical outcomes. For many people, deciding the course of treatment for their pet can be emotionally difficult and overwhelming. Options vary widely and can include therapeutic interventions such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and supportive care. Many pets diagnosed with cancer require a combination of these treatments. Navigating through separate appointments with various clinicians, weighing multiple options, and deciding on the optimal treatment course can often become confusing and stressful for pet owners.

The Lewises, however, had a very different experience. This July, Ryan Hospital implemented a Comprehensive Cancer Care Program – a multidisciplinary approach to evaluate and treat cancer patients. The goal of the program is to deliver the best care, more efficient service, and a more complete approach. At Ryan Hospital, the brightest minds from all aspects of cancer care collaborate and offer solutions that are individually tailored for each patient. The team of experts consists of specialists in medical, surgical, and radiation oncology, all working together to provide a comprehensive assessment of each patient's cancer care needs, all in one appointment. And the compassionate, knowledgeable team works with clients every step of the way to navigate through the diagnosis and subsequent treatment plan for their



Nero surrounded by his doctors and nurses. Clockwise from back left: Dr. Michelle Giuffrida, Kim Todd, Dr. Pascale Salah, Dr. Joseph Jacovino, Dr. Lili Duda, and Stephanie Corsi.

beloved companion animals. When clients entrust their animal's care to Penn Vet's Comprehensive Cancer Care team, they in turn commit the very best assessments of treatment options.

NERO'S CASE

Before deciding on a course of treatment, expert veterinary specialists at Ryan Hospital discussed Nero's care. This team included specialists from each of the three major treatment modalities for cancer – medical oncology, surgery, and radiation. Because of this team-based approach, the Lewises avoided the frustrations of having to schedule numerous consultations with different specialists and the stress of sorting through the various treatment options on their own. Instead, the dedicated Comprehensive Cancer Care team reviewed the case, considered various approaches, and offered optimal solutions, resulting in the best quality care for Nero.

Ultimately, Nero's treatment consisted of surgery to remove his tumor followed by radiation therapy. He was diagnosed on July 18 and had surgery on July 23 to remove the tumor in his leg. The size of the tumor did not allow for a complete removal with necessary margins, so as soon as the surgery site had healed, radiation therapy was employed to destroy any remaining cancer cells in his leg. Nero received his first radiation treatment on August 6. He receives daily radiation treatments five days a week, and will complete his therapy after 18



Oncology nurses administer a round of chemotherapy to a feline patient.

treatments. It is important to note that Ryan Hospital is one of few veterinary specialty hospitals capable of offering radiation therapy services to patients on-site. Nero also has benefitted from the combined expertise of specialists in medical oncology, surgical oncology, interventional radiology, and radiation oncology. Following the completion of his radiation treatment in a few weeks, Nero will resume his normal life. “We think the world of Ryan Hospital and the doctors there,” said Nancy Lewis enthusiastically. “We feel fortunate that we live so nearby.”

THE RYAN HOSPITAL DIFFERENCE

In addition to offering comprehensive diagnostics and treatment options, the Ryan Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Care team is also committed to excellent communication and emotional support for owners of pets suffering with cancer. Founded in 2010 and led by Penn Vet’s highly valued grief counselor, Michele Pich, Cleo’s Caregivers Group is a support group aimed at helping those caring for chronically ill, terminally ill, or aging pets. The support group is named in memory of Michele’s loving dog, Cleo, who succumbed to cancer.

Another component to providing the finest cancer care available to pets is Ryan Hospital’s close working relationship with the Veterinary Clinical Investigations Center (VCIC), converging science and medicine, and transferring the latest research directly to the patient. Penn Vet’s VCIC reaches out to veterinary clinics in the Philadelphia metropolitan area to offer patients access to cutting-edge clinical trials. These trials can offer owners potential diagnostic and treatment options that are not available anywhere else locally or even nationally for their pet. The VCIC provides nursing staff that dedicate 100% of their effort to helping owners and their pets navigate the course of enrolling in a clinical trial, offering them state-of-the-art care, while informing science for the benefit of future generations of pets and people alike. For example, Dr. Dottie Brown’s work with a compound derived from the *Coriolus versicolor* mushroom in dogs suffering from hemangiosarcoma resulted in some of the longest survival times ever reported for dogs with the disease, and may be tested next in human clinical trials.


The VCIC is directed by faculty who are trained in clinical epidemiology with an emphasis in clinical trials. The veterinary nurses that staff this center are certified veterinary technicians with training in the management of clinical trials including Good Clinical Practice. Through

the VCIC, the high volume, high quality veterinary care of Ryan Hospital is integrated with the scientific methodology of clinical trials to design, implement, and analyze veterinary clinical studies unlike any other institution.

The Hospital’s proximity to and collaborations with Penn Medicine also continue to yield innovative ways to fight cancer. Dr. Nicola Mason, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pathobiology, is collaborating with Penn Medicine on a project to further develop cancer immunotherapies that are already showing promise in both canine and human patients. Dr. David Holt, Professor of Surgery, has partnered with Penn Medicine to improve detection of surgical margins at the time of surgery to remove soft tissue sarcomas. He currently offers a surgery using dye and special imaging equipment to Ryan Hospital patients. This technique is vital in both veterinary and human surgical oncology to ensure that the entire tumor is resected. All of these promising therapies may one day offer cancer patients, canine and human alike, a viable alternative or complementary treatment to traditional therapies.

Ryan Hospital clients also have access to some of the finest medical oncologists; a top-notch surgery team, including one of the only fellowship-trained surgical oncologists in the area; a world-class dentistry and oral surgery team, distinguished by their training in maxillofacial cancer surgery; an interventional radiology specialist who performs chemotherapy and non-chemotherapy embolization procedures and installs subcutaneous vascular access ports; and some of the most modern facilities and equipment in veterinary medicine – all in one building. In fact, Ryan Hospital is one of only three veterinary oncology facilities in the country that is able to offer medical, surgical, and radiation oncology specialists in a single service, providing more immediate care and expertise in all aspects of cancer care throughout every step of treatment.

Penn Vet truly is the leader in cancer care in the region and one of only three veterinary comprehensive cancer care centers in the nation. By continuing its fruitful partnerships with Penn Vet’s VCIC and Penn Medicine to make available novel cancer therapies to our patients, the Comprehensive Cancer Care program is in a position to become a forerunner in the field of cancer treatment and research.

The Comprehensive Cancer Care team at Ryan Hospital understands that a cancer diagnosis can be very overwhelming and upsetting for pet owners. The patient’s quality of life is paramount, and our world-class team strives to achieve not only prolongation of life through treatment, but also improvement in quality of life and alleviation of pain. Combined with a rich history of clinical expertise, vibrant research and collaborations, and a culture of compassion, Penn Vet is poised to transform the standards of cancer care. 

Paynter: A Racing Success Story

BY JANE SIMONE

Paynter, a lovely dark bay Thoroughbred from the Ahmed Zayat stables, made his name in July 2012, romping home to a decisive victory in the William Hill Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park. The blood of champions runs through Paynter's veins – in his pedigree can be found the names of some of the greatest in the history of Thoroughbred racing: Nasrullah, Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, and Seattle Slew. Paynter skipped the Kentucky Derby and Preakness prior to finishing a close second to Union Rags in the 2012 Belmont, but his win at Monmouth confirmed his champion genes.

So the news in the fall that Paynter had spiked a high fever and was being treated for colitis and laminitis at Upstate Equine Medical Center was alarming to race fans across the country. Paynter's primary care veterinarian, Dr. Laura Javscas, a Penn Vet alumna who is board-certified in large animal internal medicine, treated him tirelessly for a month. But despite improvement in his condition, he continued to show signs of mild abdominal discomfort and continued to lose weight, despite having a great appetite. Additionally, Paynter had low-grade fevers and a persistently low blood protein concentration, indicating that he was losing protein from his intestine.

Ultimately, Dr. Javscas identified what seemed to be an abscess in his colon during an abdominal ultrasonographic examination, which was a wake-up call to seek surgical intervention. Realizing Paynter needed more extensive care, Dr. Javscas referred him to New Bolton Center.

Paynter arrived at New Bolton Center late on Monday afternoon, October 1. The list of medications he was receiving to keep him stable was extensive, and he was quite frail as a result of his long-term and serious illness. In short, he was not the powerful athlete he had been only a month before.

New Bolton Center's seasoned team of critical care specialists reviewed Dr. Javscas' description of Paynter's abdominal problem. Following a complete abdominal ultrasonographic examination by Dr. JoAnn Slack, Assistant Professor of Cardiology and Ultrasound, it was confirmed that the problem area was the tip of the cecum (an essential organ of digestion in the horse). Thankfully,



From top to bottom: Paynter at practice before winning at Hollywood Park; Paynter leaving Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center.

the affected cecum was accessible through a routine abdominal surgical approach.

Paynter quickly endeared himself to the New Bolton Center team. "During his ultrasound examination, he would stand with his head resting in my arms," recalls Dr. Louise Southwood, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, and Paynter's surgeon. "He enjoyed having his head stroked and would almost fall asleep. It was one of those moments that made you remember why you went to vet school."

Surgery was scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, to give Paynter a day to recover from his trip from upstate New York. He was anesthetized and positioned on his back. His abdomen was prepared for surgery and draped. A routine approach to the abdomen was made and his cecum was readily identified once the abdomen was open. Surgical staples were used to remove the affected area so that there was no contamination during the procedure. The abdomen was explored to ensure that there were no other abnormalities – and there were not.

Paynter recovered well from general anesthesia. His progress was monitored 24/7 by New Bolton Center’s skilled, certified nursing staff in the James M. Moran, Jr. Critical Care Center. He was gradually able to resume normal feeding, and all of his medications were sequentially discontinued. When he went to Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center for rehabilitation two weeks after his initial admission to New Bolton Center, he was no longer on any medication and had begun to gain weight.

Before coming to New Bolton Center, Paynter had been diagnosed with mild laminitis. During his hospitalization, Paynter continued to be monitored for the condition. New Bolton Center’s Chief of Farrier Services, Pat Reilly, oversaw Paynter’s foot care. Following Paynter’s discharge to Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center,

Reilly visited Paynter regularly until the horse was flown to California.

Paynter has proved to be a remarkable horse. Based on all that New Bolton Center’s highly skilled clinicians identified, there was every reason to believe that he would make a full recovery. At the end of December, after time spent rehabilitating at Fair Hill Training Center, Paynter was shipped to Trainer Bob Baffert’s California barn. The racing public showed its delight at his recovery by voting him the 2012 winner of the Secretariat Vox Populi Award as well as the 2012 National Thoroughbred Racing Association “Moment of the Year.”

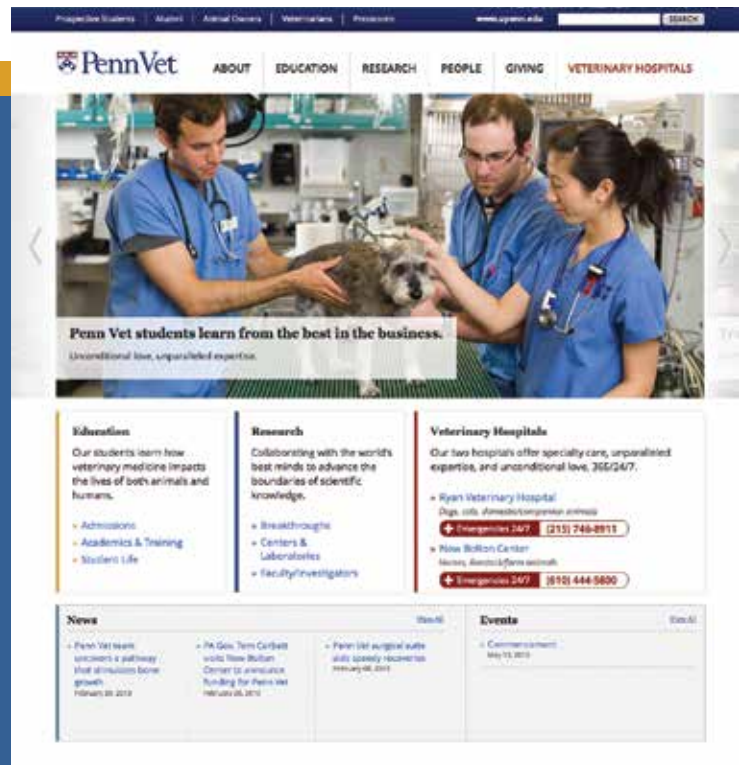
As if to endorse the faith placed in him by his devoted owner, Mr. Ahmed Zayat, and the dedicated team of veterinarians and farriers who cared for him, Paynter won his first race on June 14, 2013, just eight-and-a-half months after his surgery. In regards to New Bolton Center, Mr. Zayat commented, “You deserve a lot of credit. And I want to pay my respects to your fine team.”

Paynter’s recovery and successful return to racing is a testament to his owner’s devotion, and to the expertise and dedication of his primary care veterinarian who trained at Penn Vet, and to New Bolton Center’s highly qualified clinicians and outstanding caregivers. His is a real racing success story. 🏆

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PENN VET WORKING DOG CENTER

Year in Review

BY JILLIAN MARCUSSEN

Just one year after the grand opening of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center, the seven dogs of the inaugural class are barely recognizable. Now more than five times their original size, these “super pups” have each developed an amazing ability to search that surprises even Dr. Cindy Otto, the Center’s Director and Founder.

“We have always known that dogs have an incredibly acute sense of smell, but we are constantly blown away by the progress of the dogs in our program,” says Dr. Otto. “I don’t think there’s a challenge they can’t meet. We are truly producing some of the best-trained detection dogs in the world.”

The dogs in this impressive inaugural group – each donated by breeders from across the country and fostered by dedicated volunteers – are now ready to graduate and take on new challenges. For Socks, a yellow Labrador Retriever, this will mean serving as an integral member of the Penn Police. Socks will detect explosives on campus in her new role. Thunder, a chocolate Labrador Retriever, will go on to pursue search and rescue training. PApa Bear, another chocolate Labrador Retriever, and Bretagne, a Golden Retriever, will train as diabetic alert dogs. Local police and fire departments have also expressed significant interest in the remaining dogs, and conversations about their futures are ongoing.

There were many important individuals involved in the care of these canines throughout the year. In order to ensure that the fitness and training needs of each dog were met, some 200 volunteers logged more than 3,000 hours. Through a unique partnership with New Leash on Life, a prison-dog training program that is dedicated to improving the life of inmates and saving the lives of dogs, as well as many interactions with the Penn undergraduate and staff communities, the dogs received the individualized attention and care they needed in order to be successful.

“Our volunteers have shown the utmost dedication to our program,” adds Pat Kaynaroglu, Volunteer Coordinator for the Working Dog Center. “We really couldn’t do what we do without their enthusiasm and devotion to both the dogs and the work being accomplished here.”

This summer, the Center also brought the world of working dogs to middle school students with the first annual Canine Handler Academy. Through this weeklong, hands-on learning experience, students witnessed the amazing talents of detection dogs and saw first-hand what it takes to train dogs that will go on to serve our country.

All of this progress over the past year was made possible through private support from many individuals, corporations, and foundations. A wonderfully unique gift of a van by



Top to bottom: Trainer Jonathan Ball sits with Thunder prior to a search; Training Director Annemarie DeAngelo works with Bretagne in the outdoor agility course; one of the new class of pups has its teeth brushed; Jonathan Ball works with Ohlin during ovarian cancer detection training.



Left: Dr. Cindy Otto poses with McBaine. Below: Wawa Store Operations Director Terrance Herling and mascot Wally Goose present Dr. Cindy Otto with a check for the sponsorship of Ronnie.



Robin and Mark Rubenstein allowed for off-site training opportunities for the dogs at facilities such as the Philadelphia International Airport. The Center is also grateful for a grant from Home Depot that enabled the construction of a half-acre agility course located directly behind the training center.

And there is more to come! Exciting, new projects are already underway. The second group of dogs to join the program, Ohlin, a chocolate Labrador Retriever; McBaine, a Springer Spaniel; and Tsunami, a German Shepherd, are being trained for cancer detection in a groundbreaking program that has garnered significant attention from the public and media alike.

In addition to welcoming additional donated pups, the Working Dog Center also aims to launch an in-house breeding program in the coming year. In her role with the Penn Police, Socks will be readily accessible for breeding with other top-tier detection dogs.

Another goal for the Center's second year of operation is to identify a sponsor for every dog in the program. Individual, corporate, and foundation sponsorships are available. If you are interested in supporting one of the dogs at Penn Vet's Working Dog Center, please contact Jillian Marcussen at jillian2@vet.upenn.edu or 215-898-4235.

As the Working Dog Center looks to the future, the legacy of the inaugural class will be carried forth by the next generation of puppies, including newcomers Pacy, Ditto, Jesse P, and Gus – all named, as their predecessors were, in honor of dogs that served on 9/11. We look forward to seeing this new class of canines in action as the Working Dog Center continues to lead the way in breeding and training the world's best detection dogs. 🐾

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3,713

Animals Treated by Ryan Hospital Oncology



13,092

Surgeries at New Bolton Center

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5,839 Exotics Helped



98,073 Dogs and Cats Helped



174,911

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20,039

Horses Helped



69

Feline Kidney Transplants

85

Shelter Dog Operations to Remove Mammary Tumors



2,819 Research Articles Published and Cited 44,369 Times



Special Gifts to the School

Throughout Penn Vet's rich history, we have led the way in advancing veterinary medicine. It is urgent for the public to better appreciate the impact of our profession. In an op-ed for the *Huffington Post* this spring, I shared how veterinarians approach medicine with a global perspective, supporting public health, playing a critical role in food safety and production, and providing translational research to help prevent and control diseases. While veterinarians will always be needed to heal pets and other valuable animals, it is our ability to link animal science to human well-being, to advance food production and safety, and to provide critical defense from global pandemics that must be better understood in order to advocate for continued public support of the highest level of veterinary education.

As the oldest private veterinary school, Penn Vet has always depended on committed and passionate supporters. In keeping with this history, we set a new bar. During Penn's successful Making History Campaign, which culminated last December, almost 19,000 alumni and friends gave \$134,659,421 in support of Penn Vet and our role in advancing veterinary medicine. I am particularly touched at the impressive level of faculty and staff participation. This record-setting campaign signals your confidence and reflects the importance of Penn Vet's mission. Concretely, these new funds make possible new student and faculty support, new and improved facilities, and new support for crucial programs. With your help, *Penn Vet Leads!*

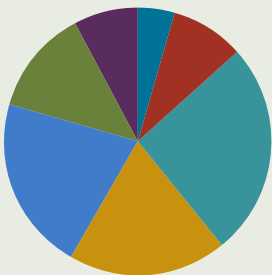
On behalf of everyone at Penn Vet — and the animals and owners we serve — thank you for your phenomenal support.



Joan C. Hendricks, V'79, GR'80
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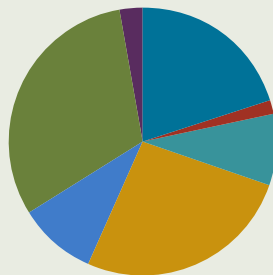
\$13,265,760



● Professorships	\$609,300
● Student Support	\$1,178,715
● Capital and Equipment	\$3,416,367
● Privately Funded Research	\$2,562,984
● Research Grants	\$2,802,769
● Restricted Programs	\$1,673,139
● Annual Fund	\$1,022,486

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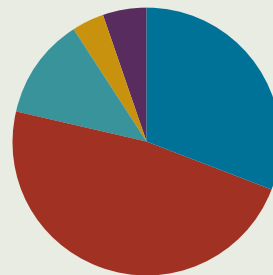
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● Vet Alumni	\$207,193
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● Corporations	\$96,909
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\$134,659,421



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● Investing in Care and Research	\$64,427,156
● Supporting Students	\$16,283,890
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ALUMNI GIVING

All Alumni donors to Penn Vet from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

1930-1939

V'39
Stanford D. Merrill, VMD

1940-1949

V'40
Max Fields, VMD

V'42
George C. Poppensiek, VMD

V'43
George R. Hickman, Jr., VMD
John D. McCullough, VMD

V'45
Richard W. Brown, Jr., VMD
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V'46
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Abram B. Stavitsky, VMD
Eddie L. Tamm, VMD

V'47
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V'48
Richard G. Ainley, VMD
Irving D. Sackett, VMD

V'49
William C. Patterson, Jr., VMD
Arthur Richards, Jr., VMD

1950-1959

V'50
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Thomas W. Shoemaker, VMD
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V'51
C. John Bryer, VMD
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John J. Strickler, VMD
Calvin B. Umble, VMD

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Sheldon A. Steinberg, VMD

1960-1969

V'60
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Thomas L. Kowalchick, VMD
Roger F. Poole, VMD
Daniel R. Reilly, VMD
Richard P. Streett, VMD
John L. Thomas, VMD
Ricardo B. Valle, VMD
Jeffrey A. Wortman, VMD

1970-1979

V'70
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Daniel W. Burbank, VMD
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James H. Rush, VMD
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A. Hunter Wilcox, VMD

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Clifford J. Hixson, VMD
Susan H. Horowitz, VMD
Joseph R. Itle, VMD
Lorraine G. Karpinski-Hughes, VMD
James B. Krewatch, VMD

“Whether we have changed career directions or continue to practice some aspect of veterinary medicine, the education we received at Penn and the relationships we developed have shaped our lives in positive ways. A great way to honor those memories is a contribution to a class scholarship fund, to provide support for those aspiring to follow us.”

— Charlotte Keenan, V’77

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V’73
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Joan Regan, VMD
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Judith L. Robitaille-Dunklee, VMD
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Nadine Vukovich, VMD
Louise E. Wechsler, VMD
Leslie A. Whittaker, VMD

1980-1989

V’80
Kathleen L. Boldy, VMD
Eileen J. Burke-Lammie, VMD
Lynne D. Cabaniss, VMD
Russell C. Cattley, VMD
Kevin P. Coogan, VMD
Sandra M. Dudek, VMD
Diane Ruth Eigner, VMD
Leslie D. Gall, VMD
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Fern Tablin, VMD, PhD
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Henry B. Warren, VMD
Robert J. Weiner, VMD
Alexandra Wetherill, VMD
Margaret F. Yeaw, VMD

V’81
Cynthia L. Albright Ward, VMD
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Perry L. Habecker, VMD
Dolores M. Holle, VMD
David M. Lauer, VMD
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Richard M. Levine, VMD
John B. Madison, VMD
Anne Schless Marino, VMD

Paul V. Marino, VMD
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Paul H. Nicolaysen, VMD
Helen O. Noble, VMD
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Renate Reimschuessel, VMD
Edward J. Salevsky, Jr., VMD
Linda A. Schuler, VMD, PhD
Martin Schulman, VMD
Deane E. Smith II, VMD
Thaddeus J. Spinks, VMD
Linda J. Squires, VMD
Donald L. Yorlets, VMD

V’82
Anthony J. De Carlo, VMD
Brenda F. Deluca, VMD
Barbara D. Forney, VMD
Lynn S. Frankhouser-Keller, VMD
Robert F. Gerlach, VMD
Janice E. Kritchevsky, VMD
Julia A. Langenberg, VMD
Rosemarie T. Lombardi, VMD
Richard Scott Meirs, VMD
Kathleen D. Moody, VMD
Joseph A. Nebzydowski, VMD
Patricia Fey Rings, VMD
Howard J. Seeherman, PhD VMD
Mark McKim Smith, VMD
Julia A. Staver, VMD
Raymond W. Sweeney III, VMD
Ronald P. Wilson, VMD
John Hall Wolfe, VMD PhD
David R. Wolfgang, VMD
Samuel C. Wooters, Jr., VMD

V’83
Betsy L. Dayrell-Hart, VMD
Shelley M. Dubin, VMD
M Joan Hiltz, VMD
John T. Kristy, VMD
Douglas W. Lemire, VMD
Susan G. McCawley, VMD
Elizabeth R. McKinstry, VMD
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Thomas J. Myers, VMD
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Nolton Pattio, VMD
Danielle S. Sand, VMD
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John D. Young, Jr., VMD

V’84
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Andrew A. Erickson II, VMD
Mark S. Erickson, VMD
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Joseph C. Glennon, VMD
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Craig J. Goldblatt, VMD
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V'85

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1990-1999

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 Melanie A. Newman, VMD
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 Howard J. Small, VMD

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 Ms. Christine Connelly
 Allen J. Conti, VMD
 Henry L. Croft, Jr., VMD
 Jean Cunningham, VMD
 Patricia A. Day-Lollini, VMD
 Betsy L. Dayrell-Hart, VMD
 Mrs. C. Ann Degler
 Mrs. Anne C. Dillon
 Carol A. Dolinskas, MD
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Domencich
 Lydia L. Donaldson, VMD
 Christopher S. Donner, VMD
 Mr. and Mrs. Vance J. Downing
 Sandra M. Dudek, VMD
 Ms. Margaret Hamilton Duprey
 Ralph C. Eagle, Jr., MD
 Ms. Marion G. Edmonds
 Ms. Shirley A. Edwards
 Debra S. Eisenstein, VMD, PhD
 Andrew H. Elser, VMD
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Epley
 Mr. Robert R. Essington
 Evan A. Feinberg, VMD
 Mr. Frank P. Filardi
 Ms. Lynda Fluitt-Carlin
 Randi G. Fonseca, VMD
 Ms. Wendy Forst-Ferrell
 Jerry D. Frantz, VMD
 William S. Gardner, VMD
 Anthony Garvan
 Ms. Georgina C. Gaughran
 Ms. Shirley Gee
 Kirk N. Gelatt, VMD
 Lillian A. Giuliani, VMD
 Joseph C. Glennon, VMD
 Miss Judith F. Gobeille
 Mr. Barry Goldblatt
 Leslie A. Goldsmith, VMD
 Ms. Marita L. Grashof
 Mr. James Gregory
 Stephen L. Gross, VMD
 Mrs. Helen K. Groves
 Gail Habecker
 Perry L. Habecker, VMD
 John F. Hampson, VMD
 Maureen Hargaden, VMD
 James S. Harper, VMD
 George L. Hartenstein IV, VMD
 Karen B. Harvey, VMD
 Mr. Richard Hasker
 Robert J. Hastings, Esquire
 Terence J. Hayes, VMD, PhD
 Mr. Henry R. Hecht

Mattie Hendrick
 Joan C. Hendricks, VMD, PhD
 Peter H. Herman, VMD
 Mrs. Andrea Highland
 Brian S. Hillegass, VMD
 Klaus Hubben, VMD
 Mr. Francis Hughes
 Lea R. Hutchinson, VMD
 Ms. Louise M. Hutchinson
 Mrs. Barbara Hynum
 Ms. Frances Iadevaio
 Mrs. Gretchen S. Jackson
 Mr. M. Roy Jackson, Jr.
 Ms. Bette J. Jacobus
 David C. Johnson, VMD
 Betty S. Johnston, VMD
 Estate of David G. Jones
 Ms. V. Diane Jones
 Mrs. Sharon Journey
 Mr. Barry A. Kaufman
 Mr. L. William Kay II
 Mrs. Joan S. Kean
 Charlotte Miller Keenan, VMD
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 Britan A. Kilbourne, VMD
 Mrs. Eileen C. Kirby
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 Elizabeth L. Knighton, VMD
 Sandra Jones Koenig
 Charles W. Koenig, VMD
 Ms. Kathy L. Kozak
 Dara L. Kraitchman, VMD PhD
 John W. Kreider, VMD
 Mr. William J. LaBianca
 Elmer F. Laffey, VMD
 Laurie J. Landeau, VMD, MBA
 Robert L. Lash, VMD
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 Mr. William Millhollen
 Ms. Maryjeannette J. Monihan
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 Mrs. Lois W. Morgis
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 Michael K. Moss, VMD
 Andrew P. Nebzydoski, VMD
 Ms. Nancy Noonan
 Mrs. Roberta Odell

John L. O'Donoghue, VMD, PhD
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 Ms. Brenda M. Oldroyd
 Mrs. Bonnie S. O'Neil
 Dr. Salvatore A. Orsini
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 Deborah S. Patt, VMD
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 Nancy K. Plourde, MD
 Dr. Ivin B. Prince
 Mrs. Letitia O. Principato
 Ms. Suzanne Quevedo
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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Ralston
 Barnett Rattner
 Francine Koplun Rattner, VMD
 Ms. Judy L. Re
 Joan Regan, VMD
 Joel M. Reif, VMD
 Mr. Edward M. Resovsky
 Kenton D. Rexford, VMD
 Mr. and Mrs. Warren G. Richards
 Mrs. Doris A. Boucher Ritter
 Dr. Carolyn Carruth Rizza
 Mr. Gregg A. Runyen
 Mrs. Terry Runyen
 Irving D. Sackett, VMD
 Lenora S. Sammons, DVM
 Mrs. Johanna W. Schleyer
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 Mr. Brent N. Senseny
 Joel B. Server, VMD
 Suzanne Shalet, VMD
 Mr. Gene W. Sharpless
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerrald K. Simmers
 Jay J. Simmons, VMD
 Elizabeth S. Sinnigen, VMD
 Stephen A. Smalley, VMD
 Roger G. Smith, Jr., VMD
 Barbara E. Smith, VMD
 Bruce Frederic Smith, VMD PhD
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest B. Smith
 Lawrence F. Smith, VMD
 Jennifer I. Sorowitz, VMD
 Larry L. Stefanick, VMD
 Mr. G. S. Stefenhagens
 Bette Steinberg
 Sheldon A. Steinberg, VMD
 Barbara K. Stewart, VMD
 Brenda Lewis Stewart, VMD
 James V. Stewart, VMD
 Carol E. Swanson

Raymond W. Sweeney III, VMD
 Dr. Corinne R. Sweeney
 Eddie L. Tamm, VMD
 Ms. Judy J. Taylor
 James O. Thomas, VMD
 Robert M. Thompson, Jr., VMD
 Mr. Clark T. Thompson
 Mrs. Anne F. Thorington
 Ms. Peggy J. Tiry
 H. Wesley Towers, Jr., VMD
 Mr. Robert S. Truitt
 Michael J. Tulley, Jr., VMD
 Mr. Arthur L. Twiss
 Mr. David E. Uniglicht
 Mr. Neil Van Sloun
 Mrs. Sylvia Van Sloun
 Thomas J. Van Winkle, VMD
 Ms. Jennifer VanAnda
 Diane Ventrello, VMD
 George D. Vernimb, VMD
 Sabrina N. Walters, VMD
 Marilyn B. Weber, VMD
 Mrs. Helma Weeks
 Mrs. Judith F. Wellington
 Mr. Walter C. Wells
 Amy J. Wenger, VMD
 Alexandra Wetherill, VMD
 Mr. George Weyhmuller
 A. Hunter Wilcox, VMD
 Mr. John Wilhelmy, Jr.
 Franklin K. Wills, VMD
 Eugene Witiak, VMD
 Ms. Mary A. Yacovelli
 Joan M. Yarnall, VMD
 Ms. Catherine Zane
 George F. Zimmerman, VMD
 Ms. Patricia Zimmerman





▲ **Summer VETS**

Penn Vet offered a summer program for both college and high school students who are interested in veterinary medicine. Students participated in hospital clinics, visited New Bolton Center, learned how to handle laboratory animals, and played with working dogs.



events

◀ **Penn Executive Veterinary Leadership Program**

Penn Vet and the Wharton School have partnered on a leadership development program designed for veterinarians who seek to contribute at a high level to the maintenance and promotion of global public health for animals and humans.



◀ **Harvey Symposium**
Penn Vet honored Dr. Colin Harvey's retirement with a dental continuing education event. Colleagues from Penn Vet and around the world gave lectures to veterinarians from across the region. Later, Dr. Harvey was roasted by friends and colleagues.



Commencement

The Class of 2013 Commencement featured Dr. Kim J. Hammond as keynote speaker.



Best Friends Bash

Penn Vet hosted the Best Friends Bash, during which craniofacial patients from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia met four dogs with similar conditions.



Legacy PAVERS

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY AT PENN VET

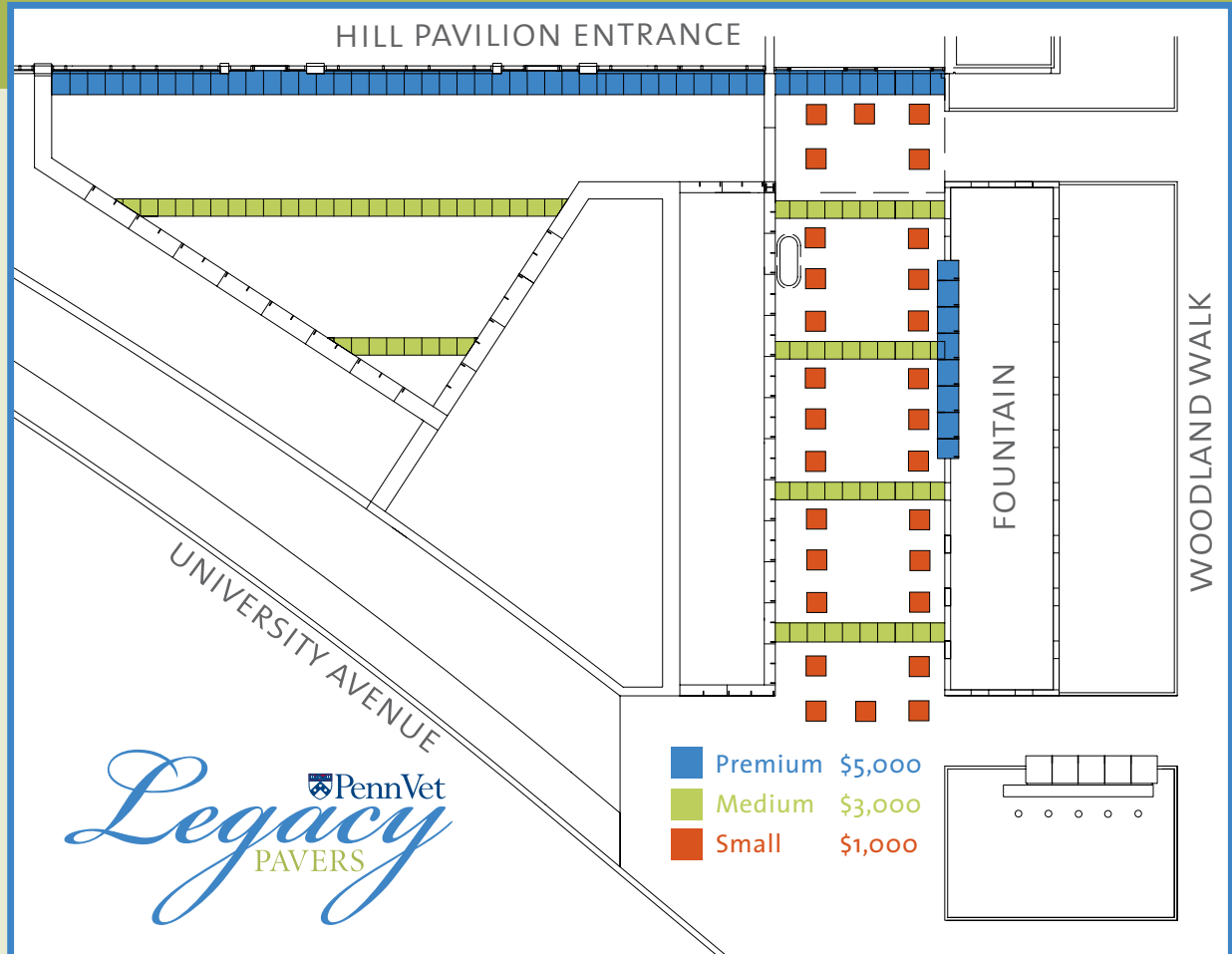
“Our dear cat Felix was treated at the Penn Vet Radiation Oncology department and sadly passed away in March. We are so incredibly grateful that he was treated with love and care at Penn Vet. We couldn’t think of any better way to memorialize him and hopefully help other animals at the same time.” – Miranda Brunett and Jason Braman

You are invited to join the many alumni, students, parents, clients, and friends who have chosen to be a part of Penn Vet history with the purchase of a Legacy Paver in the Hill Pavilion Plaza.

This is a special opportunity to make a permanent mark on the Penn Vet campus by memorializing a beloved pet, honoring a veterinarian that provided exceptional care, celebrating a reunion class, and more. You can choose to support the area of the School that is most meaningful to

you, whether it be Where the Need is Greatest, student scholarship, research, or hospital renovations and facilities.

Share your own story and create a lasting legacy by reserving a paver today in support of Penn Vet’s mission of teaching, research, and service. We hope to announce our New Bolton Center location soon. For more information, please contact Jillian Marcussen, Director of Special Projects, at 215-898-4235 or jillian2@vet.upenn.edu.



LEGACY PAVER ORDER FORM

- Premium (\$5,000)** – payable over 5 years – One individual 35" x 23" or 23" x 28" paver with 7 lines of text – 15 characters per line.
- Medium (\$3,000)** – payable over 3 years – One individual 23.5" x 23.5" paver with 5 lines of text – 15 characters per line
- Small (\$1,000)** – payable over 1 year – One individual 12" x 12" paver with 2 lines of text – 15 characters per line.



DESIGNATION OPTIONS

- Where the Need is Greatest (unrestricted endowment)**
- Ryan Hospital Renovation Endowment Fund
- New Bolton Center Renovation Endowment Fund
- Student Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Research Endowment Fund
- Companion Animal Research Endowment Fund
- Equine Research Endowment Fund

PAYMENT METHOD

- Enclosed is my check made payable to the "Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania" for \$ _____
- Please charge \$ _____ to MasterCard VISA American Express Discover Card



The Brunett/Braman stone in memory of Felix

Card Holder Name _____ Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Graduation Year (if applicable) VMD _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

I am (check all that apply): Staff Faculty Alumni Student Friend

ENGRAVED TEXT

If you have finalized your message at this time, please print the inscription as you wish it to appear using the maximum number of spaces available per line for the paver size you have selected, including blank spaces and punctuation. Minor changes may be required to conform to engraver limitations. If you have not finalized the inscription, we will follow up with you for a final version in the near future. The School reserves the right to deny any message deemed inappropriate. **Note that pavers will not be engraved until Spring 2014.**

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Jillian Marcussen at 215.898.4235 or jillian2@vet.upenn.edu.

RETURN TO

You can use the enclosed postage-paid *Bellwether* envelope to return this form to: Penn Vet Advancement Office, VETPVR, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172E Philadelphia, PA 19104.

2017



CLASS OF 2017
BY THE NUMBERS



123 STUDENTS



45 STUDENTS FROM
PENNSYLVANIA

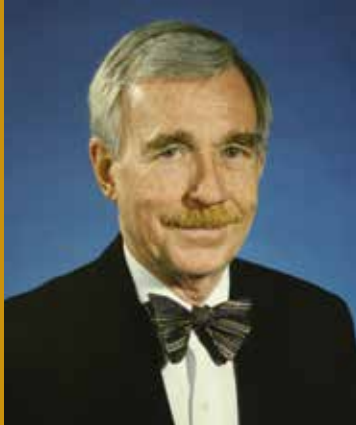
PENN VET
LEGACY
STUDENTS

2



15 STUDENTS WHO
PARTICIPATED
IN THE SUMMER
VETS PROGRAM





Donald F. Patterson

in memoriam

Donald F. Patterson, DVM, DSc

Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Medical Genetics, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and Emeritus Professor of Human Genetics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Donald F. Patterson, considered by many to be the father of veterinary genetics, passed away on June 8 in Seattle, Washington. Don was born in Venezuela in 1931 and grew up in Oklahoma and Texas, graduating from the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1954. After veterinary school, he completed an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston and then served a tour of duty in the Air Force, where he was assigned Chief of Laboratory Services at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. As a veterinary researcher, he was in charge of obtaining young chimps from West Africa and training them as research subjects. One of these charges, named Ham, was the first chimp to complete a suborbital space flight in 1961.

After his time in the Air Force, Dr. Patterson took a position at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine as an instructor in cardiology, where he helped conduct the first NIH-supported research to identify and characterize genetic defects in cardiac development in the dog. In 1966, Don became Founder of the Penn Veterinary Medical Genetics Clinic, and in 1971, became the Founder and Chief of the Section of Medical Genetics at Penn Vet – the first academic subdivision devoted to medical genetics in a school of veterinary medicine. From 1985 to 2000, Don served as Principal Investigator for the Veterinary School Referral Center for Animal Models of Human Genetic Disease, and in 1995, he became Founder and Director of the Center for Research in Comparative Medical Genetics – both the first such NIH-supported centers at a veterinary school. The full scope of his professional discoveries, firsts, and awards, along with his influence at Penn Vet and the larger veterinary and medical genetics community are legion and would take up far more than the space allotted here. Dr. Patterson retired in 2000 after 42 years at Penn.

These impressive accomplishments aside, Dr. Patterson was a witty and humorous father of two and a husband who enjoyed a good cowboy joke or pun, and loved to canoe and fish. With his first wife, Nancy, and his boys by his side, he voyaged into the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, ran the rapids of the Chattooga River, and fished the remote lakes of Quebec. The family fondly recalls the typical response Don received when asking the locals for fishing advice: “You should have been here last week!”

Don was married to Nancy Hankins Patterson for 37 years until her death from breast cancer in 1990. Most of that time was spent living in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, where together they worked as a team to welcome countless colleagues, residents, visiting professors, and other academics from far and wide into their home. Nancy and Don had two children: Russell H. Patterson, who attended the University of Pennsylvania for undergraduate studies and Penn Vet (Class of '84), and is board-certified in surgery, operating a group veterinary surgical practice in Seattle, Washington; and Wade D. Patterson, who has a BA in Anthropology and a MA in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania, and is Executive Director of the Sawmill Community Land Trust in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Don is survived by Russell and Wade, by his grandchildren, Riley, Clay, Milo, and Ada, and by his current wife, Moyra Smith.

— RUSSELL PATTERSON, V'84

GRANTS

Michael Atchison, PhD, received a five-year, \$864,640 T32 grant from NIH/NIAID for VMD-PhD training in infectious disease-related research.

Dorothy Brown, DVM, MSCE, received a two-year, \$214,934 grant from Integrated Chinese Medicine Holdings for randomized controlled trials of the effects of I'm-Yunity vs. standard of care chemotherapy in dogs with Splenic Hemangiosarcoma.

Christine Cain, DVM, received a one-year, \$7,420 grant from ACVD to track antimicrobial resistance and genotypic relatedness in *Staphylococcus schleiferi* isolates: a comparison of geographic regions and temporal periods.

Margret Casal, DVM, MS, PhD, received a one-year, \$12,960 grant from AKC-CHF to study lethal Acrodermatitis in the Bull Terrier.

Amy Durham, MS, VMD, received a one-year, \$50,000 grant from Mari Lowe Comparative Oncology Center to evaluate the role of an Epstein-Barr-like virus in feline lymphoma.

Hannah Galantino-Homer, VMD, PhD, received a six-month, \$20,579 grant from Animal Health Diagnostic Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to study COMP as a laminitis and sole ulceration serum biomarker in horses and dairy cows.

Christopher Hunter, PhD, received a five-year, \$1,080,800 T32 grant from NIH/NIAID to study modern approaches in parasitology.

Dr. Hunter also received a two-year, \$275,000 grant from NIH R21 to study host-parasite interactions during toxoplasmosis.

Daniel Morris, DVM, MPH, received a one-and-a-half-year, \$32,344 grant from Zoetis/Pfizer Animal Health to study epidemiologic evaluation of *Pseudomonas otitis* in dogs.

Cynthia Otto, DVM, PhD, received a one-year, \$19,500 grant from Monell Chemical Senses Center to study a novel approach to ovarian cancer screening using an interdisciplinary investigator of its volatile signature.

Thomas Parsons, VMD, PhD, received a six-month, \$15,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to study improved diagnostic testing for group-housed sows.

Dieter Schifferli, DVM, PhD, received a three-year, \$350,000 grant from USDA to study allelic variation of Salmonella colonization factors.

Anne Staudenmaier, V'15, was awarded Morris Student Scholar funding for her summer research project titled "Immune response in the common raccoon to canine distemper and feline panleukopenia vaccines."

Maryam Yousefi received a three-year, \$129,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Student Fellowship.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

The Boucher Teaching Award was presented to **Michelle Abraham, DVM**.

Lillian Aronson, VMD, was promoted to Professor of Surgery.

Tracy Bale, PhD, was promoted to Professor of Neuroscience.

Kari Beer, DVM, received the Intern's Mentor Award.

Kendra Bence, PhD, was promoted to Associate Professor of Neuroscience.

Dorothy Brown, DVM, MSCE, was invited to speak about targeted neurotoxin studies in companion dogs at the World Pharmaceutical Congress – Targeting Pain with Novel Therapeutics.

A paper by **James Buchanan, DVM, M Med Sci**, on the history of veterinary cardiology was published in the *Journal of Veterinary Cardiology* 15:65-85, 2013.

Robert Caesar, Penn Vet's head anatomy technician, participated in the Philadelphia Science Festival's Urban Farming Discovery Day, accompanied by his rooster and chickens. He answered questions about how to raise chickens at home and on a small farm.

On House Officer Research Day, the non-resident award was presented to **Kiley Daube, DVM**, for "Association between lymph node cytology and remission in dogs completing chemotherapy for lymphoma."

Elizabeth Davidson, DVM, was named a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.



DAVIDSON



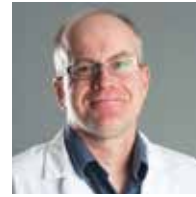
RANKIN



SERPELL



SWEENEY



VITE

In addition, **Dr. Davidson** passed the Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation boards.

Roselyn Eisenberg, PhD, co-authored a paper in *Structure* titled “The Structure of Herpes virus Fusion Glycoprotein B-Bilayer Complex Reveals the Protein-Membrane and Lateral Protein-Protein Interaction.”

JD Foster, VMD, received the Resident's Award for favorite hospital doctor.

Hannah Galantino-Homer, VMD, PhD, was invited to speak at the equine session of the California Animal Nutrition Conference in Fresno, CA. Her presentation was on Endocrinopathic Laminitis and Equine Metabolic Syndrome.

Kriste Halscheid, CVT, received the Gretchen Swartz Award for Outstanding Nursing.

Colin Harvey, BVSc, Professor of Dental and Oral Surgery, retired on June 30.

Rebecka Hess, DVM, was promoted to Professor of Internal Medicine.

The Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award, the most prestigious teaching award in veterinary medicine, was presented to **Erika Krick, VMD**.

John Lewis, VMD, was promoted to Associate Professor of Dentistry and Oral Surgery.

At the ACVIM 31st Annual Medical Forum in Seattle, WA, **Meryl Littman, VMD**, presented a poster on the prevalence of variant alleles associated with protein-losing nephropathy in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

In addition, **Dr. Littman** was promoted to Professor of Medicine.

Carolina Lopez, PhD, received the 2013 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence.

On House Officer Research Day, **Chap Pratt, DVM**, received the Resident Award for “Sewing needle foreign bodies in 65 dogs and cats.”

Ellen Puré, PhD, was appointed Professor of Biomedical Science.

Shelley Rankin, PhD, was appointed Head of Diagnostic Services.

In addition, **Dr. Rankin** received a Certificate of Recognition from the ACVIM *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* for co-authoring a Top 5 article,

“Enteropathogenic Bacterium in Dogs and Cats: Diagnosis, Epidemiology, Treatment and Control.”

Alexander Reiter, Dipl. Tzt., gave a presentation on establishing an interdisciplinary and comparative microsurgery teaching and research center at the Center for Human Appearance.

In addition, **Dr. Reiter** was invited to present and give wet labs for the Austrian Small Animal Veterinary Association in Vienna, Austria and the European Congress of Veterinary Dentistry in Prague, Czech Republic.

Mary Robinson, VMD, PhD, was accepted into AB SCIEX's academic partnership program, which provides discounted reagents and technical support for their products.

Christopher Rorres, PhD, organized and chaired a world conference titled ARCHIMEDES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: 23 Centuries of Influence on Mathematics, Engineering, and Science at New York University.

Jeffrey Runge, DVM, was appointed to Assistant Professor of Surgery.

Dieter Schifferli, DVM, PhD, spent three weeks in China, participating in a meeting in Suzhou and visiting four Universities, where he gave presentations.

James Serpell, PhD, gave an invited plenary lecture at the Canisius College Symposium on Cats in Context in Buffalo, NY. He also presented a keynote address at the 2nd International Symposium on Zoo Animal Welfare at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, IL.

In addition, **Dr. Serpell** joined the Scientific Advisory Committee of the American Humane Association and Co-Chaired the International Society for Anthrozoology's 22nd Annual Conference.

A paper by **Sugalesini Subramaniam, PhD**, on Marek's disease was published in the *Journal of Virology*.

Jantra Suran, DVM, was appointed to Assistant Professor of Radiology.

Corinne Sweeney, DVM, was elected to the Racing Commissioners International (RCI) Board of Directors. RCI sets standards for racing regulation, medication policy, drug testing laboratories, totalizator systems, racetrack operation and security, and off-track wagering entities.

Charles Vite, DVM, PhD, was elected the next President of the ACVIM Neurology specialty.

In addition, **Dr. Vite** spoke at the ACVIM June conference in Seattle, WA about treating Niemann-Pick type C in multiple species and neurolocalization, neurophysiology, and neuropathology.

Dr. Vite also spoke at the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation about intrathecal 2-hydroxypropylbetacyclodextrin therapy in aged cats,

and at the National Niemann-Pick Disease Foundation on treating NPC disease with intrathecal cyclodextrin.

P. Jeremy Wang, MD, PhD, was promoted to Professor of Developmental Biology.

Emily Zug, CVT, received the Harcum Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Harry Rozmiarek

in memoriam

Harry Rozmiarek, DVM, PhD

Emeritus Professor and Director of University Laboratory Animal Resources, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Sadly, we report the sudden passing of Harry Rozmiarek, DVM, PhD, on June 15, 2013. For those of us who knew Harry, this was shocking and very sad news.

Harry was highly active in many professional circles throughout his entire career. Directly and indirectly, Harry's influence and leadership has benefitted many professionals and organizations across the globe. He was a mentor to many of us in the field and helped establish guiding principles and performance standards for organizations in which he was active.

Harry grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin and then the University of Minnesota, where he received his DVM. He was awarded a PhD from Ohio State University and was a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. It was during this time that Harry forged strong principles on improving the welfare standards for the care and use of lab animals.

Harry had a successful career in the US Army, achieving the rank of Colonel. He then served as Professor of Laboratory Animal Medicine and Director of University Laboratory Animal Resources at Ohio State, followed by 17 years at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where he served as Professor and Director of University Laboratory Animal Resources. He most recently was the Director of Laboratory Animal Medicine and Facilities at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Harry was a particularly successful leader because he always found a way to build consensus and persuade and influence others through a common sense approach to complex issues and problems. His quiet demeanor did not belie his underlying knowledge and depth of understanding of the matters at hand. Many of us in the field learned this intuitively through our interactions with Harry. He has directly or indirectly touched many of us in our careers, and his influence will last for many years in the future.

Harry is survived by his wife, Jane, and their four children and grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Harry Rozmiarek Animal Science Scholarship to be presented to graduates of Pulaski High School in Pulaski, Wisconsin – Harry's alma mater. Donations may be mailed to Salem Five Bank, 495 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

— DR. HILTON KLEIN, V'80, AND DR. BILL COLE

Ellen Puré Named Chair of the Department of Animal Biology

On July 1, 2013, Ellen Puré, PhD, assumed the position of Chair of the Department of Animal Biology at Penn Vet.

As Chair, Dr. Puré will lead the department in performing pioneering basic and translational research, oversee the training of veterinary students, and participate in undergraduate and graduate training programs at Penn Vet.

Penn Vet's Department of Animal Biology is recognized as one of the foremost basic science departments in veterinary medicine. The department is home to 24 faculty members whose research interests fall within the fields of cancer biology, development, stem cell biology and regenerative medicine, neuroscience, metabolism and endocrinology, and the biochemical basis of disease.

Penn Vet's unique proximity to world-class academic veterinary and medical hospitals provides ample opportunity for collaboration, resulting in cutting-edge basic and comparative translational research to advance both animal and human medicine. Forging these connections across disciplines and departments is


particularly important to Dr. Puré, as she looks to align the basic science effort with the clinical mission of Penn Vet.

"I look forward to driving the direction of our research based on the most prevalent and difficult problems facing veterinary medicine, and then taking what we learn and translating it into utility in the clinic," said Dr. Puré. "The incredible quality of the science both in the animal biology department and at the school as a whole is exciting. And no matter how diverse biology is, there are always common threads that bring together the best minds across multiple disciplines. I am eager to engage with my colleagues in this interdisciplinary manner so that we can tackle not only organ-specific diseases, but also the cadre of systemic and multi-organ diseases."

Dr. Puré will also play an integral role in keeping Penn Vet at the cutting-edge of technology. "My goal is to complement the state-of-the-art imaging that exists here at the molecular and cellular level by bringing it to whole animals. This way, when we study disease in animals, we are doing it in the intact animal over time – just as we do in patients." To initiate this important effort, Dr. Puré is bringing in new imaging modalities – bioluminescence imaging and, soon to follow, ultrasound – to analyze disease progression and evaluate drug/treatment efficacy in animals in a non-invasive manner.

Prior to joining Penn Vet, Dr. Puré served as Professor of Cellular and Molecular Oncogenesis at The Wistar Institute and as Wistar Professor of Medicine, Microbiology, and Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.

The Puré Laboratory studies the molecular and cellular mechanisms of inflammation and fibrosis, which play significant roles in a wide array of diseases, including atherosclerosis, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary fibrosis, and cancer.

Dr. Puré first joined The Wistar Institute in 1992 as an associate professor, arriving from the Rockefeller University, where she was an assistant professor from 1984 to 1992 and assistant dean from 1988 to 1990. She received her bachelor's degree from Washington University and a PhD in immunology from the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical School. 



“I look forward to driving the direction of our research based on the most prevalent and difficult problems facing veterinary medicine.”

—Ellen Puré, PhD



Changing the Lives of Native Americans, One Animal at a Time

BY DR. LAWRENCE GERSON, V'75

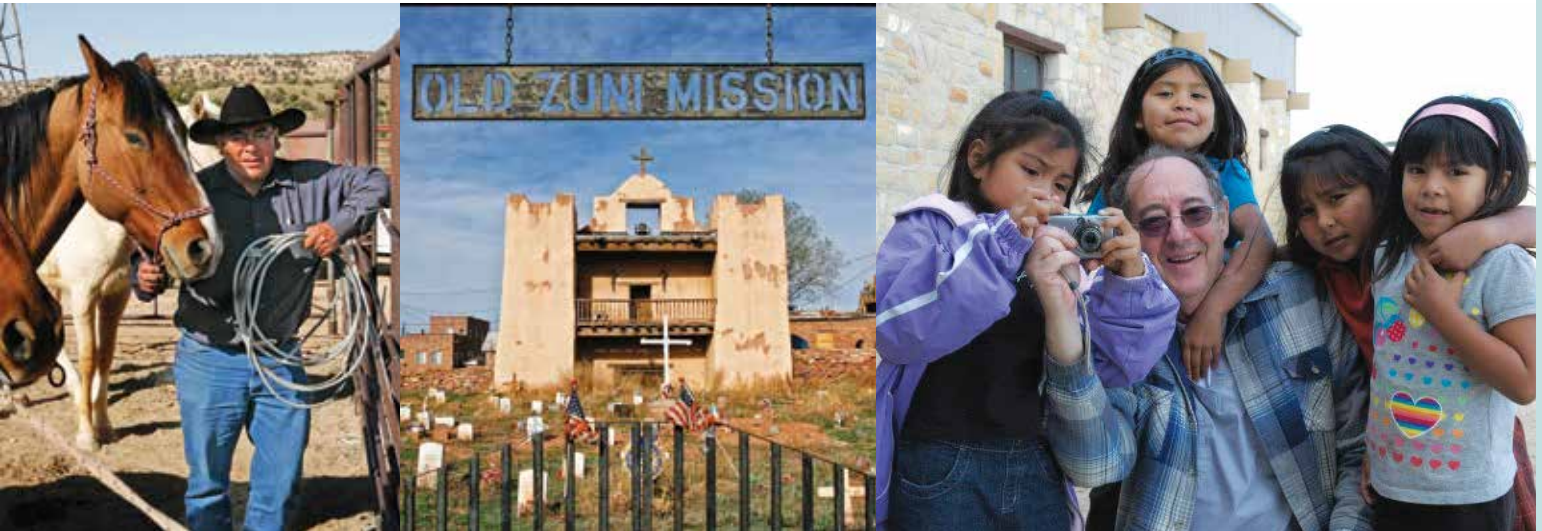
Many of our graduates contribute to academics and research in the veterinary profession. Others are on the front line providing clinical care to a variety of species. Some Penn Vet alumni contribute financially to annual giving, the Pet Memorial Program, and our Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Dr. Ted Robinson, V'74, leads our profession in an outstanding way, showing a true commitment to continuing education. Having been a lifelong leader in the Bucks-Montgomery Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Robinson has proven his dedication to the profession through action. He has been involved in the Delaware Valley Academy of Veterinary Medicine since its inception, and currently serves on the Board of Directors, bringing additional veterinary education on a wide variety of topics to southeastern Pennsylvania. Dr. Robinson also is the organizer of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's (PVMA) Winter Seminar, where he and his wife, Leni, lead a group of travelers to destinations in the Caribbean and other vacation locations for a week of continuing education and relaxation.

In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Robinson organizes two trips each year to Native American Indian reservations in the southwest. The trips are part of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation's animal welfare initiative called Native American Veterinary Services (NAVS). Since creating the program 12 years ago, Dr. Robinson has provided free veterinary care to the animals of a population without access to proper and affordable care. The trips are considered by many veterinarians, technicians, and students to be life-changing, and the bonds created among the participants last a lifetime.

Created in 2001, NAVS has grown from a few volunteers who visit one reservation to a dedicated team that visits multiple reservations for one to two weeks every spring and fall. Each October and April, a team comprising veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students, and support staff donate their time and skills to help the people and animals of the Hopi, Zuni, Kayenta, and Santo Domingo reservations in Arizona and New Mexico.

During each visit, temporary clinics are established to vaccinate, perform examinations, treat injuries, and spay and neuter domestic animals and pets. Mobile



veterinarians visit farms and ranches where thousands of farm animals, including horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs receive health checks and vaccinations, and are treated for internal and external parasites. All of this is provided at no cost to the people of the reservation.

Through this unique program, Penn Vet students have the opportunity to see firsthand how Native Americans live, as well as learn about their culture. Through participation in the program, students gain an appreciation for helping to change lives of the human population, one animal at a time. Since the NAVS program began, both the pet population and farm animals have benefited. By treating the animals and providing basic education to owners, there have been noticeable changes in the health of reservation animals. Many dogs and cats have been spayed and neutered, helping to control animal

overpopulation, and the standard of living on the reservations has improved with healthier animals bringing a higher price for livestock.

Brittany Watson, VMD, went on the NAVS trip as a Penn Vet student. "I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with the veterinarians involved in the program, and even more privileged to have interacted with the people and animals of the reservation. This is a program that inspires you and leaves you wanting to be a part of its future."

As we all know, veterinary medicine is not just about animals. Thanks to Dr. Ted Robinson, the people on the reservations benefit from and appreciate the help that Native American Veterinary Services provides. Both they and the participants are changed forever on this most important mission. 🍷

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Please consider designating Penn Vet #50178
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**Nominate a Classmate for
the Alumni Award of Merit
Deadline: December 15, 2013**

The Penn Vet Alumni Award of Merit recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the School of Veterinary Medicine, excellence in the veterinary profession, and community involvement. Professional achievements, community service, and other such accomplishments will be considered as secondary to service to the School. Up to 5 award winners will be selected. Awards are presented at the 2014 Penn Annual Conference. Visit www.vet.upenn.edu and click on ALUMNI AWARD OF MERIT under the ALUMNI tab to nominate someone today!



Dean's Alumni Council Welcomes New Members

HOWARD KRUM, V'92, MS, MA

Dr. Krum is an aquatic animal veterinarian and science writer. Along with canine anatomy, ruminant physiology, and small animal surgery, Dr. Krum studied aquatic animals at both the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole and the National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB). After graduating from Penn in 1992, a benefactor helped him create a veterinary internship working at NAIB. His good fortune continued when he was hired as the first full-time veterinarian for the New England Aquarium (NEAq) in Boston.

At NEAq, he worked with nearly every species under the sun — humpback whales, harbor seals, jellyfish, sea turtles, bluefin tuna, lobster, lumpfish, and herring. Subsequently, Dr. Krum signed on to help launch both the Georgia Aquarium and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. He has been featured on the PBS TV series *Scientific American Frontiers* with Alan Alda, and his work with stranded sea turtles, large whales, and dolphins has been recognized on NBC Nightly News, various regional news stations, and in dozens of newspaper outlets including the *Boston Globe*. In addition, his contributions to help create the world's largest aquarium were chronicled in the award-winning documentary, *Window to Wow/The Opening of the Georgia Aquarium* (produced by WXIA-TV Atlanta).

With a long-standing goal to combine his love for animals, science, and creative communication, Dr. Krum enrolled in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University, where he studied science writing, creative nonfiction, and fiction writing. He graduated in 2002 with a MA. He has published numerous scientific articles; penned chapters including "When Whale Sharks Fly" in *The Rhino with Glue-on Shoes and Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and Their Patients*; and authored *An Animal Life: The Beginning*, the first novel in a series written and illustrated by four veterinarians and inspired by their real-life experiences as classmates at Penn Vet. At present, he lives in Vermont with his wife, Mary Margaret, their dog, Mola, and kitten, Lucky George.




KRUM

DAN LANTZ, V'13

Currently serving as a rotating doctor at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital in Tinton Falls, NJ, Dr. Lantz serves at the class agent for the Penn Vet Class of 2013. He organized numerous social, service, professional, and traditional events in his role as class president and created the class e-newsletter titled "The Lucky '13." In addition, Dr. Lantz directed fundraising projects raising over \$20,000 for class events and projects, and he improved intra-school relationships by organizing a town hall event with the hospital director. Dr. Lantz also established the second-year-student weekly anatomy help sessions and addressed the families of first-year students about life as a veterinary student during Parents & Partners Day. He also served as an orientation student director for Penn Vet and was a coordinator for the SCAVMA Auction.

Dr. Lantz authored and illustrated a laboratory notebook for the University of Delaware anatomy course, designed for students interested in agriculture and pre-veterinary medicine. The notebook was installed for class use in February 2012. At Haverford College, he served as an organizer and instructor for Anatomy and Physiology Workshops, where he installed weekend workshops, introducing topics in anatomy and physiology for undergraduate juniors and seniors. Dr. Lantz also instructed lectures covering comparative anatomy and basic physiology of the major body systems, and collaborated with a VMD/PhD student to incorporate discussions on relevant research that related to the workshop topics.

Dr. Lantz's professional resume also includes serving as a student surgeon and technician with the Penn International Veterinary Student Association Mobile Vet Clinic, working as a veterinary technician at Centreville Veterinary Clinic in Delaware, and serving as an animal care intern at the Philadelphia Zoo.

He holds a BS, magna cum laude, in Animal Science from the University of Delaware. 



LANTZ

CLASS NOTES

1950s

After practicing in Tortola, BVI for thirty years, **David Baldwin, V'51**, retired in 2008. After the death of his wife, Phyllis, six years earlier, he married Catherine Swain and purchased a seven-acre mini farm in the Ocala National Forest where they now live. He has recovered from a right hip replacement and welcomes news or visits from old friends.

John Emerson, V'54, is consulting for Lampire Biologicals of Pipersville, PA. He helped start this business years ago while still in practice. **Doris Sell Emerson, V'54**, is selling real estate with Caldwell Banker Hearthside in Ottsville, PA. Both are well and living in Doylestown.

1960s

Elinor Brandt, V'63, sold her practice in 2005 and worked part-time for a few years. Currently, Dr. Brandt volunteers for Wildlife Waystation in the Angeles Forest north of Los Angeles, and for FixNation, spaying and neutering stray cats and cats belonging to low-income owners.

Bob Schappert, V'64, and Nancy Schappert, DH'62, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 13, 2013.

John F. Allen, V'68, married longtime partner of 35 years Mark A. Beitel on November 11, 2012, in Vancouver, BC.

Richard B. Bankert, V'68, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Buffalo, has received the 2013 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, which recognizes the work of those actively engaged in scholarly and creative pursuits beyond their teaching responsibilities. Dr. Bankert, an internationally recognized expert working at the translational intersection between clinical medicine and basic science, has made major contributions to biomedical research.

1970s

Donald W. Stremme, V'75, AQUAVET® Director since 2008, has created a new five-week course on aquarium medicine called AQUAVET®III. The venues

and partners include the Georgia Aquarium (Atlanta, GA), the University of Georgia (Athens, GA), and Dolphinaris (Cancún, Mexico). The first class completed all of this work in July 2013. More information is available at www.aquavet.info.

Tom Gemmill, V'77, was recognized by Building One Pennsylvania for helping to launch a "housing mobility program" with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the office of US Senator Bob Casey, Jr. Dr. Gemmill received the award for promoting regional fair housing while dismantling practices that reinforce poverty.

Linda Rhodes, V'78, was the founding CEO for a company developing innovative new drugs for companion animals. Last year, she transitioned to the role of Chief Scientific Officer, and in July 2013, the company became public, trading under the NASDAQ symbol PETX. She is also proud that this year included another milestone - her son's graduation from college. He will be heading to law school in the fall. In her spare time, Dr. Rhodes enjoys kayaking and being on the water (and sometimes under the water).

1980s

The daughter of **Andrew Nebzydoski, V'84**, and **Patricia Morgan, V'85**, Grace Nebzydoski, was accepted into and is a member of the Penn Vet Class of 2017.

Peter D. Nelson, V'84, and **Michelle C. Bartus, V'84**, are husband and wife co-owners of Valley Veterinary Service, Inc. located in Belle Vernon, PA. On April 18, 2013, they were honored as "Business of the Year" by the Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce. Honorees are selected on the basis of contribution to the community, surviving the ups and downs of the economy, and employing local residents. Valley Veterinary Service, Inc. has 14 employees with Drs. Nelson and Bartus at the helm for 29 years. There has been a veterinarian at their location for 50 years; the original clinic was started by Michelle's late father, **Frank A. Bartus, V'52**.

Shelley R. Epstein, V'85, had a case report published in JAAHA in the Nov/Dec 2011 issue titled "Clinical Resolution of Nasal Aspergillosis Following Therapy with a Homeopathic Remedy in a Dog." It was the first homeopathy case report published in JAAHA. Dr. Epstein is in private practice at the Wilmington Animal Hospital in Delaware and serves on the editorial committee for the

Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association.

Teresa J. Sylvina, V'85, received a US Fulbright Scholar Award as an Independent Scholar last year to Tanzania, and a second Fulbright Award (renewal) for this coming year.

Lynn M. Walker, V'87, has been living in Vermont for 10 years, where she built the largest specialty practice in Vermont with Dr. Mark Saunders. They have several Penn Vet connections working with them, including an oncologist, internist, cardiologist, and behaviorist.

Ellen N. Behrend, V'88, was awarded the 2013 Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teaching Award (previously the Norden award) for the second time. Dr. Behrend was also appointed to the Morris Animal Foundation Small Animal Advisory Board.

1990s

Marian Siegel, V'90, traveled to Alaska in September to produce and film a documentary about Canine Comfort, a rescue group in Aniak, AK, whose mission is to save Alaska's forgotten dogs. She will be teaming up with Donna Quante, a friend and videographer from her days at Maryland Public Television, for this project. Dr. Siegel used to work for Maryland Public Television as a Film and Videotape Editor and Director before changing careers.

Michael Dym, V'91, is Associate Veterinarian at Palms West Veterinary Hospital in Loxahatchee, FL, specializing in classical homeopathy and holistic veterinary medicine.

Donald L. Neiffer, V'92, was recently awarded the Certificate in One Health following completion of a graduate level program focused on bringing together international public health, veterinary, and environmental professionals with involvement or interest in global One Health activities. The program is administered by the College of Public Health and Health Professions of the University of Florida. Dr. Neiffer is currently enrolled in the Master of Health Science, One Health Concentration program. Dr. Neiffer has also completed requirements for Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist status through the Chi Institute and the China National Society of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Neiffer and the staff of Disney's Animals, Science, and the Environment are starting to incorporate acupuncture into the treatment regimens for selected non-domestic species, as well as domesticated collection animals. Dr. Neiffer is a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine and is currently employed as Veterinary Operations Manager for the Department of Animal Health, Disney's Animals, Science, and the Environment in Orlando, FL.

Kathy Sneider, V'95, recently opened her own practice in Plymouth and Pembroke, MA. Blue Ribbon Veterinary Services is a general small animal practice with a special interest in canine reproduction. Dr. Sneider is the owner and sole practitioner.

Leah Knode, V'93, founder of House Paws In-Home Veterinary Care, has expanded its practice, welcoming a second veterinarian and adding horses and cattle to its list of clientele.

2000s

Liz Arbittier, V'01, is the newest Staff Veterinarian with the New Bolton Center Field Service. She has been a senior associate for 12 years in a busy, high-end private equine practice and is certified in veterinary acupuncture from the Chi Institute in Florida. Her practice focus has been on sports medicine with a special interest in pre-purchase examinations. She also enjoys keeping the aging sport horse sound and happy.

Todd Calsyn, V'01, and **Dana Harkin Calsyn, V'01**, welcomed their son, Nathaniel Lee Calsyn, on June 6, 2013, in Los Angeles, CA.

Meagan Duffy, V'04, has recently taken two courses at the Chi Institute, and has been awarded her certification in veterinary acupuncture (CVA) and Tui-Na (CVTP). She has opened a new business, Five Elements Veterinary Care (www.5elementsvetcare.com), for these services in the Washington, DC metro area.

Siobhan Haney, V'04, and **Kate Vickery, V'04**, along with **Craig Clifford**, Penn Vet resident in 2003, have started an Oncology Service and Clinical Trials Department at Hope Veterinary Specialists in Malvern, PA.

Eric J. Matkowski, V'04, is now working with **Sara Organist, V'04**, at Animals' Hospital of Levittown.

Abbey Jones, V'05, has opened her own practice. Schultzsville Animal Hospital in Clarks Summit, PA will focus on primary preventive care, including vaccinations, general surgeries, spaying and neutering, dental procedures with dental radiograph equipment, digital body radiograph equipment, and diagnostic services for dogs and cats. Her practice will also have a full in-house lab.

Erica Tramuta-Drobnis, V'05, relocated to Zionsville, PA with her husband who started an internal medicine residency at Lehigh Valley Health Network in June of 2012. She is currently working at a specialty and emergency practice in Clark Summit, PA. Dr. Tramuta-Drobnis was deployed for Hurricane Sandy with the Federal National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT-2) and spent time in both New Jersey and New York City. She is also a member of the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team through the AVMA.

Bonnie Valiente, V'06, became engaged to Robert Wright of West Chester while on a horse and carriage ride under a covered bridge in Chester County. Dr. Valiente is head of a mobile veterinary practice in the Philadelphia area.

Caleb Frankel, V'08, has launched a new project called VMD Technology (www.vmdtechnology.com), a free website for veterinarians, vet students, nurses, and staff about ways to use technology in veterinary medicine.

Sabrina Goscilo, V'08, married Justin Chambers on April 13, 2013, in Lancaster, PA, where they currently own a home. Dr. Goscilo is an Associate Veterinarian and the Medical Director of East York Veterinary Center in York, PA.

Kimberly Boudwin, V'09, is now Director of Shelter Medicine at the Delaware County SPCA, a lifesaving animal welfare organization based in Media, outside of Philadelphia.

Rachel Toaff-Rosenstein, V'09, and Arye Rosenstein, along with big brother and sister Matan and Gefen, welcomed baby boy Naveh Hillel Rosenstein on March 21, 2013, weighing 7 lbs, 5 oz. Aside from motherly duties, Dr. Toaff-Rosenstein continues to make progress on her PhD at UC Davis, focused on beef cattle sickness behavior and welfare. The family resides in Berkeley, CA.

Diane Ford, V'10, is currently practicing in Palmyra, PA, as the owner/operator of Dr. Diane's Mobile Veterinary Service. Entering her third year as a practice owner, she is an ambulatory veterinarian, providing small and large animal services in the Central PA area. **Robin Heagy, V'13**, recently joined the practice as an Associate Veterinarian. Dr. Ford is also the Emergency On-Site Veterinarian for Penn National Race Course for daily morning training.

Brittany Watson Tisa, V'10, Director of Continuing Education Initiatives at Charleston Animal Society, is graduating with her PhD from the University of South Carolina School of Educational Leadership.

Amy Santonastaso, V'11, finished her Large Animal Rotating internship at Texas A&M in 2012. Last year, she worked in an equine private practice in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Dr. Santonastaso has started a three-year Equine Field Service Residency at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

RESIDENT & INTERN ALUMNI

Adrienne Bentley (intern 2003-2004, resident 2004-2007) has joined the Surgery Section at Penn Vet. Dr. Bentley will be a faculty member in orthopedics and soft tissue. She is a 2003 graduate of Tufts and has been practicing in a specialty practice in Southern California.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Sherwood Gerard, V'54, of Hartford, CT passed away on September 1, 2012. He served in the Air Force, attaining the rank of captain. After his service, Dr. Gerard returned to Hartford to set up his veterinary practices in Hartford and Bristol. He started the Hartford County Veterinary Association, serving as its first president. He was also active in the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, where he served as president, treasurer, and head of its health insurance program. After his retirement, he became active in the local bridge community, attaining the rank of Silver Life Master from the American Contract Bridge League.

George L. Anstadt, V'57, passed away on August 1, 2013. Dr. Anstadt was the owner of the Anstadt Animal Hospital in the Tipp City/New Carlisle area of Ohio, and until recently, still a practicing veterinarian. He helped establish the Upper Heights Veterinary Clinic in Huber Heights, OH and the All Pets Animal Hospital in Oakwood, OH. He was a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. Dr. Anstadt was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, whose career included the Aerospace Program/Mercury Project, a tour in Vietnam, and research in cardiovascular physiology. He is internationally recognized for developing the "Anstadt Heart Cup," which has saved lives.

Thomas J. Rogers, V'57, passed away on February 1, 2013. Dr. Rogers was a retired veterinarian, member of the St. Stephen Catholic Church, Rotarian, member of the Pennsylvania Veterinarian Medical Association and the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Association, and participant in the Trigg Co. Farmers Market.

CONTACT US

Calling all VMDs and former Penn Vet interns and residents! Have you received a promotion, gotten married, had a baby, received an award, discovered a research finding, or opened a new business? Please share your good news with us! Email the alumni office at kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu or write to us at Alumni Relations, Penn Veterinary Alumni Office, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172E, Philadelphia, PA 19104.



Alumni Weekend 2013 was a wonderful three-day celebration with plenty of hugs and “you look great” comments to go around!

Penn Veterinary Alumni Weekend kicked off with a dynamic Dean’s Alumni Council meeting on Friday. That afternoon, over 70 people enjoyed tours of the New Bolton Center facilities followed by the Dean’s Welcome Reception at Allam House. The weather held out long enough for everyone to enjoy delicious food and drink on the lawn. Reunion classes gathered for photos with their class flags and several classes headed off for special dinners at locations around Kennett Square.

The Saturday festivities brought alumni and their families to the Philadelphia campus for a morning Coffee and Conversation session, during which alumni were able to speak with current faculty members. They then headed to the Courtyard to enjoy a good old-fashioned cookout under the tent, complete with live music.

The weekend culminated with a brand new Alumni Weekend event – a Penn Veterinary tent party at the Willowdale Steeplechase in Kennett Square. The turnout was excellent for this first-time event! Alumni and their families enjoyed an amazing view of the race track, delicious food, prizes for best hats, and much more.

We hope you will join us for Alumni Weekend 2014, which will include even more surprises and fun events: May 17-19, 2014. Classes ending in a “4” or a “9” will be celebrating a reunion! Interested in helping plan your reunion? Contact us today at kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu!

AVMA Alumni Reception

This year's Penn Vet AVMA Alumni Reception took alumni out of the Convention Center to experience a bit of Chicago history at a National Historic Landmark. The Glessner House Museum was designed by noted American architect Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887. Alumni were able to tour this internationally recognized architectural treasure.

Guests enjoyed delicious food and drink in the coach house and courtyard while relishing a wonderful performance by Penn Veterinary alumna and jazz singer **Ava Logan, V'85**. Dr. Logan acquired her VMD at Penn Vet, leading to a career as a research specialist – not your usual background for a jazz artist, to say the least! In addition to performing in clubs and concert halls in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Florida, she has taken her act to Paris, Rome, and Moscow.

See you in Denver for AVMA 2014!



MAY 2014

alumni weekend

PENN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Save the Date for your Class Reunion

May 17-19, 2014

Come back to your veterinary school alma mater May 17-19, 2014. Connect with classmates, catch up with old friends, and celebrate. We look forward to welcoming you back!

Penn Vet salutes our alumni who have served or are currently serving in the military. We honor the dedication of these brave men and women who serve our country.



O'CONNOR

Karen A. O'Connor, V'04 I received an Army scholarship that paid for the last two years of veterinary school. In return, I served three years of active duty in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. I was stationed at Fort Stewart, GA, and served as the Branch Chief. This meant that I oversaw the Veterinary Treatment Facilities at Fort Stewart in Georgia, Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA, and Parris Island Marine Corps Base in Beaufort, SC. Not only did I serve as a general practitioner in these clinics, but I also took care of the military working dogs and was in charge of the Food Inspection Sections. I also traveled to places including the Bahamas, Ecuador, and Panama to perform inspections on food facilities that were providing sustenance to troops at various sites. Of course, all of this was in addition to duties and training required by all members of the Army. After active duty, I served five years on reserve status, starting with a rank of Second Lieutenant and completing my eight-year commitment as a Major.



FENCHAK

Major Brian G. Fenchak, V'99 Fenchak recently completed a combat tour in Afghanistan.

Patricia Brown, V'78 I was fortunate to receive an Air Force scholarship for the last three years of veterinary school. Upon graduation, I was commissioned. My first assignment was in Zaragoza, Spain. I spent two years inspecting food and providing veterinary care for the military working dogs and pets of the Air Force members assigned to the base. I was selected by the Air Force to attend the residency and Masters degree program in laboratory animal medicine at the Hershey Medical Center of Penn State University while on active duty. The next four years of service were spent at the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, MD, in support of the Navy's biomedical research efforts focused on animal models of disease. Following my service in the Air Force, I transferred to the US Public Health Service and served at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for an additional 23 years of active duty in the uniformed services, achieving the rank of Captain (equivalent to Army Colonel). During my service at NIH, I worked as a Clinical Veterinarian and Program Director at the National Cancer Institute, as a Training Coordinator and Deputy Director of the Office of Animal Care and Use, and as the Director of the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, until converting from active duty status to a civil service position in 2011.



BROWN

Greg Cusanno, V'70 During veterinary school, I signed up with the Air Force Veterinary Corps. The Vietnam War was going on at the time and there were rumors that the Army was drafting veterinarians. I had no particular post-graduation plans and the program I signed up for was only a two-year commitment. I was fortunate to receive a stateside assignment doing base veterinarian duties, including food inspection, food service sanitation, complete military dog care, and zoonosis control for pets on the base. The two-year commitment turned into 26 years of service. After discharge from active duty in 1973, I took a position in the Air Force Reserves, serving as Public Health Officer at a base in Pittsburgh, PA and then in Willow Grove, PA. I retired in 1996 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



CUSANNO

W. H. Crawford, V'59 I was drafted during the Korean War between my sophomore and junior year at Penn State. I was deferred because I had been accepted for advanced ROTC. I finished my pre-vet degree at Penn State, entered the service as a Second Lieutenant, and served two years in the Army Signal Corps, most of which was spent in Germany. I was on orders to Korea, but they signed the Peace Treaty just before I was to ship out, so that is why I went to Germany instead.

I was released in June of 1955. While filling out my application for Vet School at the Penn Vet library, the Dean's secretary informed me that I had already been accepted for the fall class. The money I received for continuing education from the service helped pay for my years in vet school. I am very thankful for what the Army taught me and for the financial support.



HOPWOOD

Ronald Hopwood, V'58 Ronald T. Hopwood served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps from 1958 to 1960 at the Biological Warfare Laboratories at Fort Detrick, MD.

Robert L. Berger, V'46 Bob graduated from Penn Vet when he was only 23. He was in an accelerated program sponsored by the Army, known as ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program). At the time, Penn Vet only required two years of undergraduate education, and the ASTP reduced the vet program to three years instead of four. Members of the ASTP were uniformed soldiers attending to critical programs such as veterinary medicine. Bob's Army service as a veterinarian included accompanying shipments of horses to Europe after the war was over. Upon graduation, he was sent on a ship with horses to restock Europe.

A Day in the Life of a Penn Vet Alum

I have a confession to make.

They say “you don’t know what you don’t know.” Well, when I started my job as Director of Alumni Relations at Penn Vet, I knew a lot about the field of alumni relations and I thought I knew a lot about veterinary medicine. After a few months on the job, I realized I had no idea.

What our alumni do for animals, both large and small, as well as for human beings, our food system, medical research, government regulation, and the future of all living things is nothing short of amazing. So I said to myself... “What can I do to learn more about what our alumni do every day? What can I do to share with current veterinary students the work of our alumni? What can I do to tell the stories of some of the most amazing alumni I have ever met?”

From these questions came the birth of the “Day in the Life of a Penn Vet Alum” project. As I embark on this exciting journey, I go with an open mind. All I know is that it is going to be an adventure of learning and exploration, and I just hope I do the stories justice. I am open to any and all opportunities, knowing that even if I follow alumni doing similar work, it won’t matter – each and every story will be unique.

I invite you to visit the Day in the Life blog under the alumni tab at www.vet.upenn.edu to read more about these exciting experiences. A sampling of some of my adventures is below.



Join me as I spend the day with Quakertown Veterinary Clinic’s Nate Harvey, V’03, learning the ins and outs (literally) of the dairy cow.

My typical day usually begins by donning professional attire and heels, then fighting traffic from New Castle, Delaware to Philadelphia, or standing on the train platform waiting for the express SEPTA train into University City. This day was different. I put on my jeans, a flannel shirt, and my hiking boots, and punched the Quakertown address into my GPS.



P. Mark Lopez, V’03, and Elizabeth (Ballard) Lopez, V’03, own and operate Wholesome Dairy Farms in Berks County, PA – a grass-fed dairy farm producing milk, yogurt, Greek yogurt, kefir, and cheeses.

If I were to come back as a cow, I would want to be part of the Wholesome Dairy Farm herd. Nestled in a beautiful, lush green countryside are some of the happiest cows I have ever seen.



Spend the day with me – along with Jukuu and Dhoruba the giraffes, George the peccary, Mandy the armadillo, and other furry, scaly, feathered friends – as I shadow Adam Denish, V’93, at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, PA.

Father to 13-year-old twins, double black belt in martial arts, board member of the Holocaust Awareness Museum, owner and operator of two practices and a kennel, lab animal veterinarian for Arcadia University, creator of a startup company with a fellow Penn Vet alumnus to develop skin products for pets, and Director of Veterinary Medicine for the Elmwood Park Zoo...Dr. Adam Denish has a lot of energy! His enthusiasm for the profession was contagious during the day I spent with him and his vet tech, Cierra, at the Elmwood Park Zoo.



If you want to see a fast-moving and passionate staff, spend a day at the Delaware County SPCA. The day I spent with DelCo SPCA surgeon Gia Croce, V’92, was an intense day of surgery that she described as a “rocking chair day,” after doing 77 surgeries with another surgeon the previous day!

Being a surgeon is what Gia Croce loves...and it shows. She cheerfully chatted about the shelter with me while conducting back-to-back spays and neuters. Her impressive surgical skills were evident as she moved from large dogs to small kittens in the blink of an eye.

Visit the alumni tab at www.vet.upenn.edu to read the *Day in the Life* blog entries in their entirety. To participate in the program, visit the Alumni section of the website and click Get Involved.

Penn Vet alumni and donors receive *Bellwether* magazine free of charge.



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OCTOBER 2013

October 12, 2013

Animal Lovers Lecture Series, a free educational lecture series for small animal owners
“COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CARE”

A panel discussion with Drs. Michelle Giuffrida, David Holt, Erika Krick, and Alexander Reiter
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion
380 South University Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

October 23, 2013

Wednesday Exchange, a bi-monthly interactive continuing education opportunity for primary care veterinarians
“ACUTE VOMITING: TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT?”

Presented by Dr. Wilfried Mai, Chief, Section of Radiology
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion
380 South University Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

NOVEMBER 2013

November 5, 2013

First Tuesdays Lecture Series, a free educational lecture series for horse owners and horse enthusiasts
“TEN IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS OF HEALTH-RELATED NATURAL HORSE BEHAVIOR”

Presented by Dr. Sue McDonnell, Head, Equine Behavior Lab
New Bolton Center
382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

DECEMBER 2013

December 3, 2013

First Tuesdays Lecture Series, a free educational lecture series for horse owners and horse enthusiasts
“LEAPING FROM BENCH TO STALL, CAGE OR BEDSIDE”

Presented by Dr. Thomas Schaer, Senior Research Investigator, Comparative Orthopaedic Research Laboratory
New Bolton Center
382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

December 9, 2013

PENN VET ALUMNI RECEPTION AT AAEP CONVENTION

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center
Room: Jackson D
2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

December 11, 2013

Wednesday Exchange, a bi-monthly interactive continuing education opportunity for primary care veterinarians
“EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE”

Presented by Dr. Ken Drobatz, Chief, Section of Critical Care
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion
380 South University Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

JANUARY 2014

January 4, 2014

Animal Lovers Lecture Series, a free educational lecture series for small animal owners
“ADVANCES IN TREATMENTS FOR CATS AND DOGS WITH KIDNEY DISEASE”

Presented by Dr. Lillian Aronson, Renal Transplant Program Founder and Coordinator, and Dr. JD Foster, Staff Veterinarian
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion
380 South University Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

January 7, 2014

First Tuesdays Lecture Series, a free educational lecture series for horse owners and horse enthusiasts
“ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION OF FETAL WELL-BEING IN LATE PREGNANCY: IS MY FOAL AT RISK?”

Presented by Dr. Virginia Reef, Chief, Section of Sports Medicine and Imaging
New Bolton Center
382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

January 19, 2014

PENN VET ALUMNI RECEPTION AT NAVC CONVENTION

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
The Orlando World Center Marriott
8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821