

Award for Dr. Allam



Dr. Mark W. Allam, V'32, former dean and Professor Emeritus of Surgery, received the John Whitley Eckman Award for Outstanding Service to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The award was presented on January 18, 1996 by Dr. Robert H. Bradley, Jr., past president and chairman of the awards committee. Following is the citation:

"Mark Whittier Allam was born in Fernwood, Pennsylvania. The two happy circumstances, his middle name and the woody sound of his birthplace, may be in part responsible for this remarkable man's happy disposition and optimistic turn of mind. Anyone who loves animals is a lovable person, understanding, as he must, those who cannot communicate with words. Full of fun, full of wisdom — Mark Allam! We salute him; we love him!" Those words were written over 20 years ago by Dr. Katherine Boucot Sturgis, the first Lady president of our College. They are certainly still true today. I don't think anyone who has had the privilege of knowing this wonderful man would ever disagree.

Dr. Mark Allam was elected to the Fellowship on March 28, 1972, the first Veterinarian, in fact the first non-M.D., to receive that distinction, and may I say a happy distinction for the College as well. Over the many years of his associa-

tion with us, Dr. Allam has served the College well on many diverse committees, as Chairman of the Committee on Audit, and as a member of the Council, our governing board, where he still sits as Councillor Emeritus. He maintains a low profile, but his opinions always count, especially in Harrisburg where he is held in highest esteem. Formerly Dean of the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania, he was responsible for the creation of the New Bolton Center, a world renown center for animal husbandry and research.

In conclusion, I will again echo Dr. Sturgis's sentiments: Mark, we salute you! We love you! Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in applauding Dr. Mark Whittier Allam as the College of Physicians of Philadelphia awards him the John Whitley Eckman Award for Outstanding Service. ■

From the Dean



Following are remarks delivered on March 5, 1996, by Dean Alan M. Kelly to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee.

I wish to thank the Committee for your past support. You and your predecessors have provided the School with an appropriation for almost 90 years. This support recognizes the special contributions Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine makes to the economy of Pennsylvania and especially to the Commonwealth's #1 industry, agriculture.

Nevertheless, I am troubled to tell you that the School is once again threatened by the funding level proposed in the Governor's budget. For Fiscal Year 1997, the Governor submitted a budget

for the School of \$15,098,000, which is \$5,609,000 or 27% less than the appropriation of \$20,707,000 received in the present fiscal year. The amount proposed is virtually the same as the School received in the 1988-89 academic year, eight years ago. Adjusted for inflation, \$15 million in 1989 is worth approximately \$11 million today.

Cuts of this magnitude will damage the School irrevocably. Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine has the reputation of being the premier veterinary school in the world. Figure 1 outlines one measure upon which our reputation is based: listed are the numbers of papers that have been published by Penn Veterinary School faculty during the past twelve years in *Nature* and *Science*, probably the two most prestigious scientific journals in the world, compared to all other veterinary schools throughout the world. We produced 40% of the papers contributed by veterinary schools, our nearest rival produced just 5% of the papers. When compared to medical schools in the Commonwealth the results are equally

favorable and are an eloquent statement of the quality of the Veterinary School faculty.

Unfortunately, our reputation as the leading veterinary school will be lost and will not be recovered in our lifetime if the Governor's proposals are sustained. Furthermore, a more predictable line of funding must be found for the School cannot survive as a quality institution with the roller coaster financing it has been received in the past several years; planning is futile, faculty and student morale is undermined, recruitment or replacement of new faculty is suspended and fund raising from the private sector, upon which we are extremely dependent, is crippled.

The School is the only school of veterinary medicine in the Commonwealth. It is also one of Pennsylvania's great bargains. Financing for almost all of the land and buildings at the 600 acre New Bolton Center campus and at the School's Philadelphia campus has come from private sources. Today, this physical plant is valued at approximately \$350

million. At virtually every other veterinary school in the U.S. the physical plant, land, buildings and maintenance, come from state funds as does 60 to 70% of the operating budget. Although it is part of a private university, our School functions in every respect as the Commonwealth's veterinary school, but in contrast to other schools we ask for only 39% of our operating budget from the Commonwealth. This is possible because we have learned to be entrepreneurial; we raise more resources from the private sector than any other veterinary school in the U.S.; we generate more income from our hospitals than any other veterinary school in the world; and we have more competitive research grants than any other veterinary school. These grants are important to our academic program in many ways, including the fact that they significantly offset our salary and overhead costs. In view of this, it is discouraging that the Governor's budget seeks to reduce Commonwealth support to just 25% of our operating budget. Regrettably, we are also forced to charge three times the average level of tuition for veterinary education in the U.S. The disparity is illustrated in Chart 4 in your handout and Chart 5 depicts our growing concerns over the starting level of indebtedness of our graduates. In the present fiscal year we provided all Pennsylvania residents with scholarships of \$1,100 and in our appropriation request seek scholarship funds to further offset our rate of tuition by an additional \$2,500 in scholarships to Pennsylvania residents. This critical need is our highest priority. Unfortunately, there is no hope that we can maintain even our current level of scholarships for Pennsylvania residents if the proposed budget is enacted.

If enacted, the Governor's proposed budget would damage not only the School, but also Pennsylvania's multi-billion dollar food animal industry, an industry that plays a vital role in Pennsylvania's economy. An abundant, cheap food supply is essential to the stability of the nation's economy; food is America's major commodity of foreign exchange. The veterinary profession provides the first line of defense in protecting the nation's supplies of food of animal origin. Veterinary research has

resulted in the eradication of a multitude of animal diseases including foot and mouth disease, swine fever, glanders, brucellosis, and bovine tuberculosis; the latter three diseases are transmissible from animals to man.

NAFTA, GATT and the 1996 Farm Bill clearly show that American agriculture must rely more than ever on research and bio-technology if it is to increase food production and remain competitive in a global economy. Through its educational, research and clinical service programs, the School of Veterinary Medicine contributed directly to the productivity of Pennsylvania agriculture so that it can compete in the global marketplace.

Disease, both clinical and sub-clinical, remains the major factor limiting animal productivity in Pennsylvania. The School conducts an active program of research into the causes and control of animal disease. This program includes research on Lyme disease, on bovine leukemia that is endemic in Pennsylvania dairy herds and on Johne's disease, a disease that annually costs Pennsylvania agriculture more than \$6 million a year. It is worth noting that recent research suggests that the organism responsible for causing Johne's disease in cattle may also be involved in the pathogenesis of Crohn's disease in man.

Because animal production is so directly a consequence of animal health, reproductive efficiency, nutrition and management practices, the Center for Animal Health and Productivity was established at New Bolton in 1986 with a mandate from the Commonwealth to develop and apply technology geared at improving the productivity and efficiency of Pennsylvania's food-animal industries. The Center is concerned with the economics of the animal industry and has focused on Pennsylvania's \$1.5 billion dairy industry, the largest sector of the State's agriculture industry. Faculty at the Center have garnered an international reputation for their contributions to the dairy industry. They also address critical environmental concerns facing the dairy industry in relation to farm run off and nitrogen pollution of streams and rivers in Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay.

So that we may more adequately

address the continuing needs of Pennsylvania's dairy farmers, the School is presently building a new state-of-the-art dairy at New Bolton Center, the Marshak Dairy. The fundamental goal is to help Pennsylvania's dairy farmers survive in a very difficult economic climate. The proposed budget will compromise our ability to fulfill this goal, to develop more advanced methods for the industry, to train personnel who will promote these methods in the field and to equip the Marshak dairy facility.

Recently, faculty in the Center for Animal Health and Productivity have expanded their work to the swine industry and in collaboration with other faculty in the School are now attempting to promote Aquaculture, fish farming, in the Commonwealth. This industry has the potential to grow into a billion dollar industry in Pennsylvania and is particularly interesting as it can be located in an urban setting where it can contribute to urban renewal.

The School runs the most productive poultry diagnostic lab in the State performing approximately 2/3 of the disease surveillance tests in Pennsylvania. As a result, Dr. Robert Eckroade and his colleagues were instrumental in diagnosing and controlling the devastating avian influenza epidemic that threatened the entire nation's poultry industry several years ago. Their early diagnosis saved Pennsylvania's poultry industry. If the smooth running of this high quality lab is hindered through lack of funds, what happens when the next new or re-emerging disease threatens Pennsylvania's \$500 million poultry industry?

Today, the poultry diagnostic lab addresses major concerns of food safety involving salmonella contamination of poultry meat and eggs. This is critically important for the industry, and also for the well being of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

In these and many other ways the School contributes to the economy of Pennsylvania and to the needs of its consumer. Unfortunately, all of these initiatives will be compromised if the proposed budget is enacted.

More than fifty percent of homes in Pennsylvania have a companion animal,

Continued on page 4

Dean – continued from page 3

usually a dog or a cat. For many in our society, especially the lonely, the growing population of lonely senior citizens, and for the physically infirmed, pets play an immensely important role in terms of mental and emotional health. Beyond this, companion animals help millions of people cope with the everyday stresses of modern living. What happens when these animals become sick? Do we as a society feel an obligation to ensure that they are appropriately cared for? I believe that the overwhelming sentiment among Pennsylvanians is that animal ownership and proper care go hand in hand. Penn's Veterinary School meets this need by educating more than 70% of the veterinarians practicing in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania veterinarians refer difficult cases to our small animal hospital, including dogs in the canine corps of police departments, guide dogs for the blind, and valuable zoo animal collections. The School provides round-the-clock emergency care for injured and

acutely sick animals. In 1995 more than 9,000 animals were treated in our emergency rooms.

The School has the largest basic science enterprise of any veterinary school in the U.S., and has made profound contributions to advancing human health. There are many examples, but one of the most significant is the work of Dr. Ralph Brinster who pioneered the development of transgenic animals, animals that have had foreign genes permanently inserted into their DNA in such a way that the genes are expressed in and alter the characteristics of specific tissues producing traits that are transmitted from generation to generation. It is widely recognized that this work represents one of the most significant advances in biological sciences of the 20th century. Dr. Brinster's work has profoundly advanced understanding of gene control in both the animal and plant kingdom, it is the foundation for current work on genetic engineering of crops and for cutting edge medical research on gene therapy. Because this technology has great potential for

advancing the animal industry we have secured private funding to create the Laboratory of Animal Genetics and Germ Cell Biology at New Bolton Center with Dr. Brinster as the senior scientist. With this unique initiative we hope to continue advancing the economy of Pennsylvania's animal industry but we will have great difficulty continuing to raise funds from the private sector and recruiting outstanding faculty if the scientific excellence of the School is threatened through lack of State support. Since the turn of the century, the General Assembly has played a fundamental role in nurturing this highly successful industrial/educational/research partnership. We recognize that we are in a period of austere budgets, but investment in the School of Veterinary Medicine is an investment in the future of animal agriculture – in productivity, efficiency and ability to compete in the world market. It is an investment in the economy of Pennsylvania that has and will continue to pay rich dividends. ■

1995 Saratoga Benefit Raised \$115,000

The August 1995 benefit "An Evening in Old Saratoga", raised \$115,000 for New Bolton Center, the large animal facility of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. The funds will be combined with the Lawrence E. Ensor, Jr. Memorial Fund to purchase a diagnostic medical ultrasound machine with color flow Doppler images. Presenting the check to Dr. Virginia Reef, associate professor of medicine and chief of sports medicine and imaging and Dean Alan Kelly at NBC was Mrs. Robert R. Landan, Jr., of Chester Springs, PA, who chaired the Gala Committee of "An Evening in Old Saratoga". Also shown in the picture are Dean Alan Kelly and Mr. Gilbert Sheck.

Through their efforts *A Weekend in Old Saratoga*, a non-profit group dedicated to raising funds for national and local causes, has donated over \$327,000 over

the last three years to New Bolton Center. The 1995 "An Evening in Old Saratoga" gala was dedicated to the memory of Lawrence E. Ensor, Jr., the late executive

vice-president of the Fasig-Tipton Company.

The 1996 activities of the group at Saratoga from August 1 through August 5 will again benefit New Bolton Center. ■

