

Bellwether

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Groundbreaking for Teaching and Research Building

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Kresge Foundation Awards
\$1.5 Million Challenge Grant
for New Building

Groundbreaking Ceremony, Honor for Dr. Rodin, and More!

April 17 was a very special day for the School of Veterinary Medicine!

We broke ground for the new Teaching and Research Building—more accurately, had the ground broken for us by Bailey, a canine member of the Pennsylvania Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. We honored **Dr. Judith Rodin, CW'66**, with the School's Silver Bellwether Medal. And we launched a fundraising campaign. It was a busy day!

We welcomed a number of friends and alumni who attended “Classes without Quizzes” in the afternoon and who joined us for the groundbreaking and the festive evening. Here the prime attraction was Nobel Laureate Dr. James Watson, co-discoverer of the helix structure of DNA, who gave a very lively speech. Following Dr. Watson, Campaign Chair **Laurie Landeau, V'84, WG'84**, announced that the School just entered the public phase of a \$100-million fundraising campaign. A video highlighting the needs for this campaign was shown.



Photography by Addison Grary/addisongrary.com

Melissa Sanchez, Russell Redding, Judith Rodin, and Christine Connelly, with Bailey.

“We started this campaign four years ago with an \$18-million grant from the Commonwealth, and that was a wonderful start for us...”

Dean Alan M. Kelly



“...[I]t has been 40 years since a major building at the Vet School has been dedicated exclusively to teaching and research, and the need and the anticipation could not be any greater.”

Christine Connelly, chair, Board of Overseers



“Many of the resources for this new building have come from private contributions, private giving. The Veterinary School has the most wonderfully generous and loyal group of friends that any school could wish to have.”

Dean Kelly



“Soon we will have a building that will allow this school, if you'll pardon the metaphor, to break new ground, not only in veterinary medicine, but in areas of medicine that have many important implications for human health.”

University President Judith Rodin



“Really, the Commonwealth has been a partner, a believer, a supporter from day one in this project. It provided the stimulus to our fundraising and, of course, if you think about the University of Pennsylvania and all of its progress, nowhere is Penn more of Pennsylvania than it is at the School of Veterinary Medicine.”

Christine Connelly

Groundbreaking Ceremony, Honor for Dr. Rodin, and More!



“The \$18 million that has been committed to the project we view as sort of yeast; it’s helped to raise the rest of the money, the rest of the critical dollars to make this project work.”

Russell Redding, Executive Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



“Reaching our goals, obviously, will not be easy even though it sounds like, wow, we have \$78 million and we don’t have that many more to go, but many friends and alumni have already stretched to get us this far. So now we are really going to have to invite others to participate and to come and be invested in our vision. We are going to spend the next 26 months engaged in a significant outreach effort.”

Laurie Landeau, V’84, WG’84, Campaign Chair



“One of my main motivations to attend the University of Pennsylvania was the opportunity to be at a veterinary school which recognized both the importance in research in veterinary medicine, and also the critical role that veterinarians have in research.”

Melissa Sanchez, V.M.D./Ph.D. student



“Sometimes I still go and sit in Room A, especially after a tough day in clinics, and every time I sit there I can feel the presence of those who have gone before me and I remember why I am in this profession to begin with.”

Karen O’Connor, V’04, Class President



“We believe that the investment in the School of Veterinary Medicine has both immediate and long-term benefits for the Commonwealth as one of the largest single contributors to the Teaching and Research Building. We are confident that this new facility will ensure that Pennsylvania has the best possible space to educate men and women who will care for the state’s animals, both large and small, well into the 21st century.”

Russell Redding



“When the shadow of the new Teaching and Research Building falls upon the Old Quadrangle Building, it will not be a shroud, but an arm uniting the past and the future of veterinary medicine.”

Karen O’Connor, V’04





“As our world evolves, veterinarians are faced with new challenges which transcend traditional veterinary medicine. Some of these challenges are in public health, bioterrorism, and developing new treatments, not only for animals, but for humans.”

Melissa Sanchez

See the Video

View the Groundbreaking Ceremony and the campaign video, as well as transcripts of the speeches of our distinguished guests, on our website at www.vet.upenn.edu.

“We all know that dogs resemble us in many sorts of ways. So in studying dogs we’ll be studying ourselves.”

Dr. James Watson

“I learned a little bit about how architects and engineers speak. Our building is not a complete box, nor is it an imperfect cube, rather it’s a platonic solid with a vibrant façade.”

Richard O. Davies, chair, Building Committee

“The School of Veterinary Medicine is an integral and unique part of the health science fabric of the University of Pennsylvania.”

Dr. Rodin



“We quickly came to realize that the School’s needs were great and any extraordinary fundraising effort was going to be one that was comprehensive, because it wasn’t just the building; we have teaching needs, we have research needs, we have other infrastructure needs, we have programmatic needs, we have an enormous need to ameliorate the enormous debt burden of our students.”

Dr. Landeau



“I got started because, basically, if you could finally understand human disease, human beings, you might as well see the instruction book, and, as you all know, the project succeeded.”

Dr. Watson



Groundbreaking Ceremony, Honor for Dr. Rodin, and More!



“Most likely a few of you realize just how long we have been working toward this night, the kickoff of our capital campaign. We have worked on this through three University presidents and two Veterinary School deans.... Over time, the goals and the focus have changed, but the need for the capital campaign has not.”

Dr. Landeau



School Honors Dr. Rodin

During the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Teaching and Research Building, **Dean Alan M. Kelly** presented the Silver Bellwether Medal to **University President Judith Rodin**. “... This is actually a bittersweet moment for us because, President Rodin, this is the last time that you will be here at an official event at the Veterinary School while you are President of the University and we wanted to mark that.”

The medal citation follows:



RESOLVED, Judith Rodin, as President you have expanded the scope of possibilities for the University of Pennsylvania’s students, staff, and faculty, while simultaneously including the citizens in the surrounding West Philadelphia area. The School of Veterinary Medicine congratulates you on your unique visualization and leadership that has enhanced the University in higher education, research, and client care; Penn is now at the apex of the Ivys. As never before, you have brought passion and verve to Penn.

RESOLVED, Judith Rodin, through your insight and support the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appropriation for the School has more than trebled. This was a direct result of your fair-mindedness. Equally important, was your presence at appropriation hearings in Harrisburg whereupon you reinforced the School’s request for state funds. Your presentations at these hearings were distinctively scintillating and you greatly impressed the Assembly with your intellect and eloquence. You gathered immense respect among the Commonwealth’s General Assembly. In so doing, time after time, you paved the way for approval of the School’s funding appeal.

RESOLVED, Judith Rodin, your effective lobbying of the governor for “brick and mortar” funds led to this glorious day of groundbreaking for a new Teaching and Research Building; we are enormously grateful. It is safe to say that we would not be here today without your vigorous support in Harrisburg.

RESOLVED, Judith Rodin, for all of your magnanimous contributions to the University of Pennsylvania we are immeasurably thankful. We, however, shall fondly remember the Rodin Years as a time of special friendship to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

As a token of our immense appreciation and esteem, I am pleased to award you the School’s highest honor, the Silver Bellwether Medal.

*University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
April 17, 2004*