

Vetting on the Environment

by Joan Capuzzi Giresi, C'86, V'98

It was a pivotal moment for **Bethany J. Grohs, V'98**, one she remembers well. As a career-planning exercise in a third-year course at Penn Veterinary Medicine, she and her classmates were asked to fast-forward five years beyond graduation: Where did they hope to be professionally?

"I wrote down that I wanted to be part of a team that does multidisciplinary problem-solving on environmental issues internationally. But," she soberly recalls, "I figured that a job like this didn't really exist for a veterinarian."

Happily, Grohs proved herself wrong. As a veterinary medical officer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Response Team in Edison, N.J., she manages the animal side of the environmental contamination equation.

Since joining EPA in 1999, Grohs, 33, has collaborated with the National Marine Fisheries Service to collect environmental health samples from bottlenose dolphins, investigated suspected cases of bovine fluorosis associated with industrial emissions, and assisted with the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the U.K.

Grohs, whose job post-9/11 includes collaborating with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on counterterrorism issues, also designed a decontamination system for the World Trade Center search-and-rescue dogs, and investigated related toxin exposures. (She lectured at Penn Veterinary Medicine on Disasters, Disease, and Defense in April.) And she helped coordinate response efforts to the anthrax crisis at Capitol Hill.

Her field work is balanced in equal parts with policymaking, a combination, she says, that offers unique advantages: "In the office, you write policy that makes practical sense. And then when you're in the field, you can understand how those decisions have been made."

To bolster this decision-making process, Grohs, who takes call one week every other month for national environmental emergencies, has initiated contact with EPA's 11 other veterinarians—all researchers—to weave the results of their scientific investigations into policy.

Growing up on a farm in coastal Maine, Grohs spent her youth hiking, camping, riding horses, and developing an enduring apprecia-

tion for animals and the outdoors. During her junior year at Colby College, where she studied biology and chemistry, Grohs spent a semester assessing wildlife parks in Africa. There, she grasped the impact of park management on the hardness of the animal residents.

Her nagging desire to become a veterinarian



Dr. Grohs with U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

was tempered by the discouraging advice of her college advisers, who reminded her of the difficulty of being accepted into veterinary school. So following graduation, Grohs headed back into the outdoors, working as a wrangler at an Arabian horse ranch in Wyoming. This led to a job at a local veterinary practice and a rekindling of her desire to pursue veterinary medicine.

After graduating from veterinary school, she headed out to Montana to work in mixed-animal practice. She enjoyed her year in clinical practice, particularly the opportunity to readily quantify the fruits of her daily efforts. "At the end of the day, for instance, I could go home knowing I spayed three animals."

In her subsequent government work, the pursuit of results requires considerably more patience. "The way you deal with the red tape," she explains, "is to keep a long-term perspective

and know you're getting a little bit done at a time."

Grohs, a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Committee for Environmental Issues, notes a striking similarity between clinical practice and ecologic risk assessment. She likens the latter to a ten-minute

exam on a pet—"but on a much bigger scale"—from history-taking to diagnostics to treatment plan.

And just as in clinical medicine, she notes, her regulatory role requires her to be a good communicator. "You need to be able to explain scientific concepts well. But," she adds, "you also need to be a good listener and not just a font of knowledge."

As an EPA veterinary medical officer, Grohs must communicate in a broad range of situations that vary considerably in formality, from spontaneous exchanges with farmers in barns to planned briefings before the U.S. Senate.

Whether she is meeting with members of Congress, producers or industrial workers, Grohs observes that introducing herself as a "veterinarian" rather than as an "environmental regulator" or even a "scientist" opens the door to more positive interactions in her work. "People stand up all the time

and say, 'I'm a scientist.' But when I say, 'I'm a veterinarian,' there is a much different sense—that you're someone who really cares."

Indeed, Grohs cares immensely about the fitness of our fauna and flora. While many governmental resources are directly devoted to reducing human health risk, she explains, "I focus on the environmental health risk because if you have a healthy ecosystem, the people will be fine."

Banfield, the Pet Hospital, has announced the recent hiring of three alumni at their veterinary hospitals: **Gregory L. Cusanno, V'70**, and **Carrie A. Hutchinson, V'01**, practicing in Warminster, Pa.; and **Corinne Majeska, V'03**, practicing in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Class Notes

1936

Anthony M. Stefanski of Crowley, La., writes: "I read, with interest, the [Fall 2003] *Bellwether*. . . I realize now, how much my education at the University of Pennsylvania [has] meant to me. . . Enjoy news from and about my alma mater."

1949

Arthur Richards, Jr. has recently published his autobiography, *Tale Wagging: Recollections of a Rural Veterinarian*, and donated a copy to be placed in the School's library. Dr. Richards tells how he established his practice in rural western Pennsylvania and was thrown into unexpected situations, remarking, "They never told me in veterinary school it would be like this." Using humor, he describes many tales from his 50 years of treating large and small animals. To read an excerpt or to order the book, visit www.buybooksontheweb.com/description.asp?ISBN=0-7414-1128-8.

1959

Leigh A. Marsh, a collector of Turkmen main carpets, which are among the finest and most intriguing carpets in the world, donated several from his collection for display in a recent exhibition at Penn's Arthur Ross Gallery. Rarely exhibited together due to their large size, "Antique Rugs of the Turkmen Tribes" brought together several Turkmen main carpets, as well as other trappings and smaller utilitarian pieces that date from 1800–1875.

1964

George E. Eyster, a professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored with the Distinguished Veterinary Faculty Award during the College's Commencement ceremony.

PVMA Led by Penn Alumni

The 2004 Slate of Officers of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association consists solely of Penn alumni. The officers are:

Michael R. Moyer, V'90, President

Timothy J. Ireland, V'90, President-Elect

David R. Wolfgang, V'82, Vice-President

James R. Rummel, V'79, Secretary-Treasurer

Gregory W. Godon, V'73, AVMA Delegate

Congratulations and good luck to the 2004 officers!

in May 2004. Dr. Eyster was recognized for his pioneering achievements in veterinary cardiology, for providing a model of excellence to veterinary students, and for his ongoing commitment to the well-being of the College.

1966

H. Michael Maetz has recently retired as professor of epidemiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health.

1968

H. Wesley Towers, Jr., the state veterinarian of Delaware, was appointed by Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner in 2003 to a six-year term on the University of Delaware Board of Trustees. He is a 1964 graduate of the University. He serves on numerous national committees including the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases and the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Disaster and Emergency Issues.

Ralph E. Werner, Jr. has recently been promoted to associate professor of biology at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He also serves as the Biology Program coordinator and the health professions adviser.

1970

Fred W. Quimby, director of the Lab Animal Research Center at The Rockefeller University in New York City, was quoted in the January 15, 2004 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, in an article about six medical schools and hospitals in New York City that are planning to build a shared \$15-million facility to house 25,000 research mice. According to Dr. Quimby, "As fast as we can increase the density of mouse housing, it gets filled."

Alan G. Schonfeld reopened Gwynedd Veterinary Hospital in Upper Gwynedd, Pa., in a newly constructed facility on December 31, 2003. A fire destroyed the former building on January 10, 2003. The hospital remained open in temporary quarters during construction of the new facility.

1974

Arthur V. Tennyson has retired as the assistant executive vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He had served the AVMA in a variety of positions since 1977.

1976

Scott E. Palmer visited Penn Veterinary Medicine and spoke to students in April 2004 as part of the Dean's Alumni Career Speaker Series. Dr. Palmer is

president and a staff surgeon at the New Jersey Equine Clinic in Clarksburg, N.J., and is president-elect of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

1979

During the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's 121st Annual Scientific Meeting in August 2003, **James R. Rummel** was honored with the Veterinarian of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding service, enthusiastic leadership, and tireless dedication to the PVMA and the veterinary profession. Dr. Rummel is a partner and hospital administrator of Camboro Veterinary Hospital, a small-animal practice, in Edinboro, Pa.

1980

Diane Ruth Eigner was interviewed in an article about how to pick a new kitten in the February 18, 2004 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. Dr. Eigner is a past president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, and practices at The Cat Doctor in Center City Philadelphia.

Fern Tablin is a professor at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. She has a special interest in cell biology and has studied various aspects of platelets for the past 20 years. Dr. Tablin is a principal investigator in the School's Center for Biostabilization, which seeks methods to stabilize blood cells in a dry state for long-term storage and ultimately therapeutic use.

1981

Jeffrey T. Berk, a partner at Ocala Equine Hospital in Ocala, Fla., is a new director-at-large on the American Association of Equine Practitioners board of directors.

H. Mark Saunders, immediate past president of the American College of Veterinary Radiology, received a plaque of appreciation for his service to the College at its annual meeting in December 2003.

1982

Peter B. Reiner is Chief Executive Officer of Active Pass Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology firm focused on genomic-based drug discovery, which is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Prior to founding Active Pass in 1997, Dr. Reiner was the Louise Brown Professor of Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia.

1983

Susan G. Emeigh Hart is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and is certified as a veterinary clinical pathologist.

1984

Dennis E. Burkett is President-Elect of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, which works to raise the level of patient care for seriously ill or injured animals through quality education and communication programs.

1985

Elizabeth S. Sinnigen, a practitioner at VCA Rotherwood Animal Hospital in Newton, Mass., was honored in May 2004 with the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association's 2003 Distinguished Service Award. The award, the most prestigious award that the MVMA confers, is given for accomplishments in the MVMA and in veterinary medicine, and for outstanding contributions to the service of humankind. Dr. Sinnigen, who has been active in organized veterinary medicine in Massachusetts, has advocated for the creation of an appendix to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which articulates a protocol for the treatments of domestic and wild animals in a disaster or emergency.

William H. Yerkes IV became a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the United Kingdom, in May 2003.

1990

Living in Wauchope, New South Wales, Australia, **Angela E. Frimberger** and her husband, Dr. Tony Moore, have opened Veterinary Oncology Consultants, a fax- and Internet-based consulting business to help veterinarians care for pets with cancer. Visit their website at <www.vetoncologyconsults.com>.

Celeste C. Kunz spoke at the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians held in March 2004 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dr. Kunz lectured on the management of catastrophic racing injuries.

1991

Sean D. Smarick is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. He completed a residency in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Smarick is director of Allegheny Veterinary Emergency Associates, P.C., in Pittsburgh. His wife, Lisa, gave birth to their first child, a daughter, Brooke Bea, on December 20, 2003.

1997

Lisa A. Murphy is a new Area Emergency Coordi-

nator for Veterinary Services, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Based in Sutton, Mass., Dr. Murphy is responsible for six New England states. Veterinary Services protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of the nation's animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

E. Scott Weber visited Penn Veterinary Medicine and spoke to students in May 2004 as part of the Dean's Alumni Career Speaker Series. Dr. Weber is the head veterinarian at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

1998

Mary Jane McNamee and her husband, **Mark A. Kapolka, V'97**, were profiled in *Sunday Patriot-News* of Harrisburg, Pa., on November 9, 2003. They were planning to open a new "progressive and proactive" practice together in Cornwall, Pa., by May 2004. According to Dr. McNamee, "Most people think of their pets as family members. And that affects their health care choices. We want to be advocates for our patients, but not bully our clients into doing things they don't want to." They have three children, twin one-year-olds and a three-year-old.

1999

Matthew S. Johnston has become board-certified in avian practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

Patrick A. Mahaney visited Penn Veterinary Medicine and spoke to students in March 2004 as part of the Dean's Alumni Career Speaker Series. Dr. Mahaney practices at Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic in Rockville, Md., and is a Baptiste Power Vinyasa instructor at Down Dog Yoga in Washington, D.C.

2000

Alisa L. Newton is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and is certified as a veterinary anatomic pathologist.

2002

Paul J. McGough, a veterinarian at Metropolitan Veterinary Associates in Valley Forge, was interviewed in the April 6, 2004, edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, in an article about the danger of Easter lilies to cats. Dr. McGough sent letters to area businesses selling lilies asking them to post warning signs about the plant's toxicity, which causes kidney failure in cats.

Daniel L. Schar has been selected as a Luce Scholar for 2004-05. Funded by the Henry Luce

Foundation, the Luce Scholars Program provides stipends and internships annually for 15 young Americans to live and work in Asia for a year. The program's purpose is to increase awareness of Asia among future leaders in American society.

2003

Jessica A. Chavkin, an intern at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, was one of the veterinarians featured in "Pet E.R.," an article about the AMC, which appeared in the January 19, 2004, issue of *People* magazine.

Karena Joung, an intern in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored in April 2004 with the SCAVMA Intern Award. The award was given in recognition of her outstanding performance in the clinical training and teaching of students.

Residents**2003**

Vicki Campbell, assistant professor of emergency and critical care medicine at Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Justine A. Lee, assistant clinical professor of emergency services at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, is a new diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Make the Connection!

Alumni Weekend 2004

Reunion for Classes Ending in "4" or "9"

Saturday, October 2, 2004
New Bolton Center
Kennett Square, Pa.

For hotel reservations and tourist information, visit
<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/alumniweekend2004.html>

Please visit the site often for updates!

Births

1998

Derek S. Boen, a son, Sean Christopher, on July 8, 2003.

1999

Jennifer A. Morris, a son, Calvin Robert, on January 25, 2003.

Deaths

1936

Robert R. Crelin on December 28, 2002.

1937

Russell S. Edmonds on May 26, 2004.

Leo R. McKinney on March 24, 2003.

1940

Benjamin L. Walbert, Jr. on March 18, 2004.

1941

Thomas W. Brown on September 20, 2003.

1943

Jacob Finkelstein on December 3, 2003.

Remembrance of Steven L. Schwartz, V'80

Steven L. Schwartz, V'80, died suddenly of a heart attack on December 5, 2003, while visiting his hometown of Havertown, Pa. In 1981, Dr. Schwartz joined the Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic (MEAC) in Rockville, Md., and managed the country's second-oldest primary animal emergency clinic until his death. His legacy is the hundreds of veterinarians whom he mentored at MEAC during their emergency medicine clinical rotations as veterinary students.

According to **Victoria Hampshire, V'88**, an associate veterinarian at MEAC, Dr. Schwartz was known for his easy-going attitude and his tremendous sense of humor. "Most people don't think of emergency veterinary medicine as fun. It is upsetting for pets, owners, and employees. He was a lovable curmudgeon in times of chaos, and this special kind of humor and generosity when mixed with his professionalism enabled those around him to be immediately at ease during unnerving events. People just kept on working there, and the wall is covered with letters from grateful pet owners."

Dr. Schwartz was a member of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society. He enjoyed sailing, traveling, and the theater, and volunteered as a mentor to students.

1945

Scott H. Heffner on November 20, 2003.

1947

John R. Church on February 28, 2004.

James W. Goris on November 21, 2003.

Dorian Lugo on February 8, 2004.

1948

William Deeds Donovan on March 8, 2004.

1949

G. Robert Muller on February 5, 2004.

1950

George L. Stolte on May 14, 2003.

1959

John C. W. Bauersfeld on September 18, 2001.

1960

Jordan M. Miller on October 18, 2003.

Marlyn Ernst Prier on May 31, 2003.

1965

Andrew H. Kraft on April 15, 2004.

1967

John W. Knochel on February 4, 2004.

1972

Mary A. Leisner on August 26, 2003.

1980

Steven L. Schwartz on December 5, 2003.

2001

Robert W. Richardson on January 14, 2004.

Alumni Connections

To find a former classmate and to sign up for a permanent email forwarding service:

Join the University of Pennsylvania Alumni On-Line Community for free at <www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UPN>. After you register, you can search the On-Line Directory, which is a great resource for personal and professional networking and an easy way to keep up-to-date on fellow alumni. You can also sign up for a permanent email forwarding service, which will forward messages received at your permanent Penn address to the email address of your choice.

To update your alumni record:

You can update your record via the University of Pennsylvania Alumni On-Line Community On-Line Directory. You may also contact Elizabeth McNamara at (215) 746-7461 or via email at <emcnamar@vet.upenn.edu>.

To make a gift or for information to support Penn Veterinary Medicine:

Make a gift with your credit card through a secure online transaction at <www.upenn.edu/gifts>. For information on supporting the School, visit the Alumni & Friends website at <alumni.vet.upenn.edu> or contact Joshua E. Liss at (215) 898-1481 or via email at <lissj@vet.upenn.edu>.

To request a transcript, certification of graduation, or replacement diploma:

For information on requesting a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar's website at <www.upenn.edu/registrar/transcripts/transcripts.html> or call (215) 898-7511. For information on requesting a certification of graduation, which does not require a transcript, contact the School's Office of Student & Curricular Affairs at (215) 898-3525 or via email at <student-affairs@vet.upenn.edu>. For information on ordering a replacement diploma, visit the Office of the Secretary's website at <www.upenn.edu/secretary/diplomas/#replace>.

To post/search employment opportunities for veterinarians:

Visit the School's Veterinary Employment Database at <www.vet.upenn.edu/jobsearch>.

To purchase veterinary, medical, and allied health textbooks from leading publishers:

Visit the Penn Vet Bookstore at <www.vet.upenn.edu/studentaffairs/bookstore>. A percentage of purchases is returned to the School in the form of scholarship funding to deserving veterinary students.

To obtain a Penn Alumni Card:

The Penn Alumni Card offers a myriad of benefits, including access to the Penn Libraries (does not include borrowing privileges or access to online resources) and discounts on admission to the Morris Arboretum, Class of 1923 Ice Rink, and University of Pennsylvania Museum. The charge for the card, which is valid for 10 years, is only \$20. For more information, visit <www.upenn.edu/penncard/card/obtain_alumni.html>.

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