

## Alumni Award of Merit

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society presented the Alumni Award of Merit to Dr. Daniel Bleicher, V'53, Dr. Fred Fernich, V'63 and Dr. Gordon W. Robinson, V'63. VMAS President, Dr. Suzanne Smith, V'82, presented the award certificates on Alumni Day, May 17.



*"The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society of the University of Pennsylvania Salutes Daniel D. Bleicher, V.M.D., Class of 1953—For your contribution to veterinary medicine through the publishing of scholarly articles that promote professional inquiry and the good name of your alma mater in publications of professional note.*

*For your recognition of the historical merits of your profession by participating in the creation of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Historical Society.*

*For your longstanding commitment and dedication to the School of Veterinary Medicine in your roles as past President of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society, Alumni Member of the Long Range Planning Committee and Chairperson of the Alumni Faculty Teaching Award Committee.*

*For your commitment to your community through your receipt of the Governor's Award for Community Crime Prevention, presented by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."*

*"The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society of the University of Pennsylvania Salutes Fred Fernich, V.M.D., Class of 1963—For your efforts to uphold a higher level of veterinary medicine as an Inspector for the Veterinary Facility Accreditation Program administered by the New York State Veterinary Medical Society.*

*For your commitment to the community through your volunteer work with the Kiwanis Club.*

*For your longstanding commitment and dedication to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in your roles as Class Agent Co-Chairman, Class Agent, Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board Member and Alumni Liaison Committee Member.*

*For your devotion to the School as both an alumnus and parent of a Veterinary School graduate, you have set the highest standards for alumni to follow."*

*"The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society of the University of Pennsylvania Salutes Gordon W. Robinson, V.M.D., Class of 1963—For your extensive dedication to your profession and the welfare of animals through your work with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as both the Head of the Department of Surgery and Director of the Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital.*

*For your efforts to uphold a higher level of veterinary medicine and education through the American Animal Hospital Association in your roles as Chairman of the Education Committee, and Area Director for New York and New Jersey, and as past President, Treasurer and a member of the Executive Board of the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City.*

*For your contribution to your country as a career officer in the New Jersey National Guard, retiring with the rank of Colonel after 37 years of service."*

## Dr. Reid Retires

by Dr. Midge Leitch, V'73

For those of us educated at Penn during the second half of this century, an era ended Friday night, May 15th, when Charles F. Reid, D.V.M., professor of radiology, officially retired. A member of the triumvirate which included Charles W. Raker, V.M.D. and Loren H. Evans, D.V.M.,

Charlie was the first veterinary radiologist who developed a special interest in horses and who made an effort to connect the x-rays with both the clinical condition of and competitive expectations for the horse. He was a vital member of the team which created the clinic at New Bolton Center, and made it the premier equine facility in the world, where innovation was the password.

Charlie came to Penn in 1963 and oversaw the creation of the Radiology Suite, the development of what we now consider to be the 'standard views' of the large animal radiographic study, supported Dr. Mike Ross' efforts to develop scintigraphy at New Bolton Center, and fought the good fight against western (read UC Davis) nomenclature, which

*(continued on page 6)*

## Dr. Reid Retires

(continued from page 5)

undoubtedly helped provide a great foundation for the well known phrase 'at Penn we'.

He has trained untold numbers of fledgling radiologists who now populate the American College of Veterinary Radiologists and have gone on to help develop the Sections of Radiology in many of the veterinary schools both in the United States and abroad. Foreign radiologists from as diverse locations as The Netherlands and Israel have spent valuable time under Charlie's tutelage and remembered those times and experiences in written tributes which were shared with the two hundred people who attended the official retirement dinner.

From Dr. Barney Kerr, Nassau, The Bahamas: 'The news of your retirement sent me spinning down memory lane. I can still hear you storming into Radiology every morning with laughter echoing in your wake... The rivalry and agitation that often erupted around the job. You enjoyed the confidence of the most cynical, experienced horse people in every corner of the globe that I ever visited. You were about 1% slave driver and 99% marshmallow. I will never forget the countless hours you spent teaching and encouraging me. Your enthusiasm was infectious and Radiology was the most enjoyable place in the world to me.'

From Drs. Nadine Oakley and John Simms, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania: "We have fond memories of days spent in large animal radiology sessions endlessly repeating 'normal, normal, normal, normal.....OOPS!' in an attempt to read films with the master overseeing this whole process. You challenged us unmercifully, yet made it fun and taught us to laugh at ourselves. We all learned so much, but more importantly, we learned to think for and believe in ourselves.

Your contagious smile, great sense of humor, and your ability not to take things too seriously influenced all whom you taught.... You will be sorely missed by those of us out here in the trenches."

From a friend in Unionville, Pennsylvania, whom Charlie counseled: "...you said I was smarter than that and should set my goals much higher. At the time, I wasn't sure if I, a high school drop-out, could even handle algebra. Your words stuck with me and somehow helped me discover the confidence and discipline I needed to pursue a greater challenge.



Dr. Reid teaching.

You are able to give people a sense of their own potential and, at the same time, keep the inspiration based firmly in reality by serving as an example of real achievement in your own life and work."

From Dr. Scott Palmer, New Jersey Equine Clinic: "The influence of a teacher extends throughout our profession like ripples caused by a pebble thrown onto the quiet surface of a still pool. Your career, by any measure, has been a splash!"

Master of Ceremonies Dean Richardson was encouraged by all who witnessed his performance to pursue a career in comedy, in spite of his rather prodigious talents as an orthopedic surgeon. Colleagues, including both Deans Kelly and Marshak, and friends from as far as Florida, California, and

Massachusetts came to roast and toast Charlie. And inspired by the object of their obvious respect and affections, rose to unsuspected heights of both emotion and humor. Charlie, however, as usual, had the last word and the last laugh and managed once again to remind us of why he has played such an influential role in so many lives.

For many of us, he was not only one of the most dynamic teachers we encountered, but also an untiring and often entertaining source of personal advice! Because teaching was obviously his first love, the committee responsible for organizing his retirement celebration, which consisted of Lisa Suslak-Brown, V.M.D., Jill Beech, V.M.D., Dean Richardson, D.V.M., Carole Johnson Brady, and me, developed the idea of creating the Charles F. Reid Scholarship Fund in his honor. The interest from this perpetual fund will assist veterinary students during the pursuit of their degree. Contributions to the fund can be made at any time by checks payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, earmarked for the Charles F. Reid Scholarship Fund, and sent to New Bolton Center, Development Office, 382 W. Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19438-1692. And of course your donations are fully tax deductible!

The diversity of the group which collected to honor Charlie mirrored the breadth of his interest in people and their pursuits. His contributions to the School of Veterinary Medicine are too numerous to mention and the list of devoted friends, students, and colleagues too long to recite. The commemoration of his career with a perpetual scholarship fund seems the only appropriate token of our gratitude for the concern and effort he made on so many individuals' behalf. From professional horsemen to veterinarians to millionaire investors to fellow neighbors, he helped us all with the same even hand. Ever convinced of his own perspective, he encouraged us all to have the courage of our convictions. We thank you and we salute you and we rest assured that retirement will not deprive us of your presence and influence! 🌟