

**Penn Veterinary Medicine
Dean's Farewell Gala
Presentation to honor Dr. Alan M. Kelly
Friday, September 30, 2005**

Fàilte Oirbh! [pronounce: **fay**-il-tee **awr**-ev]

That means "A welcome to you" in Scots-Gaelic. And it's a fitting way to begin our tribute to Dr. Alan Kelly, a Scotsman whose love for his homeland has never waned in the years since he first made his way across the Pond to the United States in 1962.

He has followed in the footsteps of many great Scotsmen before him who built highly successful careers and made invaluable contributions to this country and the world. Nine of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scots descent. One of them, Benjamin Rush, received his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh and later, became the founder of our School of Veterinary Medicine.

Sixty-one percent of all American Presidents have been of Scots descent, as well as some of the world's most accomplished individuals, including Alexander Graham Bell, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, and Nobel Prize winner Sir Alexander Fleming. It's interesting to note that 11 percent of all Nobel prizes have been awarded to Scotsmen, even though the Scots comprise less than one-half of one percent of the world's population!

So it was our great fortune in 1968 when a bright, young Scottish lad named Alan Kelly chose to join the Penn Veterinary Medicine faculty. And it has been our privilege to have him at the School's helm for the past 11 years. To put it in Scottish terms, he has been the chieftain of our clan, perpetuating and enhancing our traditions, reputation and strength as the preeminent veterinary school in North America and the world.

Dean Kelly's work in the School's research labs in the years leading up to his deanship reinforced his belief that Penn Veterinary Medicine must maintain its traditional role of leadership in animal health and food safety, particularly with the threat of foreign animal diseases, drug-resistant pathogenic organisms and agroterrorism.

This served him well when, as one of his first duties as Dean, he had to appeal to Pennsylvania's agriculture lobby for support of the Veterinary School to secure its funding. His efforts were enormously successful. After considerable negotiation, the Commonwealth agreed to move the University's portion of the appropriations to the Veterinary School. As a result, the School's State appropriations more than tripled during his tenure, from \$11 million to \$37.3 million.

This enabled the School to ease the financial burden on its students by keeping tuition increases to a minimum. From 1997 to 2003, tuition increases were held

to 2.9 percent or less annually, even though the University general admission was going up by 4 to 4.5 percent.

At the same time, the increased State appropriations enabled tremendous growth in scholarship funding, which more than quadrupled over 10 years from \$600,000 to \$2.6 million. As a result, every veterinary student who is a Pennsylvania resident now receives a \$3,500 scholarship each year.

(pause)

Dean Kelly's Scottish blood may have something to do with his success in raising an unprecedented level of funding for the School because Scotsmen are known to have a flair for accumulating money. In fact, a study of wealth has shown that people of Scottish origin in the U.S. are five times more likely to become millionaires than those from any other country. But the Dean's gift for building relationships with government officials, donors, alumni, faculty and students has clearly been the key factor in his successful efforts on behalf of Penn Vet School.

The renaming of the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania to the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital in 2003 is a testament to the relationship of trust and respect that Dean Kelly built among government leaders such as the late Matt Ryan, who served as Speaker of the Pennsylvania House. Matt was an immensely powerful legislator who enthusiastically supported the Penn Vet

School, ensuring that the Pennsylvania General Assembly provided the School with sufficient funding to maintain its world-class status. Thanks to Dean Kelly's efforts, Matt understood that the reputation and continuation of this school was not only important to the people of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth, but to the nation and the world.

Dean Kelly's gift for relationship building has also played an important role in the most ambitious and successful fundraising initiative ever launched in the School's history -- Building New Levels of Excellence. In this unprecedented \$100 million fundraising campaign, Dean Kelly has already secured \$50 million for the centerpiece of the campaign -- the new, 120,000-square-foot Teaching and Research Building. In addition, he secured a matching grant from the Commonwealth for this state-of-the-art building, which will serve as the new academic center of the School when it opens next fall.

As part of this campaign, Dean Kelly was also instrumental in securing the largest private gift in the School's history -- a \$9.8 million bequest from the estate of Isabel Robson to benefit the School's canine and equine health research. The late Mrs. Robson was a highly successful owner and breeder of show animals who recognized the need for continued research to improve the health and care of companion and large animals. Through Dean Kelly's leadership, she was assured that her extraordinary gift would translate the work of the School's dedicated researchers and clinicians into applicable, proven therapies.

Thanks to the Dean's efforts, the Building New Levels of Excellence campaign is expected to well exceed its goal of \$100 million within 18 months. That is simply phenomenal!

(pause) (lead applause?)

Dean Kelly is not only a master builder of relationships, but also of concrete and brick facilities. During his tenure, the School's campuses have experienced a truly remarkable period of building and development.

At New Bolton Center, he oversaw the establishment of the Marshak Dairy, which provides an educational setting in dairy medicine that is second to none. The new swine unit is a model of what a modern, humane swine facility should be, and it has greatly increased awareness of swine medicine as a career opportunity for our students. This unit has also vastly improved the School's relationship with the swine industry. Both the Marshak Dairy and the swine unit are very substantial educational and agricultural contributions that enhance the School's opportunities for continued support from the Commonwealth.

Other significant additions at New Bolton Center have included the Richard Reynolds Comparative Orthopedic Laboratory, the Fairchild Laboratory for Aquatic Animal Research, and the Center for Germ Cell Research and Animal

Transgenesis, where some of the most high profile stem cell research in the University has been conducted.

Dean Kelly was also instrumental in raising \$4 million in funding for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building, a timely response to the increasing case load generated by advances in equine veterinary imaging and ultrasound technology, which are now available at New Bolton Center.

(pause)

Dean Kelly spent many years of his career at Penn in the research labs, and he has been fiercely dedicated to building and strengthening Penn Veterinary Medicine's research program. "If you are going to have a school that has any vitality," he said recently, "you must have a vibrant research program." He has supported that statement in every conceivable way.

During his tenure, he oversaw tremendous growth in NIH funding, which more than doubled from \$7.4 million to \$17.8 million in 10 years. The School's total sponsored research funding mirrored that growth, more than doubling from \$11.1 million to \$25.2 million. The key to this outstanding achievement is, once again, Dean Kelly's gift for building relationships. He developed strong bonds with the School's faculty and successfully encouraged them to publish more papers in leading peer-reviewed journals and to apply for more grants. He supported their

efforts by overseeing extensive renovations of the research labs throughout the Philadelphia campus as well as planning state-of-the-art labs for the new Teaching and Research Building.

(pause)

In addition to breaking ground for new buildings, Dean Kelly also broke new academic ground during his tenure when he appointed the first woman to an endowed professorship at the School in the year 2000 -- Joan Hendricks is the Henry and Corinne R. Bower Chair in Small Animal Medicine. In the ensuing years, Dean Kelly appointed three more women to endowed chairs, and Penn Vet School now holds the distinction of having more women as endowed chairs than any other veterinary school in the country (world?).

(pause)

Throughout his tenure, Dean Kelly has been an extraordinary leader, one who any Scottish clansman worth his whisky would be proud to call "chieftain!" We are immensely fortunate that he will remain part of our clan as he returns to the faculty.

Dean Kelly . . . You have taken Penn Veterinary Medicine to new heights of achievement, strengthening our School and enhancing its reputation in the world in innumerable ways. And you have prepared the way for its continued success in the future.

For your tremendously fruitful years as leader of our clan, we offer a toast in your honor with just a “wee dram of whisky” and a heartfelt Scottish thank you . . .

Gu'nrobh maith agad! [pronounce: go-o-ro-ma akut]