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From the Dean

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From The Dean



I am pleased to say that this has been a very good year for the school as we move ahead in a number of critical areas. Let me focus on just three of these:

In October we opened the

Marshak Dairy, a magnificent new facility at New Bolton Center designed for 200 milking cows. This state-of-the-art facility with its solar design and highly efficient milking parlor has literally changed the face of New Bolton Center while attracting a great deal of attention from producer groups in the State and beyond. By August we will have 160 cows in milk and expect to complete the founding herd in the fall. The facility is designed as a commercial dairy and will enhance our teaching program in production medicine and our ability to assist the dairy industry in Pennsylvania and the nation.

November brought word that our most distinguished scientist, Dr. Ralph

Brinster, had won the Bower Award. This is the most prestigious prize ever won by a faculty in a veterinary school in the world; we are immensely proud of Ralph's accomplishment. The importance of the award is reflected by the fact that it is the largest monetary prize in science in the United States. The award recognizes Ralph's many contributions in developmental and molecular biology and especially his pioneering work on animal transgenesis.

I am very pleased that Dr. Brinster has now taken on the responsibility of Senior Scientist with the Center for Germ Cell Biology and Animal Transgenesis at New Bolton Center. This is a new initiative at New Bolton Center with the goal of applying molecular techniques to improve the productivity and disease resistance of farm animals. Lab renovations for the Center will begin in the fall and should be completed by this time next year.

In February, Governor Ridge announced his proposed budget for 1997-1998 including the welcome recommendation that the State appropriation for the School be increased to \$30.5 million. The Governor's proposal was warmly received

and supported by an overwhelming majority of legislators on both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate and was signed into law in early May. This increase represents a twofold increase in our appropriation since 1994 and permits us to address the School's most pressing needs. These include the provision of scholarships to offset our high cost of tuition for all Pennsylvania residents and renovations of roads and buildings at New Bolton Center. Many buildings at NBC, including the student dormitory, were constructed in the early 1960's and are now in desperate need of repair.

It will take several years to restore the physical plant at New Bolton Center even at our enhanced level of funding from the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, I am immensely grateful to the Governor and all of you who have loyally supported us so we can begin to take care of these critical problems. Now our challenge is to sustain the present level of funding in the years to come. 🐾

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The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Brinster Honored

Dr. Ralph Brinster, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, was honored during a ceremony at the Franklin Institute on May 1. He was awarded The Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science, the richest American prize in science. Dr. Brinster was cited

"For his groundbreaking contributions to the development of methods to transfer foreign genes into animals and the use of these methods to understand the activity and function of genes. His pioneering work in developing conditions to culture and modify mouse embryos in the laboratory has had a revolutionary impact on contemporary biomedical research, with potential applications in such diverse areas as the treatment of human disease, basic research in cell biology and biochemistry, and the improvement of livestock. His unique contributions to the growing field of biotechnology, arising from a life-long fascination with animals, and his leadership in veterinary education reflect the scientific and humanitarian genius of Benjamin Franklin."



Dr. Ralph Brinster, recipient of the Bower Award and Prize, is shown here, l. to r., with former deans Dr. Robert Marshak, Dr. Mark Allam, Associate Dean for Administration, Barry Stupine, and Dr. Alan M. Kelly, The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine.