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Five Decades of Alumnae Memories

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Bellwether

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Five Decades of Alumnae Memories

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Josephine Deubler, V'38—The School's first female graduate



Memories and Realities

by Susan Perloff

We chose these female graduates from a wide field to tell how diverse the opportunities have become over the last five decades for women in veterinary medicine. It's a far cry from the experiences of Aleen Cust, which Dean Kelly mentions in his message.

We asked them questions – not about what helped them excel in their careers, but about what they remembered from their years at Penn. Specifically we asked: What's a memorable moment from your years at Penn? What faculty member really impressed you? How? Can you point to a wonderful moment in your professional career to date? What advice would you give to women who want to pursue a veterinary degree?

While most were reasonably serious about their answers, a few were playful or iconoclastic. Several recalled missteps – one into icy water – and sexism. Only one woman has fallen in love with fruit flies. And only one married a favorite professor.

We chose women who graduated between 1949 and 1996, women who ventured beyond “standard” veterinary medicine, women like the women in veterinary medicine today.

Elizabeth Trainor, V'49

Retired

When Trainor was a teenager, she found a summer job at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston and later came to Penn to study veterinary medicine. After graduation, she returned to Angell for the following eight years.

She fell in love with Bill Trainor, a professional dog handler, left Angell to marry and then took off a year to travel to shows with her bridegroom.

“That's how I became interested in the problems that breeders and exhibitors had. Through Bill, I came in contact with show dogs that were used at stud. I handled breedings, whelpings and puppy rearings and became interested in reproduction, which led to my setting up a private practice limited to canine reproduction.” She later maintained an Ameri-

can Kennel Club-approved frozen canine semen facility in Oxford, Mass.

She remembers Dr. David Detweiler, the physiology professor whose enthusiasm for his own subject was so great, his presentation so fascinating, that Trainor learned from listening. “I seemed to absorb so much that I had trouble taking notes.” She was delighted, as a student in her junior year, to be elected to the honorary Phi Zeta fraternity. “Most people are elected to it as seniors, and I was one of the few women on campus. That was a special moment.”

Four years ago, after the death of her husband, Trainor started judging Portuguese water dogs, which she had been raising for a number of years, as well as golden retrievers, poodles and dachshunds. Since then she has earned the credentials to judge four more breeds. “This is what I'm doing now, still learning. I've also started taking classes at my local state college, since as a senior I can take them tuition-free. Before and during vet school I had blinders on, studying only subjects that were in my field. Now I've taken philosophy, psychology, music appreciation and computer applications. Learning keeps me young,” says this woman who's been out of school for more than 50 years.

Like other women profiled in this issue of *Bellwether*, Betty Trainor says “Go for it!” to women interested in veterinary medicine. “When I went for it, people just did not expect women to do this. Now it's an excellent profession for a woman, primarily because of the variety of choices available after graduation. By nature, women relate well to animals, and women's basic nurturing skills are helpful to animals and to running a practice. The love of animals is why most of us got involved.”

Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, V'56, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, Center for Animals and Public Policy,
Department of Environmental and Population Health,
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine

When Elizabeth Lawrence studied veterinary medicine in the early fifties, female students were prohibited from going on farm calls with practitioners. Not one to take NO for a NO, Lawrence betook herself to the dean's office, eventually earning women the right to one week of the men's scheduled four weeks.

The Penn faculty members who impressed Lawrence most were two “kind and gentle”

men who treated women as if they were equals – which, at the time, they were not: Dr. Walter LaGrange and Dr. Frantisek Kral from Czechoslovakia.

Lawrence tells female veterinary aspirants, “You can make a difference if you stick with it. Don't go along with the status quo. If you have ideas about animal welfare or rights, stand up for your convictions. Do something. You can have an influence for the better.” In person and via the Internet, she often mentors young people who want to be vets or who want to study human-animal relationships.

For 15 years after graduation, Lawrence ran a veterinary practice in Westport, Mass. “I realized that if you want to be active in wildlife conservation or improving the welfare of domestic animals, it isn't enough to know animals biologically. You need to know how people perceive animals.” So she earned a Ph.D. at Brown in cultural anthropology. At this time Tufts opened its vet school, where she began teaching.

Since 1981, she's been focusing on the study of human-animal relationships, becoming a principal pioneer in the field. She is especially proud of winning the Distinguished Scholar award of the International Association of Human-Animal Interactions Organizations.

Officially retired, Lawrence teaches in the vet school and in the master of science in animals and public policy program. She has researched human attitudes toward animals in American rodeos, showing how the sport of rodeo metaphorically recapitulates the taming of the wild, the conquest of the West.

Katherine Albro Houpt, V'63, Ph.D.

College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
Director, Animal Behavior Clinic,

“Go for it!,” says Houpt to women who are considering veterinary medicine. “It's a good profession for women because it's relatively easy to combine with child-rearing. Schedules are more flexible than in other professions.” She mentions the so-called M-shaped curve for



Elizabeth A. Lawrence

women in professions: a steep rise in a career just after graduation, followed by a dip for the birth of the first child, then another sharp rise, a dip for second child and then a rise again.

The first time Penn accepted Houpt to the vet school, she turned it down because she was getting married. She had second thoughts, and like many women, she says, she broke an engagement to attend professional school, “and I felt I was entering a convent. The first person assigned to show us around campus was Dr. T. R. (Richard) Houpt. In my first physiology course, I got a C. In my second course, I worked very hard and received an A so Professor Houpt would notice me. I married my favorite professor between junior and senior year.”

In a platonic way, Houpt also was keen on the late Donald Lee, an anatomy professor, “who accepted me despite my having turned down vet school once a few months earlier. I still cannot smell formaldehyde without feeling good, because when I smelled it on campus, I was where I wanted to be with people I liked.”

The first rise on Houpt’s M-curve was working with her husband after graduation, and having a child was the first dip. While she was in the hospital, Penn ruled that spouses could not work together, so her second rise was a small-animal practice in West Philadelphia. “I learned I loved it, although I had not paid attention to those lectures, since I wanted to be a researcher. I found part-time research work, too, dipped for a second child and went back to graduate school in biology.”

When her husband was offered a job at Cornell, where the couple could work together, Houpt herself began climbing the academic ladder. She sees gaining tenure at an Ivy League university as the most difficult challenge of her career – becoming the first female full professor at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

A pioneer in animal behavior, Houpt calls horses “my great area of research.” Currently she’s studying cribbing: a horse grasps a horizontal object, arches the neck and aspirates air. Many devices keep horses from cribbing, says Houpt, but most produce pain – one is a shock collar, one a muzzle. “But the devices don’t address why a horse cribs. And if we can stop a horse from cribbing, what does it do with that time? Eat more? Stand around? What kind of diet reduces the frequency of this behavior?” Stay tuned.

Joan O’Brien, V’63

1929-1990

Joan O’Brien was the first female V.M.D. professor at Penn Vet School. The female profs before her were Ph.D.s.

Her classmate, Katherine Houpt, remembers: “Joan had three children when she started vet school, and she was sort of the class mother. Before every exam, she invited my roommate, Eleanor Brandt, and me over for dinner and to study. Joan always knew less than half the material at dinner, I knew 80 percent and Eleanor knew 100 percent. I went to bed at 11, and they stayed up. Joan was a quick learner – by the time of the exam, Joan knew it all.”

When Joan Hendricks, V’79, joined the Penn Vet faculty, Joan O’Brien was the only female full professor. “She was remarkable for her warmth,” Hendricks says. “She would seem warm in any setting, but for an academic, clinical setting, she was really wonderful. She took a number of people under her wing. She did that mentoring thing that you always hear about but that people don’t do much.

“At one point, several years into the horrible probationary period as a faculty member, Joan took me aside and told me that people were saying I was doing a good job. She was telling me to keep my chin up. No one can ever get too much positive feedback. In the absence of positive feedback, you assume you’re failing, so what Joan did was wonderful, and she did it for several people.

“But she was also very good at being tough. She took people aside and told them negative things, too. That kind of feedback is at least as helpful. Other people were capable of giving you negative feedback, too, but hearing it from Joan was especially useful. Since you knew she loved you, you knew that what she said would be in your best interest. It’s not something you usually say about a co-worker – that you know they love you – but we said it about Joan.

“Even today, when something wonderful happens in the School, we mention Joan and say she would have liked it. When we’re really moved, we send a message to her. We salute her.”

Jeffie Roszel, V’63, Ph.D.

Retired

Roszel and her sister were USO performers, spending two years in Japan after World War II.

There she met her husband, Ron; the couple settled in New York until the bride decided to pursue veterinary medicine. “I could have gone anywhere,” she says, “but the school you attend is very important, so I came to Penn.”

When Roszel enrolled in 1959, she was a married woman and 33 years old, and was one of five women in a class of 45 students. “Some faculty were not too enthusiastic about female students,” she says. “But I won over Dr. Boucher after he watched me milk a cow. He became my mentor.” The Roszels lived up the street from school, and their house reportedly was “the place to study for exams.”

One faculty member at Penn remembers Roszel as “Quite handsome and tall. You could tell that she had been a show girl.” Someone else remembers Roszel’s talent for blowing smoke rings within smoke rings, not popular today but an impressive feat 40 years ago.

While in school, Roszel became interested in cytology. After graduation, she studied at Temple University with Dr. Irena Koprowska and earned a Ph.D. She was one of the first cytopathologists in veterinary medicine. She joined the Penn faculty as an instructor in pathology in 1967 and two years later was appointed assistant professor. In 1971 she and her family moved to Tulsa, where she joined the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1996 she retired as a professor of pathology. She says, “The years spent at Penn were the happiest years in my life.”

Maron Calderwood-Mays, V’68, says Roszel sparked her interest in pathology. “Jeffie Roszel was a faculty member and role model, especially because she did all sorts of things before coming to vet school; she was in the military and she was a fashion model. After I graduated, I remember going to a picnic at New Bolton Center. I was sitting on picnic blanket with my second baby. Jeffie’s son was 10 or 12, and she had such a maternal side. Someone I thought of as 100 percent professional turned out to have a completely different nature out of the classroom. You kept quiet about your family in those days.”

Maron Calderwood-Mays, V’68

Veterinary diagnostic pathologist

Calderwood-Mays was part of the first class with a female population of two digits: 10. (Eleven were admitted, but one dropped out

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sophomore year.) Accommodations for women on night duty were make-shift, she remembers: a small room in the small-animal hospital, steam pipes clanking in the ceiling, next to the men's bathroom, from whence every sound could be heard. And the school allotted three lockers in the activities area, not nearly enough space for 10 young women to stash their stuff.

She remembers getting a good grade on her first general-pathology exam in Dr. John McGrath's course, which she liked. "I should have realized then that pathology was my field," she says, "but I didn't. The school suggested I stay for a pathology residency, but I was too eager to get my hands on real animals, not on bits of animals, so I said no."

The no didn't last long, though. She joined a small-animal practice in Lansdowne, Pa., for three years, and when her husband found work in Gainesville, Fla., she earned a Ph.D. in cancer-immunology in the pathology department at the University of Florida College of Medicine, then became a faculty member at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

She joined a private diagnostic lab which, after an acquisition, became part of

SmithKline Beecham Clinical Labs. Calderwood-Mays calls this "a dream job," doing diagnostic veterinary pathology. After yet another corporate sale, Calderwood-Mays and her partner quit and started Florida Vet Path, Inc. She also consults with Marshfield Laboratories, of Marshfield Wis. "I visited there once in June. 'You can't fool me,' I told them. 'I'm willing to visit, but it's too cold. I'm not moving.' So Fed Ex brings me slides."

Calderwood-Mays' advice for women considering a career in veterinary medicine is to get an excellent, well-rounded education first. "Don't just take animal science. Also take philosophy, religion, and languages. These classes can prepare you for the many opportunities in veterinary medicine right now. You want to be able to step into any specialty."



Maron Calderwood-Mays

Catherine Carnevale, V72

Director, Office of International and Constituent Operations, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, Washington

Carnevale believes that veterinary medicine enables women "to do a multitude of things. We gain a broad scientific knowledge in many different subjects and species. My career has not followed a traditional veterinary medicine path, in that I have dealt primarily with human food safety and international trade. Yet I felt the education and philosophy we received at Penn prepared us to venture off into non-traditional areas.

In vet school they told us our education gave us the option of doing a variety of things, but I didn't quite believe it. It seemed like most students went to vet school because they wanted to practice. I certainly did. The truth is, a veterinary degree is a great door opener."

When Carnevale chose Penn, she says, "had I gone elsewhere, I would have been the sole woman. At that time few schools had women students and, if so, only one or two. The University of Georgia, the state contract school for Maryland where I lived, annually admitted 10 students from Maryland, so I expected to go there."

During her interview for Georgia, eight men sat at a table, asking questions ranging from whether she thought she could put her arm in a cow without standing on a chair (Carnevale was 5'6") to how many books she'd read in the past year; she guessed 30. "They asked me to name the last two books I'd read, which were essentially dimestore novels. Then on the spot, they asked me to compare them to the classics. I never thought I had a chance, so I relaxed a bit despite the bizarre line of questions."

Meanwhile, Carnevale visited Penn, where she met associate dean Don Lee, whom she asked about the school's attitude toward female students. "He told me that Penn began as a Quaker-based school and therefore had a tradition of seeing men and women as equals. That was the great answer! He looked at my record



Cathy Carnevale

and didn't see any reason why I couldn't get in. When I went back for a formal interview, I had Dr. Lee again, and we just chatted."

After Penn accepted Carnevale, she phoned Georgia, and learned she was accepted because another student in the Maryland 10 chose to go elsewhere. "Nevertheless, the gentleman I spoke to was quite frank. He discouraged me from attending, saying I'd be the only woman in the class and would probably not be happy there." So she told her parents she dearly wanted to go to Penn, which she did, although it cost about four times more than Georgia.

When Carnevale graduated from Penn, she applied to several practices. She ended up at an excellent practice, an AAHA hospital outside of Philadelphia. Dr. Lee had recommended her to the practice owner, though she didn't learn of his involvement until later. "When I found out, I asked him whether he realized that I had been an average student. But Dr. Lee said that how you do as a student does not predict how you do when you get out. He had faith I'd do well."

Midge Leitch, V73

Owner, Londonderry Equine Clinic, Cochranville, Pa.

In 1979, Dr. Leitch's final year on the faculty at New Bolton Center, a new intern arrived. "We were immediate kindred spirits," she says, of Dean W. Richardson, now chief of surgery at NBC. "Dean is perhaps the brightest person I've ever known, and when he arrived he was fairly convinced of his expertise. Fortunately I had seven years' experience on him!"

"For a couple of weeks, we had very combative arguments in barn rounds. One day I was paged: 'Dr. Leitch, 228, please. Dr. Leitch, 228.' So off I marched to the office of Dr. Charles W. Raker, the first head of equine surgery at New Bolton, and a monumental force in the lives of people who worked in the clinic during his tenure. If you heard his or his secretary's voice over the intercom, it would raise your heart rate, blood pressure and peristalsis. It might mean simply a request to get the next horse in the stocks for an exam, or it might mean one had been caught in some malfeasance.

"Dr. Raker told me that students had suggested that Dr. Richardson and I should be separated, as we appeared to dislike each other so much. Completely caught off guard, I responded that I thought we enjoyed a wonderful

repartee, that he was the best intern I'd seen, and that I found the challenge stimulating. In typical fashion, I had been completely unaware that the students had been intimidated and I had hoped the same was not true for Dr. Richardson. Apparently it was not.

"The fondest dream of any teacher is to have a student surpass her. Dean Richardson done that, and I like to think that in some small way I helped him formulate his approach to clinical problems."

Trained as a surgeon at New Bolton Center, Leitch rarely performs surgery now. She has a sport-horse practice, working on lameness problems, training

issues that include a veterinary aspect, preventive medicine and the long-term rehabilitation of horses with injuries. She specializes in competitive horses in the disciplines of dressage, driving, jumping, and three-day eventing. She

travels often with the U.S. Equestrian Team, including accompanying them to the Olympics in Seoul, Atlanta and Sydney.

Leitch thinks a veterinary career is a lifestyle choice. "At 5 PM, you don't push your chair under your desk and close the door on your profession." Some types of veterinary practice are easier to control than others and permit more flexibility in one's personal life. "I made a career choice that required professional flexibility, necessitating concessions in other areas. Now sometimes I think it might be nice to have a family; though I can't imagine what family could or would want to cope with the demands of my professional life. So my advice to women intent on a professional career is to investigate carefully its requirements. Certain careers within veterinary medicine are not especially compatible with a reasonable family life."



Midge Leitch

Leslie Dierauf, V74

Conservation Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Fe, N.M.

As habitat conservation plan-coordinator for the Southwest, one current project involves metro Austin, Texas, which needs to help con-

serve two neo tropical songbirds and seven cave invertebrates (spiders). And she's working on a scheme involving 5.8 million acres in Pima County, Arizona, which includes Tucson, where a six-inch bird, the Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, and 80 other associated plants and animals need protection.

"The fun part is helping communities and individuals understand how great it is to be a steward of the land or water where they live," Dierauf says. "It's a bigger picture. That's why I moved from direct hands-on animal care, where I saved whole groups of animals at a time, to the bigger picture, where I can save habitat that saves more than one group. When communities invest time and money in these plans, they embrace them when they're finished."

A pivotal moment in vet school for Dierauf was in anatomy, when Dr. Isidore Gersh was teaching microanatomy. One day he came to class 15 minutes early

and started writing on the blackboard. "He filled the entire board, and everyone was madly scrambling to write it all down. As soon as he finished writing it, he erased it." Pause.

"What I learned was that you should probably listen instead of taking notes. Dr. Gersh was one of my favorite professors, even though I got many low grades from him. We were on pass-fail, so it really didn't matter."

For three years, the Class of 1974 took classes with the Class of 1973. "It was wonderful having the class ahead as friends; they gave us great insight into what to expect. They were struggling for grades, and we weren't. We didn't have to panic, and we realized that we were saved from that layer of tension. We were lucky."

To de-stress, Dierauf often "spent time in the hay" with baby lambs and baby foals. That, plus eating fried mushrooms at the Brown Derby in Kennett Square.

Dierauf spent 1990 as a AVMA Congressional Fellow, following which she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives for more than two years. In 1992, Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine invited her to give a "distin-



Leslie Dierauf

guished alumna" presentation, called Through the Looking-Glass: One Woman's Perspective on Public Policy. "I had memorized the presentation, and it was being filmed. I dropped all 356 of my file cards. I bent over and picked up a few at a time. One woman told me afterwards that she loved that I dropped the cards, that it made her realize I was human."

Later Dierauf co-founded the Alliance of Veterinarians for the Environment and won the 1998 AVMA national animal welfare award. CRC Press recently published the second edition of her unique textbook, *Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine*.

To women interested in a veterinary future, Dierauf has pithy advice: "Love math and chemistry. If you don't, you ain't gonna get it."

Cindy Bossart, V78

Small-animal practitioner, Fort Lauderdale

A turning point in Bossart's life happened on a freezing day in vet school, three inches of snow falling, on a large-animal rotation. "I was doing rectals on cows, and that's how I was keeping warm. After I had my arm up a cow for 10 minutes, the farmer asked how her ovaries felt. I said I didn't know yet, I needed to be in there another 10 minutes. I wished I had two arms up two cows, it was that cold. That's when I decided I needed to live in permanently warm weather."

Another pivotal experience came in the first class of aquatic veterinary medicine in Woods Hole, Mass. After a mother shark died, Bossart delivered the babies, raising them in a tank and teaching them how to feed. "Sharks are precocious when born," she says. "When I released them into the ocean, they swam around my feet for two seconds, then swam away. No loyalty there! Those sharks taught me to be interested in reproduction."

The woman who answers the phone "Dr. Cindy" runs a five-woman doctor practice in a 6,000-square-foot facility with two surgical suites, laser equipment, endoscopy and ultrasound. There's an on-site frozen semen lab and a whelping room plus a separate isolation building. She's been with the practice since 1978, owned it since 1988. She runs a reproduction clinic for dog breeders and breeds and shows collies. At the 2002 Westminster dog show, her homebred rough collie won best of breed, the first Westminster breed ribbon for her.

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The practice of veterinary medicine used to be harder for women, says Bossart; “So women should go for it.” Practicing what she preaches, she has housed two girls, now young women, who want to grow up to attend veterinary school, in University City. One, now a college junior, has lived with Bossart every summer since age 14. “Veterinary medicine is fun, interesting, challenging and always changing. If people understood that, they’d get better at it every day.”

Joan C. Hendricks, V’79, Ph.D.

Henry and Corinne R. Bower Professor of Small Animal Medicine and Section Chief, Critical Care, Veterinary Hospital, University of Pennsylvania

During vet school, sometimes Hendricks read about animals, sometimes she examined them and sometimes she listened to songs about them. “Dr. Peter Hand used to do a skit and play guitar and sing about anatomy,” she remembers. “He punned and sang ‘Thank God, I’m a neuro-anatomist,’ a la John Denver. I was fascinated that a professor came to that level of communicating with students. I loved being part of that. Vet school was the most amazing group I’ve ever been part of. Vet school graduation was the only graduation I felt I belonged at.”

Hendricks was an early participant and the first woman in the NIH-funded V.M.D./Ph.D. veterinary scientist program at the School. Later she was instrumental in establishing the Center for Veterinary Critical Care at VHUP, bringing Emergency Service, Intensive Care Unit and Anesthesia under one umbrella. She is a full professor and the first woman at the School to be named to an endowed professorship.

“Once upon a time,” says Hendricks, “critical care wasn’t a specialty. If emergencies came in at night, staff tried to keep the animal alive until the daytime people came in. But times were changing. I was working with Dr. Ken Drobatz, then a resident, now head of the emergency service, on a dog with a septic abdomen. Everyone came together. We worked for weeks on this young, otherwise healthy Labrador retriever; we tried all kinds of new medicines and treatments. Once we determined the dog had swallowed a deli toothpick, we surgically removed it. It was the first time we realized we could all work together and make a difference. The day she went home with her big tail wagging was an absolutely glorious day.”

Fruit flies are Hendricks’ current love. “They’re fabulous. They are inexpensive and

plentiful. Emotional attachment is rare, though possible,” she teases. “My assistant named some. I was doing a sabbatical to study genetics, and I thought it would be fabulous to learn scientifically if fruit flies have a state like sleep. To summarize two years of work: they do. There are hundreds of mutations, and some of the same genes alter sleep in both flies and mammals.” Earlier Hendricks studied sleep in bulldogs, which are “adorable, expensive and sickly,” so she switched from four legs to six. “I have more pet bulldogs than pet flies.”

When a young woman asks Hendricks about a career as a vet, the reply is No problem. “There are no barriers to getting into school today. Some women are interested in saving every bird and kitty. Veterinary medicine is a cute thing for a little girl to aspire to, and it can contribute as a second income. But women in the field today have to focus on business, too. You have to earn a living and earn respect and earn perqs – by focusing on business. Women still lag behind men in academic rank and positions of control. Go where the money and power are! Value what you do.”

Amy Marder, V’79

Director, Behavioral Service, Animal Rescue League of Boston
Owner, New England Veterinary Behavior Associates, Lexington, Massachusetts

At the Phi Zeta honor society annual meeting in 1978, Marder heard a lecture given by Dr. Alan Beck, then a candidate for a faculty position. “That lecture changed my life,” she says. “He got me interested in utilizing behavior to help the community. I knew then that I wanted to work with the public and animal shelters.”

But Marder’s interest in behavior started years before she started her veterinary career. Majoring in biology and animal behavior as an undergraduate at Penn she went on to become an exhibits writer at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. One of the exhibits she wrote was on the Nobel Prizes which had been awarded in 1976 to three animal behaviorists. She intended to combine behavior with veterinary medicine when she went to veterinary school. But when she got there, she found that “most vet schools, including Penn, had little to offer” in her chosen field. She hoped she could change that one day. After graduating, she did an internship in general medicine and surgery at a private practice in California and

then worked as a general practitioner in Southern California. But her interest in behavior persisted. When she learned that Penn had hired Dr. Victoria Voith, a leader in the field of clinical animal behavior and Dr. Alan Beck to head the new Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society, her attention was drawn back to her alma mater. The next year she became Penn’s and the nation’s first resident in veterinary behavioral medicine.

After leaving Penn, Marder moved to the Boston area. She started a housecall practice in behavior and became a clinical assistant professor at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and the animal behavior consultant for Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and the MSPCA. For fifteen years, she served as the staff pet columnist for *Prevention Magazine*.

But Marder had learned that the number one reason that people give their animals up to shelters was a behavior problem. “It was great helping owned animals, but I really wanted to help the animals that really needed help, the unowned ones. I also wanted to get to the owners at risk and offer help before they made that final decision”



Amy Marder

Marder was offered the opportunity to use her expertise within an humane organization at the ASPCA in New York City. A meeting with Dr. Alan Kelly, dean of Penn Vet and also a board member of the ASPCA, convinced her to take the chance. “It was my dream job” says Marder, “except for the fact that it was in Manhattan”. She returned to Boston full-time after two and one half years.

“I am really proud of and excited about what I’m doing now,” Marder says. Her private housecall practice has grown into a large behavior center in Lexington, Massachusetts, employing three veterinary behavior consultants, a psychologist and four dog trainers. She also heads the behavioral service department at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. “In my private practice, I help owned animals stay in their homes. Through my work with the Animal Rescue League’s five animal shelters, I’ve started programs that not only help to keep

animals in their homes, but help the animals in the shelter get behaviorally ready for new homes.”

When asked, “What would you tell women wanting a career in veterinary medicine?” she answered: “It’s a great job! My veterinary education opened many opportunities for me and allowed me to go in many paths: medicine, behavior, writing, education, working with the humane community, government animal control and legislation. But don’t expect to be rich, just pleasantly comfortable.”

Grace Karreman, V’82

Owner, Pacific Marine Veterinary Services, Nanaimo, British Columbia

A woman interested in aquaculture should use a veterinary education as an entrée, says Karreman. “You could be a nutritionist, fish biologist or cattle farmer and go into fish farming, but veterinary training is second to none. Vets are taught to solve problems, and this is a new field with new problems.” As for the reality of aquaculture: “It’s a man’s world, so you should be yourself. Have confidence. Be patient and be gracious. At all times, maintain a sense of humor.” (Even in this man’s world, the majority of veterinarians six out of 11 in aquaculture in British Columbia are women.)

A sense of humor? Grace Karreman? Just ask about the time she skidded off the frosty dock of a marine net-pen site into 45-degree water. “You have to be prepared to be wet and cold if you work in aquaculture on the north end of Vancouver Island.”

When dry, Karreman consults with fish-farm companies, hatcheries, marine net-pen sites and processing plants, making routine preventive visits and handling outbreaks or problems. “You have to be extremely aware of environmental issues, not just environmentalists’ issues but water-quality issues, too, such as the chemistry of the water, the bacteria content, how diseases are passed in the water and so on. And wild fish.” Special projects can be as esoteric as hatcheries where fish may get nitrogen supersaturation; or gas-bubble disease, similar to the bends in divers; or the lack of quality of fish in processing plants, which may be due to disease, nutrition or handling.

On the 93-percent-mountainous Vancouver Island, most of Karreman’s clients, are located in fjords, with access only by boat or float-plane, her common commuting modes. British

Columbia has 20,000 miles of coast line.

“That’s more coast than Norway. We have more potential and warmer water, so fish can grow faster than in Norway, but we’re way behind Norway in fish farming.” This from a woman who sailed the east coast of Vancouver Island with her sheep dog, Molly, as first mate and sous chef.

Karreman has helped develop software to manage fish-health information plus Web-based databases. Because the farming sites are so far apart, the only efficient way for these far-flung scientists and farmers to communicate is via the Internet, she says. The Web database has three primary stakeholders: private farms; the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which cares for wild fish and salmon that return to saltwater; and the B.C. Ministry of Fisheries, which has fish-culture facilities that raise trout to be released into lakes. “Now that we all talk the same language,” Karreman says, “and we’ve made this major effort across the province, it gives me a high to get the cooperation to pull this together.”

Laurie Landeau, V’84, WhG’84

Associate Director, Aquavet® Program, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Equine and Aquatic Animal Veterinarian, Cambridge, Maryland.

Before vet school, Landeau worked at New Bolton Center on an engineering project involving the biomechanics of horse hoof. For two summers, former dean Mark Allam taught her to drive carriages. “I wish he were still around, sharing the front seat. . . . I was honored that he was interested in teaching me to drive. But most important was his telling me about veterinary medicine, that he thought it was going to be a popular and positive career for women, even before there was an explosion of women in this field. He said it was a flexible degree, that it was well-suited for women who wanted to have it all. The time I spent with him, talking about his philosophy of veterinary medicine in some ways those drives were life-transforming, because I’ve stayed with both those things. I became a veterinarian, as I always wanted to do, but I followed a non-traditional path. And I continued to drive carriages. I’ve broken my own horses, shown several of them to multiple championships, taken part in various fundraising carriage drives to benefit the vet school, and I ended up owning 10 carriages and four sleighs.”

Landeau was the first person in the country to earn a joint V.M.D./M.B.A.-degree. The M.B.A. helps her manage her father’s business and the start-up research laboratory where she and her husband (Robert J. Maze, a Penn-trained Ph.D. parasitologist) are working with two protozoal parasites of oysters.

For 15 years Landeau has taught in the summer Aquavet® program at Woods Hole, an intense course for aquatic animal medicine, organized by Penn, and open to all veterinarians and veterinary students on a competitive entry basis. The rest of the year she splits her time between New York, where her family business is located, and Maryland, where she is “an equine practitioner on a selective scale.” She handles veterinary medicine for her own 32 primarily Appaloosa horses and for farms belonging to a few friends. Her Appaloosa stallion stands in North Carolina.

In Maryland Landeau and her husband raise oysters to try to create parasite resistance in oyster populations, an issue which is of vital importance to the livelihood of many Chesapeake Bay families who have seen the oyster crop devastated by parasitic diseases. “The ultimate purpose is not to raise oysters but to develop and elucidate reasons for disease resistance,” she says.

Ava Logan, V’85

Associate Director, Animal Health, Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine and Science, Pharmacia, Chicago.

Logan never considered a career in broadcasting, but a professor at New Bolton Center recommended it while Logan was a student giving grand rounds on a horse. “The professor came up to me afterwards and told me what a nice voice I had and that I should be doing radio. I took it as a compliment.” Happily she ignored his advice.

“I know that more women are getting in to veterinary medicine today, and I just encourage them to ‘go for it,’ she says. “The career is diverse, veterinarians are involved not just in private practice but also in government, industry, research and other areas. You have to work hard. In my case, ‘working hard’ involved four years of veterinary school plus three years of clinical residency and a concurrent postdoctoral fellowship (research) in immunology.

“You can learn about research only by doing it and interacting with other researchers. If you want to move forward in the veterinary

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specialty of laboratory animal medicine, you have to take (and pass!) your specialty (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine) boards after completing your residency and studying for one to three additional years, all while holding down a full time job. It was a rigorous undertaking, but I don't regret it. My career is quite rewarding, helping to develop drugs for unmet medical needs, has provided a way for me to pay back all the loans I accrued along the way, and is giving me a good standard of living."

As a student, Logan admired biochemistry professor Adelaide Delluva. "She was a terrific teacher and always encouraging. She came in one day with a great big, floppy purple hat. I loved it. I told her she looked great in it, and she gave it to me. I tried not to take it, but she insisted. I don't wear it often, but it's still in my closet."

During her residency, Logan worked with John Cebra, Ph.D., immunology professor, who was invited to Taiwan to set up immunology labs at a new center for molecular biology in Taipei. For two months, Logan worked with



Ava Logan

him abroad, and, as a result of their work, she submitted an abstract for a poster that she presented the following year at an international conference in London, all of which was an utter delight.

While in her current position, she has collaborated with a pathologist and published papers on marmosets, specifically the clinical parameters of marmoset wasting disease.

Bridgette Jablonsky, V96

Farm Manager, Hanover Shoe Farm, Hanover, Pennsylvania

Jablonsky was involved in standard-bred racing even before vet school, and she once aspired to be track veterinarian. When in school she became interested in reproduction and spent two rotations in the neonatal unit. "When I graduated, this job was available. No matter what your aspirations are, Hanover Shoe Farm is ideal. Imagine being drafted by the NY Yankees. It's the pinnacle. There's no place higher, no place more prestigious." She is the first female farm manager at Hanover, the largest standard-bred breeding farm in North America.

Her population waxes and wanes with the season: peak population, with a potential for 1,300 horses, begins about mid-June, when all the current foals are born, and lasts until August, when the first yearlings are sold. From

November through early February, population goes down about 1,000, all on a 3,000-acre spread. The numbers include the 500 farm-owned and boarding mares that live on the premises.

Jablonsky suggests that women should not let anything – such as size or gender – deter them from veterinary medicine. "For reproduction and palpating mares, you would think someone taller would be good," she says. "But with skill and determination you can overcome many things that are viewed as an obstacle, including being five feet tall, as I am.



Bridgette Jablonsky

"When I interviewed at Hanover, they said their only worry was that I was too small physically to do it. 'Give me a try,' I told them, 'you can always fire me.' For my first three years after graduation, I worked with the previous farm manager. When he retired they promoted me to his position."

At School, she was pleased to work with Dr. Tulleners, who "took a group of students under his wing, students involved with independent study. He helped us on his personal time, and he was always keen about cultivating students who had special interests." At the time, her interest was surgery.

"All our horses are given Hanover as a surname. If you see a horse with a Hanover name win a race, you knew him before he was a horse, you knew him as a follicle. You go back that far with him. Chances are, you saw him being born, you raised him, you treated his sicknesses. The first Hanover horse I knew well won two million-dollar races in one year, both under the time of 1:50, which is the speed barrier. He was highest priced yearling of his year and sold for \$250,000; he's back here now to stand at stud in our stallion born. His first yearling will sell this year. I love this stuff.

"Every time I do a pregnancy test on a mare, I get a great sense of accomplishment. I'm helping create life."

Honor for Dr. Deubler

On the eve of the 2002 Westminster Kennel Club dog show **Dr. Josephine Deubler, V'38** was honored by her peers and presented with the **Nature's Recipe Pet Foods 2001 Hall of Fame Award**. This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of the dog show sport and is



(l to r) Peter Green, who gave the speech summarizing Dr. Deubler's achievements, Arlene Arden, Dr. Deubler, Mark Miller, Nature's Recipe.

presented in recognition of lifetime achievements by dedicated show dog enthusiasts. The award is presented periodically and Dr. Deubler joined a select group. She received an engraved crystal bowl and a donation will be made to a charity of her choice.