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In Memoriam: Leon Paul Weiss

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STUDENT NEWS

Eric Deeble, V'13, received an AVMA Congressional Fellowship to represent the veterinary profession in the legislative branch of government.

Jeffrey Carey, V'14, received the Ed Hiestand Memorial Veterinary Student Scholarship from the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. He also presented a lecture in March, "Etiologies of Nodular Skin Lesions in Passerines," at the NWRA Symposium in Portland, OR.

Marc Meyers, V'15, was awarded first place in the VMD oral presentations at the Phi Zeta Student Research Day in March. He spoke about his project, "Thrombospondin-2 influences revascularization and bone volume in ischemic fracture," in which he used a mouse model to demonstrate that TSP-2 enhances healing dynamics in ischemic fractures.

Anne Staudenmaier, V'15, was awarded the Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar Program Award for the summer on the topic "Immune response in the common raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, to modified live canine distemper and feline panleukopenia vaccines."



leon paul weiss

in memoriam

Leon Paul Weiss, 87, of Merion, PA, former chairman of the department of animal biology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, was a medical doctor who spent his career in research, teaching, and writing, focusing his work on cells and tissues of the immune system and the hematopoietic organs.

I was one of those kids who always wanted to be a vet. Most of you reading this know what I am talking about. Then when I was 18, my dad decided to make a career move from Johns Hopkins Medical School to the faculty of the veterinary and medical schools of the University of Pennsylvania. To me, this move was better than a pot of endless money. It meant that I got to work in the Veterinary School as a college student and that, as a potential 'faculty brat', I had a better chance of getting into Vet School.

And then I did get into Vet School. I felt like my dad engineered my career happiness.

I have heard from so many of you in letters and emails about how my dad mentored you and helped in your careers. He never saw roadblocks to inspirations. He supported all of his kid's dreams, and clearly from many of your emails, he supported others in their career goals.

I think he was a great teacher. Many of you reminded me about what he called the "cilia wiggling in the gut" or of how he described ribosomes as a "beaded necklace." I saw him create Aquavet so he could work on the Cape in the summers. Marine mammal medicine and even more so, fish medicine, was crazy-talk back then. His thoughts of using animals as caregivers for people were also odd. But he helped make it happen. I remember him after he used colored chalk on the chalkboard, and he would turn around to face the class all purple, yellow, and blue from his chalkboard pictures. I got to see his enthusiasm over the spleen, the lymph, and the red blood cells. He made the pieces of the hematopoietic system into visual characters each with their own story. I feel very lucky to have memories of him as a teacher as well as my dad.

—Alice Weiss, V'84, daughter of Leon Weiss