

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
School of Veterinary Medicine.
Centennial, 1984, Records
1982-1985

2.0 Cubic feet

UPG 385

Prepared by Theresa R. Snyder

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROVENANCE..... 1

HISTORICAL NOTE..... 1

INVENTORY..... 3

GENERAL FILE..... 3

OVERSIZE PHOTOPRINTS..... 7

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PROVENANCE

Transferred from the School of Veterinary Medicine, July 7, 1989

HISTORICAL NOTE

One of the oldest of its kind in North America, the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania is the only veterinary school in the United States that was a direct outgrowth of the University's School of Medicine. In 1807, Benjamin Rush, one of the three original professors of the medical school, proposed that instruction in veterinary medicine be given at the University of Pennsylvania. It was not until 1882, however, that Joshua Ballinger Lippincott, one of the University Trustees, donated \$10,000 for the purpose of establishing a veterinary school within the University. The Board of Trustees appointed a special committee with Lippincott as Chairman to consider plans for inaugurating such a school.

In October 1884 the School of Veterinary Medicine was opened with Dr. Rush Shippen Huidekoper serving as Dean. Funds for the construction and equipment of the first buildings were contributed by Mr. Joshua Ballinger Lippincott, Mr. J. E. Gillingham, and Mr. Fairman Rogers. Beginning a

century-long tradition of support, the state of Pennsylvania appropriated \$25,000 for the School in 1889. This was only the first step of many that have contributed to the rapid growth of the School.

In order to make way for the present medical laboratories, the School of Veterinary Medicine moved from 36th and Pine Street to 39th and Woodland Avenue in 1901. In 1905, Dean Leonard Pearson presented plans for a combination of new veterinary school and hospital. Generous contributions, a gift of \$100,000 from Mrs. James J. Goodwin (daughter of Joshua Ballinger Lippincott), a bequest of \$50,000 from Mr. Joseph E. Gillingham, and more state appropriations totaling \$380,000 from 1906 to 1911, allowed for the completion of a new building by 1913. The school has since resided in this building.

The Faculty voted to admit women to the course in veterinary medicine in 1933 provided "that no concessions be made in regard to the work required." Within two years, the school was offering courses for advanced work in veterinary pathology leading to master and doctoral degrees. The school has been offering graduate courses in cooperation with the Graduate School of Medicine ever since. A gift by the heirs of Effingham B. Morris of Bolton Farm in 1937 led to the establishment of an ambulatory clinic to aid the clinical instruction in veterinary medicine.

In 1945, the faculty reorganized the ambulatory clinic and established the Media Field Station, which served as the School's clinical center until 1952. In 1947, a third floor was added to the north wing of the school building to provide quarters for pathology and microbiology.

The University acquired a tract of land at London Grove, Pennsylvania, 32 miles southwest of the University campus, for use by the Veterinary School in 1952. Named New Bolton Center, it has been a major base for teaching, research and clinical services in veterinary medicine.

In recent decades, the School of Veterinary Medicine, in cooperation with the faculty of the School of Medicine, further specialized the discipline and thus strengthened its status as one of the nation's leading veterinary schools.

**School of Veterinary Medicine. Centennial, 1984, Records
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INVENTORY

GENERAL FILE	Box	Folder
Prescription book kept by Dr. Martin, 19th century	1	1
Planning documents for celebration -- originals	1	2
Centennial Committee	1	3
Documentation Committee	1	4
Awards Committee		
general file	1	5
Minutes, 1982-1983	1	6
Minutes, 1984	1	7
Correspondence, 1982	1	8
Correspondence, 1983	1	9
Correspondence, 1984	1	10
Centennial Award		
Correspondence	1	11
Award Citations	1	12
Designing and funding, 1983-1984	1	13

School of Veterinary Medicine. Centennial, 1984, Records

UPG 385

Dinner	1	14
Nominations, 1983	1	15
Notifications and invitations to recipients, 1984	1	16
Press Releases	1	17
Program for Centennial Award of Merit, 1984	1	18
Recipient correspondence, 1984	1	19
Centennial Medal Award		
Correspondence	1	20
Award Citations	1	21
Dinner lists, RSVP, etc.	1	22
Press Releases	1	23
program of awarding, 1984	1	24
Centennial Convocation		
Correspondence, 1982-1985	1	25
Address by Robert R. Marshak, 1984	1	26
Brochure, [1984]	1	27
Honorary degree, 1984	1	28
Honorary Degree Citations	1	29
Background information on recipients	1	30
General	1	31
Press releases	1	32
Founder's Day		
Correspondence	1	33
Program information	1	34

Dinner lists, RSVP, arrangements	1	35
Guest registration book	1	36
Minority Dinner, Program, 1984	1	37
Bills / Receipts, 1983-1984	1	38
Alumni lists	1	39
Alumni lists by class (front of roster book)	1	40
Student rosters -- class of 1887-1931 (pp. 1-44)	1	41
Student rosters -- class of 1932-1959 (pp. 45-87)	1	42
Student rosters -- class of 1960-1976 (pp. 89-122)	1	43
Cardiovascular Conference	1	44
Conference of the School of Veterinary Medicine and School of Social Work	1	45
Conference of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons	1	46
Conference of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons -- lists	1	47
Radiologists Meeting	1	48
Map of the original school site	1	49
Printed		
programs	1	50
American College of Veterinary Medicine -- programs	1	51
Almanac	1	52
Department of Veterinary Medicine: fifteen views	2	1
Photoprints		
Veterinary School buildings, 1909	2	2
Pharmacy lab / Hospital Pharmacy, 1909	2	3
Large Animal Examination Room, 1909	2	4

Operating Room for Small Animals, 1909	2	5
Ambulances, 1909	2	6
Anatomy / Dissecting Rooms	2	7
Animal Clinic	2	8
Class shots	2	9
Student groups	2	10
Alumni Day	2	11
Dr. J. Jenny	2	12
Dr. Marshak's trip to California	2	13
Faculty	2	14
Second Centennial Fund	2	15
Centennial Convocation -- Honorary Degree Recipients	2	16
Special Convocation	2	17
Centennial Medal Winners (I)	2	18
Centennial Medal Winners (II)	2	19
Centennial Award of Merit	2	20
Founder's Day	2	21
1984 Birthday Party	2	22
Friend's Tour	2	23
AKC Party	2	24
Centennial Celebration Speakers	2	25
Campus scenes / Academy of Music	2	26
Certificates	2	27
Negatives	2	28

University Museum Exhibition

Catalog	2	29
Printed -- Flyers, programs, etc.	2	30
Videos -- correspondence	2	31
Videos -- clippings	2	32
Man and Animals -- clippings	2	33
Era of the Pet -- clippings	2	34
Ice Sculpture Contest	2	35
Artifacts: Trial Casts, Centennial Medal (Obverse: Rush Shippen Huidekoper; reverse: Vet School)	2	36

OVERSIZE PHOTOPRINTS

Box

Folder

Map File #66-1

John William Adams, 1862-1926, portrait	OS 0	
Veterinary Medical Society, University of Pennsylvania, 1932	OS 0	
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 50th Anniversary Banquet, 1935	OS 0	
Class of (unidentified)	OS 0	
Class of (unidentified)	OS 0	
Class of 1918, banquet, Hotel Bingham, Philadelphia, February 9, 1917, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	OS 0	
Class of 1916, Senior Class, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	OS 0	
Alumni Day, Classes of 1926-1929, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	OS 0	