Meet Your Alumni Board

Currently the SVM Alumni Advisory Board is comprised of seven members: Diane Larsen DVM’90, PhD’99, Monica Bender DVM’91, Jennifer Lorenz DVM’09, Kathy Reilly DVM’90, Ty Vannieuwenhoven DVM’89, Sharon Campbell DVM’88, and Pat Warpinski DVM’91. The board’s purpose is to enhance the school’s support of and relationship with alumni by providing input on alumni-related activities and communications. Current board members represent the diversity of SVM alumni. Several members work in government and industry while others have focused on a career in general practice. It is an appreciation of their time at the SVM that has led each member to become involved. We want you to get to know your alumni board and will highlight members in each newsletter.

Kathy Reilly DVM’90

Kathy is a great example for current and future veterinarians that you need to follow your path wherever it may lead.

She took two years after undergrad at the University of New Hampshire to work with chickens as an assistant geneticist for an international poultry breeding corporation—a glorified chicken gynecologist! After graduation from the SVM in 1990, Kathy did a private practice small animal internship in Connecticut, then a medical and surgical position in Maine for three years, moving to Salem, Massachusetts for seven years (the last two for a corporation), then Plymouth, Massachusetts for five years. Kathy has been at her current job for 11 years. “If the job doesn’t fit, leave it. Keep looking — no sense being unhappy,” Kathy says. Organized veterinary medicine has been a big part of Kathy’s career—local chapters, state VMA’s and the AVMA as a delegate for Massachusetts. “What can I say? Vets are my people,” she adds.

And now, after 28 years of being an associate, Kathy is a practice owner. Winnie Gutmann Morenz DVM’88 opened the Park Place Veterinary Hospital in October 1990. In 2008, Kathy moved to New Hampshire to work for Winnie. When Winnie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, it was her wish that Kathy take over her practice, and when Winnie passed away in January 2017, that is what Kathy did.
Divine Service Animal Scholarship

The Class of 2009 is starting a scholarship in the name of our favorite class member, Divine.

Divine not only fearlessly stood by her human, helping her throughout vet school, she also helped every member of the Class of 2009. Whether we needed to learn how to do a physical exam or just needed to pet a puppy, Divine was with us every step of the way. In honor of her loyal service and companionship, we are proud to announce The Divine Service Animal Scholarship.

The scholarship will be awarded to a veterinary medical student who has shown dedication to working with service or therapy animals (such as service dogs, therapy horses, other therapy animals, or canine officers). The recipient may be in any class year, but cannot have received the scholarship previously.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarships, please visit supportuw.org/giveto/divine.

The Renk Learning Center

As a graduate of the SVM, you may have heard about updates to student-focused spaces and other building expansion plans in the works. Recent fundraising supported the creation of a new clinical skills center for current veterinary students. While the school is looking to double the size of its small animal hospital and increase research lab space through its future expansion, the recently renovated student learning center has been a great addition to the school on a smaller scale. The Renk Learning Center was designed to facilitate more hands-on, collaborative education experiences for students and provide additional dedicated study and mental health space. The layout of its Active Learning Room helps create small groups for more interaction and discussion for students and teachers. According to Dr. Linda Sullivan DVM’87, the setup allows students’ progress to be monitored more effectively, which makes it much easier for instructors to answer questions and help students learn. Students also report feeling safer and participate more actively. Sullivan also says there is more opportunity for problem solving that models decision making in students’ fourth-year clinical rotations and beyond into practice. As alumni we understand the importance of case-based studying and preparing for communications with colleagues and clients. The Renk Learning Center is a great example of our donations directly impacting the next generation of SVM students.

Alumni Awards

The Alumni Advisory Board is developing an alumni awards program to recognize UW School of Veterinary Medicine graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the school. There will be three awards categories: the Distinguished Service Award (DVM), the Distinguished Service Award (non-DVM), and the Young Alumni Award. Alumni can be nominated or self-nominated. Applications for the first alumni awards will be open in fall 2019 and the recipients will be announced in spring 2020.