

TUFTS VETERINARY MEDICINE

MAGAZINE OF THE
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

VOLUME 6, NO. 2 WINTER 2004

Landmark Philanthropy

Cummings Foundation Gift Heralds
a New Future for Veterinary School



PLUS: ANIMALS AS SENTINELS • RECORD OF GIVING

Amazing, Historic, Wonderful



A FEW WEEKS AGO, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. What has seemed impossible forever (well, for any of us younger than 86!), has been achieved. The Red Sox are number 1. Their fans—here in Massachusetts and from points around the world—are elated.

Here at Tufts Veterinary School, we're on top of the world for another reason. Cummings Foundation has made an extraordinary gift to Tufts University, the largest in the history of the university and, we believe, in the history of veterinary medical education. It is our cause for celebration.

Tufts University started the veterinary school because it was the right thing to do—for Tufts, which had, and still has, extraordinary strengths in the life sciences, and for New England which had had no operating veterinary school since the 1940s (Middlesex Veterinary College operated on what is now the Brandeis University campus from 1938 to 1947; it was never accredited). Jean Mayer, a world renowned nutritionist, championed the establishment of the school, first mentioning the possibility in his September 1976 inaugural speech as President of Tufts University. Mayer knew how much richer the university would be, and how well positioned to understand and support all aspects of the life sciences, with a school devoted to animal health. He understood the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health.

The road, however, hasn't been easy. Our school operates on a unique model, receiving the smallest amount—both in absolute terms and as a percentage of our budget-- of public operating support of any accredited veterinary school in North America. It is also the only one without any public capital investment. We have survived by being strategic and entrepreneurial, two qualities that attracted the respect and interest of Bill Cummings, who got to know intimately the financial challenges of our school serving as a member of the university's board of trustees from 1986-1996.

Cummings Foundation's gift will provide a total of \$50 million dollars to the school over the next fifteen years. This gift provides stability that our school has never enjoyed before. Our budget will remain tight, and we will remain entrepreneurial, but we will have a bright future.

To all of our alumni, friends, students and clients, let me say that this is a wonderful time to be involved with our veterinary school, which will be named Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University at a celebration this spring. The Cummings gift does not eliminate our need for your ongoing support; in fact, it makes this the best time to invest in Tufts.

To Bill Cummings, his wife Joyce, his family, and the trustees of Cummings Foundation, I say *THANK YOU*. Your gift is as amazing, historic and wonderful as a Red Sox World Series victory!

TUFTS VETERINARY MEDICINE

VOL. 6, NO. 2 WINTER 2004

Executive Editor

Dr. Philip C. Kosch, Dean
School of Veterinary Medicine

Editorial Advisor

Shelley Rodman, Director
Veterinary Development and Alumni Relations

Editor/Writer

Cynthia B. Hanson

Art Director

Margot Grisar
Tufts University Publications

Graphic Designer

Kelly McMurray/2communicé

Photographer

Andrew Cunningham

Tufts Veterinary Medicine is funded in part by the Edward Hyde Cox Fund for Publications. It is published three times a year and distributed to key university personnel, veterinary students, veterinarians, alumni, friends and others.

We welcome your letters, story ideas and suggestions. Send correspondence to:

Editor, Tufts Veterinary Medicine
Tufts University School
of Veterinary Medicine
200 Westboro Road
North Grafton, MA 01536
Telephone: 508-839-7907
Website: www.tufts.edu/vet
Email: veteditor@tufts.edu

on the cover

William S. Cummings, A58, president of Cummings Foundation, says he is honored to support the vision of this world-class institution of higher learning.

Landmark philanthropy

Cummings Foundation to invest \$50 million in veterinary school BY BARBARA DONATO

CUMMINGS FOUNDATION INC. has committed to investing \$50 million in Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine over the next 15 years — the largest gift in the history of the university. It also ranks among the largest gifts ever to a Massachusetts college or university.

In recognition of the gift, the school will be renamed Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in a ceremony to be held in spring 2005.

“Tufts is enormously grateful to Cummings Foundation for this extraordinary gift,” Tufts President Lawrence S. Bacow said. “One measure of a just society is how well it takes care of those who cannot take care of themselves. People who devote their lives to animals are among the most caring and unselfish among us. Cummings Foundation’s gift appropriately recognizes their selfless commitment.”

“The mission of Cummings Foundation is to invest in organizations that make contributions to our society,” said William S. Cummings, A58, president of the foundation. “We were moved to recommend this commitment due to the practical, entrepreneurial spirit of Tufts University in general and Tufts Veterinary School in particular. This collaboration will help to provide the resources necessary for the school to sustain its vision. We are honored to support this world-class institution of higher learning,” he said.

“This gift will help fund needed capital improvements, provide matching funds in



From left, Tufts President Lawrence S. Bacow, William S. Cummings, A58, president of Cummings Foundation, and Dr. Philip C. Kosch, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

support of major research proposals and greatly strengthen the educational and clinical mission of the school,” Dean Philip C. Kosch said. “I cannot thank Cummings Foundation enough for its vote of confidence in the faculty, staff and students who make Tufts Veterinary School the special place that it is.”

Cummings is the founder of Cummings Properties, LLC, which operates eight million square feet of office, laboratory and research space in eastern Massachusetts, that it leases to 1,700 tenants. He is an alumnus and a trustee emeritus of Tufts.

In 1998, at his 40th reunion, Cummings received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor of the Tufts University

Alumni Association. “Tufts was an excellent experience that definitely helped me and prepared me for the business world,” he said at the time. “I paid my own tuition through Tufts, but I have always felt a major sense of obligation, which is why I have given to the university every year since graduation.”

Also in 1998, he was named Real Estate Entrepreneur of the Year for New England by Ernst & Young. Cummings was the founder and publisher of three community newspapers in Woburn, Stoneham and Winchester, and has been involved in many philanthropic activities, including serving as a director of the Woburn Boys and Girls Club for 25 years. **TVM**