GLOBAL CORNELL GRANT

In an effort to enhance the “internationalization of the undergraduate experience”, the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs (VPIA) announced the new…

Internationalizing the Cornell Curriculum Grant Program

According to the VPIA, “(t)he emphasis of this grant program is on innovations that strengthen the integration of international and cross-cultural concepts into the curriculum, and that create greater opportunities for exposing students to different cultures, languages, and meaningful international experiences.”

Our very own Emeritus Professor, Dr. David Robertshaw, along with Dr. Christine Leuenberger, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Science & Technology Studies, was awarded an ICC Grant for their project entitled:

Engagement with the lakes region of Africa

2015, 2ND QUARTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In this issue:</th>
<th>JUNE 25, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARVets - Reaching Out to the World</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill Scholars Recognize BMS Faculty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Excellence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRG Seed Grant - Jenny Sones</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors in Physiology Student Presentations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 ZOETIS AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Adam Boyko who has been announced as the recipient of the 2015 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence. Dr. Boyko was nominated by our Department Chair, Dr. Mark Roberson, and chosen to receive the award by the College Research Council who acknowledged his “remarkable research productivity, national and international recognition, funding success and publication quality”.

The college will recognize Dr. Boyko’s achievements by highlighting his research accomplishments at a special seminar and reception in early-mid September.
FARVets is an organization started by Paul Maza in 2010, and stands for Field, Abroad, and Reaching-out; describing work that he and his team do with animal welfare organization partners regionally in Central New York and abroad in places such as Mexico, Grenada, Belize, and Costa Rica. FARVets is also in contact with other potential partners in many additional countries.

This past month FARVets participated in what might have been the most successful trip in its history. A team of five Cornell veterinary students and two pre-veterinary undergraduates led by Dr. Maza spayed and castrated 83 animals at the Dobro Hrumvane (translates to Good Idea in Bulgarian) clinic in the capital city of Sophia, Bulgaria. Overwhelming feral dog and cat problems in the city coupled with inadequate local resources made it an ideal location for a free sterilization clinic. Reports of feral dog problems in the city have even included attacks and infecting humans with rabies.

FARVets partnered with Dobro Hrumvane to launch a collaborative project that proved both productive and culturally enriching. Participating students worked five clinic days to sterilize over 60 stray and feral cats and 20 street dogs, volunteered one day at a local animal shelter, and spent two days at the end of the trip visiting local historical and natural landmarks.

Bulgaria was the first Eastern European destination incorporated into the FARVets pantheon of international partners which numbers close to 30 globally, mostly in Latin America, with hopefully more in the future. It was a wild success. Dr. Maza was invited to speak at Sofia University next year and FARVets is already planning a return trip for 2016. In the meantime, at least two of the student participants will be reminded of Bulgaria daily as one undergraduate student adopted a cat from Animal Rescue Sofia, and a Cornell Vet student adopted a street puppy.
TWO FACULTY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED BY GRADUATING MERRILL PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOR THEIR ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Pictured from left to right: CU President Dr. David Skorton; Elizabeth Cissi, teacher at New Hartford Senior High School; Merrill Scholar recipient, Aaron Wallace; Biomedical Sciences Professor, Dr. Andrew Yen.

Pictured from left to right: CU President Dr. David Skorton; Lea Brunetti, teacher at Garden City High school; Merrill Scholar recipient, Michael Mongelli; Biomedical Sciences Lecturer, Dr. Nancy Lorr.

See a complete list of this year’s Merrill Scholars and the teachers that inspired them at the Cornell Chronicle…

http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2015/05/35-seniors-honored-2015-merrill-scholars
Dr. Jenny Sones, Research Associate in the Davisson Lab, has been awarded a Seed Grant from the Cornell Center for Reproductive Genomics (CRG) for her proposal entitled “The role of microRNAs in defective preimplantation signaling observed in the spontaneous BPH/5 mouse model of preeclampsia”. Jenny has received award funding in the amount of $7,000 for her proposed research project.

Christopher Ibabao, formerly an undergraduate working in the Yen lab, graduated Summa Cum Laude this past May. His work in the laboratory has been published in two papers, one of which he presented as a poster at this year’s Honors in Physiology Student Presentation event.

We’d like to say a hearty **CONGRATULATIONS!**

to those students that graduated with Honors in Physiology this past May. It was a delight to get to see the culmination of their hard work and dedication at this year’s Honors in Physiology event held in the Vet Medical Center Gallery on May 8th.

In particular, we’d like to congratulate the following students whose presence in our labs will be sorely missed…

- **CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated Knockout of TP53**
  By Connor Foster

- **Molecular Phenotype of Cardiac Myocytes in GCaMP2 Reporter Mice**
  By Duc Pham

- **Simulation of *in vivo* hormonal environment in an attempt to improve *in vitro* canine oocyte maturation rates.**
  By Zachary Dvornicky - Raymond

- **The AhR agonist VAF347 augments retinoic acid-induced differentiation in leukemia cells**
  By Christopher Ibabao

- **Effects of Prostaglandins (E1, E2, F1α) on Bovine Sperm Motility**
  By Mohammad Saad Farooq

- **Sidewall microarchitecture provides a biophysical advantage over *Tritrichomonas foetus***
  By Dillon Hickman

- **In Search of Stem Cells of the Female Reproductive Tract**
  By Ashley Odai - Afotey
Dr. Michelle White joins the department as a Graduate Student in the Boyko Laboratory.

“I summered as a PhD student for years before completing the DVM portion of the Combined DVM/PhD Degree program in May 2014. Now I focus year-round on genetics and genomics in the Boyko lab. My primary interest is in personalized and translational medicine within diverse specialties including oncology, clinical pathology, and geriatrics.

My early years were spent in Ohio. This is most noticeable in my sometimes-irrational defense of the Cleveland Indians, The Black Keys, and Drew Carey. Currently, my major outside interests involve home automation, trying to learn foreign languages while commuting, indie rock concerts, and lobbying for improvements in animal welfare legislation.”

Ms. Ashley Yates joins the department as an Administrative Assistant and will be splitting her time between Biomedical Science’s Section of Anatomic Pathology and the AHDC billing office.

“I’m from the Pittsburgh, PA area. My husband and I moved to Ithaca in January 2013. I graduated this May from Ithaca College with a degree in Business Administration with concentrations in Management and Finance. I love anything that has to do with being outside! (hiking, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, and biking) I also love running! I’m currently training for the Catharine Valley Half Marathon in August. So, if you need a running buddy, come find me! I’m also a huge animal lover and have a 4 year old Miniature Pinscher named Mia.”

Ms. Jennifer Yordy joins the department as a Graduate Student in the Boyko Laboratory.

“I’m a PhD student in the Cornell-Smithsonian Joint Graduate Training Program (JGTP) in the field of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation. Before coming to Cornell, I worked at a wildlife rehabilitation center in Illinois and as an animal keeper at the Endangered Wolf Center in St. Louis. While there, I began research into possible causes of the extremely high rate of neonatal mortality that occurs in the North American captive population of African painted dogs. As part of the JGTP, I’m continuing and expanding my research to contribute to canid conservation. At the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, I’m working with Dr. Nucharin Songsasen to develop a project investigating the relationship between relatedness, management practices, and reproduction in African painted dogs.

At Cornell, I recently joined Adam Boyko’s lab, where I’ll be working on a project investigating the relationship between inbreeding, body size, and longevity among dog breeds. This will not only help to establish a framework for using dogs as a model for studies of aging, but may also serve as a model for future studies of the effects of inbreeding in small populations, for example in endangered species.

In keeping with a life mostly centered around canids, I spend most of my free time playing and hiking with my dog, Sirius Black, who refused to be photographed.”
Ms. Darline Garibay joins the department as a Graduate Student in the Cummings Laboratory.
“I obtained my Bachelor's in Animal Sciences at the University of California, Davis. My undergraduate research focused on the effect of local hormone delivery via intramammary infusion on milk yield in Holstein cows with induced lactation. I am a first year PhD student in the Cummings lab and am currently researching the mechanisms by which bariatric surgery improves type-2 diabetes. In my leisure time I enjoy hiking and kayaking.”

Ms. Christine Butler joins the department as a Technician III working with Dr. Jen Grenier.
“I joined BMS in August of 2014 as a technician working with Dr. Jen Grenier in the new RNA Sequencing Core Facility(RSC). Our facility performs library preparations from total RNA or rRNA-subtracted samples for the Illumina TruSeq system, sequencing, and data analysis as a complete package. I’m enjoying learning new techniques and concepts from Dr. Grenier as well as serving the CU scientific community by providing our services.
Previously, I worked for 22 years in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics for Dr. Thomas Fox, who studies mitochondrial gene expression in yeast.
When not working in the lab, I enjoy hiking around central NY with my two rescue dogs, exploring nature, and finding new vegan recipes to try out. I also have a cat and a rabbit to keep me busy.
It’s a pleasure to be working for BMS and the vet school and I look forward to meeting more folks there.”

Dr. Aditi Iyengar joins the department as a Post-Doctoral Associate in the Nikitin Laboratory.
“I am Aditi Iyengar, a new post-doctoral associate in Dr Alexander Nikitin’s lab. I completed my Bachelors in Zoology from Madras University in my hometown of Chennai. I then moved to New Orleans, Louisiana to pursue my Masters in Neuroscience from Tulane University. In 2008 I joined the interdisciplinary PhD program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and eventually joined the lab of Dr Andrew Hollenbach in the Department of Human Molecular Genetics. I received my PhD degree in Cancer Biology in 2013 and after six years of calling New Orleans my home, I decided to leave the warm south for the not so warm Northeast. I began my postdoctoral work in the lab of Marcy MacDonald in Massachusetts General Hospital where my project involved determining the role of post translational modifications on huntingtin protein function in normal and Huntington’s disease models. In 2015, I decided to make a change (personal and professional) and accepted a post-doctoral position in Dr Nikitin’s lab in Cornell. Ithaca is like no other place I have ever lived in and I am looking forward to being part of the community here at Cornell as well as in Ithaca.”


**MAKING THE HEADLINES**

Female reproductive tract assists swimming sperm  
*April 14, 2015 - Dr. Anne Ju - Bookmark*

A study asserts that, in the presence of a gentle fluid flow, the biophysics of the female reproductive tract – in particular, the grooves that line parts of it – critically assist sperm migration.


Panelists offer pros and cons of ‘genomic revolution’

**SERVICE AWARDS**

On May 28th at the Biomedical Sciences Annual Breakfast, Department Chair Dr. Mark Roberson thanked the following individuals for their long years of dedicated service…

**5 Years**  
Lynn Dong

**10 Years**  
Darko Alikalic  
Dr. Mary Martin  
Robert Munroe  
Michael O’Hare  
Shaun Reining  
Shannon Spencer

**35 Years**  
Patrick Burke

**40 Years**  
Amy Pellegrino

**A NEW FACE IN FINANCE?**

An important notice for Residents and Interns!  
Have you gotten your Abstract title in for the 2015 Clinical Investigators’ Day?  
The deadline is coming up on Wednesday, July 1st!

Congratulations to Shannon and Chris Spencer on the birth of their son, Brayden Christopher Spencer, born March 30, 2015 at 3:21 pm.

Brayden weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz.  
and was 21 and 1/4 inches long!
Interesting Things To See And Do!

Free Week Of Access To The Fitness Centers and Group Fitness Classes

During the week of June 29 through July 2 anyone with a staff/faculty/spouse Cornell University ID card can enter the Cornell fitness centers or take a CFC group fitness class without needing a Cornell Wellness membership. To take part in this one week of access, you must show your ID card and sign a waiver at a checkpoint. Fitness center open hours of operation. CFC Group fitness classes offered.

Checkpoints for fitness centers:
- Helen Newman Hall fitness center - checkpoint is the fitness monitor desk at the front entrance of the fitness center
- Teagle Hall fitness center - checkpoints are at the fitness monitor desks at the front entrances of both the upstairs fitness center and the downstairs fitness center
- Noyes fitness center - checkpoint is the fitness monitor desk at the front entrance of the fitness center

Want an orientation to the cardio and strength training equipment inside the fitness centers? Email kk253@cornell.edu to schedule an orientation with staff from Cornell Wellness.

Checkpoints for group fitness classes (you will also receive a wristband at these checkpoints):
- For classes in Helen Newman Hall - checkpoint is in the issue room
- For classes in Teagle Hall - checkpoint is the fitness monitors desk at the front entrance of the upstairs fitness center
- For classes in Noyes Community Recreation Center - checkpoint is the service desk on the bottom floor

http://recreation.athletics.cornell.edu/hours-facilities/cornell-fitness-center-hours

Links Of Interest

CVM Capital Project Information and Updates
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/about/project.cfm

Looking for a good laugh?
Check out this list of

10 Super Ridiculous Questions Vets Hear All The Time
http://barkpost.com/awkward-questions-vets-hear/

Seminars!

Our seminars are done for the semester, but keep an eye on the following links for updates on who we can look forward to seeing this coming fall...

Biomedical Sciences Seminar Series
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/seminars/seminars.cfm

MIP Field Seminars
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/seminars/physiology.cfm

Reproductive Physiology/Endocrinology Seminar Series
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/seminars/ReproEndoSeminarSeries.cfm

Vertebrate Genomics Club (The Verge)
http://www.vertebrategenomics.cornell.edu/GenomicsClub.html