Dr. Tevis Goldhaft ’35 took life — and living it — seriously. He was a top student — from the time he was a youngster in grade school through veterinary training — and he began working when he was just 11 years old, often speculating later in life that his success was due to his work ethic. But, no one would ever have considered him a book worm, given his mastery of a goal that eludes many: the ability to balance work and play.

Sharing the best piece of advice he ever received with fellow classmates during his 65th class reunion in 2000, he explained how he managed to both sit at the head of the class and have fun: “When my classes were over at two, three or four o’clock in the afternoon, I went home. But I didn’t put my books away and play bridge or play baseball or football or cards. I did my homework, from three to five, five thirty. Then I had dinner, and then I could do whatever I wanted every night, but my work was done.”
This appears to be the mantra by which he lived: work hard and play hard. One of the few Cornell veterinary college students to live in a fraternity, Goldhaft served as the chancellor of Beta Sigma Rho for his junior and senior years. He spent many evenings cavorting with fellow Cornell students, including his future wife of 46 years (Bryna Goldberg), but, he recalled, his work was always done. “I was never a week behind, a month behind.”

In fact, he was usually ahead of his time. Proud to be a member of the last class of Cornell veterinary students accepted straight out of high school, Goldhaft was one of the few who came to college with practical experience, propelling him to the head of the class. “Because of my experience with my father who was a veterinarian, I had practical knowledge for handling animals,” Goldhaft

Dr. Tevis Goldhaft served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Glassboro State College, which is currently known as Rowan University, in New Jersey.

**Enduring Legacy**

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Donald F. Smith, dean emeritus of Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and professor of surgery, brings veterinary medicine’s rich and enduring legacy to life in accounts of veterinarians who advanced animal health during the past 100 years. Through interviews with veterinarians or surviving family members, Dr. Smith captures fascinating accounts of the personal and professional lives of veterinary practitioners, industry leaders, and animal health experts. Please enjoy the excerpt below from the interview Dr. Smith conducted with Dr. Tevis Goldhaft. For the complete interview, and interviews with many others, please visit www.vet.cornell.edu/legacy.

**DR. SMITH:** Was there ever any question that you would go back to work with your Dad in the vaccine business?

**DR. GOLDFAHT:** I had no problem with that. When I was in high school I got a job with the State of New Jersey. I worked on a New Jersey egg-laying farm where they had 100 individual houses — small houses — and each one had 12-13 pullets and one rooster. They were breeding tests and they had to be trap-nested[1] five times a day. I recorded when they laid eggs. I worked there for two or three summers, starting as a sophomore in high school.

I’ll never forget when I got the first check: $60 for a month’s work. I took it to the bank — I was 13 or 14 years old. But the teller in the bank asked me where I got the check. I told him I worked for it. So he said, “Well, let me check into it.” He went in the back room and he called my father and he said, “Your son’s in here with a $60 State check. Where did he get it?”

From then on, I had no problems. I worked for three years taking care of poultry. I was good at it. I could handle the work when guys would go on vacation. It was no problem for me at all. I knew the husbandry of poultry-raising, and I was interested in it.

[1] Laying nests that allow operator to determine the number of eggs produced by each hen.
said, also at his 65th reunion. “I re-
member when they took us to the
barn with beef cattle. They asked if
any student would like to go in and
demonstrate how you hold one of
these cows. A couple guys went in,
and they got thrown for a loop. So I
said, ‘I’ll go in.’ And I went in, and I
did it like my father did. I put my fin-
gers in the nose, grabbed the horn,
stood alongside of him, and grabbed
the horn on the other side of him. I
held his nose and held him tight so
the doctor could examine him, and
the instructor said, ‘Where did you
learn that trick?’ and I said to him,
‘My father’s a veterinarian. I used to
go with him all the time, and I know
how to do it.’
Upon graduating, Goldhaft mar-
rried and returned to Vineland, New
Jersey, to work alongside his father,
several other family members who
were also trained veterinarians, and
collaborators from around the world.
Combining practical ingenuity with
entrepreneurial mettle, the team
made history with novel vaccina-
tions for poultry and other species.
“My whole active life in the fi eld,”
recalled Goldhaft at his reunion,
“was based around preventing not
finding a cure. … I’m glad I did it that
way. … It was the way of the future at
that time. … It was a unique approach,
not to treat them, but to prevent the
problem.”
In one of his fi nal contributions
to the profession, Dr. Tevis Gold-
haft left a considerable portion of his
estate to the College of Veterinary
Medicine at Cornell University. His
foresight and generosity will con-
tinue to fuel the College’s mission to
advance the health and welfare of an-
imals and people. Unrestricted gifts
such as his are often used to assist
new faculty who are launching their
research eff orts, eff orts that may re-
sult in new vaccines just like those
developed by Goldhaft.