News from Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine

'Scopes

February 2010

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I recently sent an update to all alumni regarding the progress the College has made toward realizing initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, a guiding document that reflects input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external stakeholders. Please allow me to repeat that information here, for the benefit of all of the College’s friends and supporters.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I recently sent an update to all alumni regarding the progress the College has made toward realizing initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, a guiding document that reflects input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external stakeholders. Please allow me to repeat that information here (with some updated information about the Cornell University Veterinary Specialists practice), for the benefit of all of the College’s friends and supporters.

Despite an enormously challenging financial environment and major restructuring within the College over the past year, we have continued to make progress toward the priorities outlined in the plan to ensure the College’s leading role in advancing the profession. I am enormously proud of the way that the College has pulled together to meet the challenges of the past year. Looking forward, our major goal is to transition Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine from its current position as a national leader in veterinary medicine to a global leader in the profession. We will do that by realizing the initiatives in the strategic plan, all of which are focused on strengthening our research, teaching, and clinical programs.

We have identified five major goals:

- Strengthen the College’s premier DVM and postgraduate teaching program through innovative and collaborative initiatives that will best prepare a diverse student body to meet the challenges of animal health in the 21st century
- Improve the recognition of the College’s clinical programs by strengthening the Hospital and establishing complementary programs that enhance teaching, philanthropy, and the College’s clinical profile
- Enhance Cornell’s position as the top-ranked veterinary College in biomedical research by building on existing and emerging strengths to foster the understanding and treatment of disease
- Link basic research strengths to translational/clinical activities through investments in clinical research facilities and personnel
- Foster diversity of faculty, staff, and students, and ensure student access and minimize student debt loads by increasing financial aid

The College will move toward realizing these goals by accomplishing six key initiatives that I have outlined on the following pages. The information is presented as a snapshot. While some of the initiatives may be considered complete, most are in progress. As such, many decisions and in some cases even directions are not final.
1. Increasing the College’s class size from 90 to approximately 120
The workforce shortage of veterinarians, particularly food animal and regulatory medicine veterinarians, has been widely discussed. With encouragement from elected officials in Albany, the College is pursuing plans to increase the number of students in each class by approximately 30, with half of this growth dedicated to students who have expressed an interest in food animal/regulatory medicine. Currently, representatives from the architectural firm Ballinger Inc. are working with a faculty committee to develop a long term capital plan, which will include a specific plan for the larger class size. We are at a unique opportunity in the College’s history, with core space becoming available for teaching when the new diagnostic center opens later this year. The larger class size initiative is based on two assumptions: we will receive additional funding from the State, and we will be able to dedicate the space formerly used by the diagnostic center to teaching or other programs.

2. Strengthening our DVM clinical preparation
Based on feedback from students, stakeholders, and employees, the College has embarked on a number of efforts to strengthen the clinical competency of our graduates. One such initiative started in June 2009 with an enhanced partnership between the College and Ithaca’s Shelter Outreach Services, led by Dr. Leslie Appel, from the Class of 1994. Through this collaboration, students assist in providing high quality, high volume spay/neuter services to animals in the region. To date, more than 60 students have completed a rotation with SOS and have performed more than 300 supervised surgeries. The program has substantially increased the amount of surgical experience these students receive, and we expect this trend to continue.

In April, the College expects to continue discussions with the Tompkins County SPCA to explore the feasibility of another primary care teaching activity: an expanded collaboration between the College’s Community Practice Service and the Tompkins County SPCA. Preliminary conversations have suggested that a collaborative clinical program between the College and the SPCA could result in an educational and business model that would enhance our students’ clinical preparation, expand our training for and role in shelter medicine, improve practice management and business experience for students, provide additional support for the SPCA’s clinical operation, and serve clients who are not financially able to secure medical care for their animals. In the proposed model, students would provide medical and surgical care to shelter animals and provide primary clinical care for animals from means-tested families.

3. Gaining national/international recognition and achieving financial stability for clinical programs
The College’s third initiative is the establishment of a single offsite referral hospital in the Metro New York area to be known as Cornell University Veterinary Specialists (CUVS), as well as assisting international partners to enhance the standard of animal health care globally.

CUVS
With the help of a realtor, the College recently signed a lease agreement to operate a specialty referral and 24-hour emergency care veterinary practice at Harbor Point in Stamford, CT. The decision to do so was based on extensive strategic planning discussions with many veterinarians, outside stakeholders, the College’s Alumni Association, and the College Advisory Council. In addition, we are hosting an open meeting for members of the Fairfield County VMA where we will discuss this new undertaking. While the resolution to move forward has been made, there are many decisions that remain in discussion.

One decision, though, is very clear: CUVS will not engage in general practice, but will rather seek to support existing general practices in the area by providing the highest level of emergency and critical care, as well as referral specialty options. We expect that the initial specialties offered will include orthopedic and soft-tissue surgery, emergency care, internal medicine, and imaging. We are gathering input from local practices regarding which specialties would be most beneficial.

Based on the interviews, discussions, assessments, and research that have been conducted thus far, we believe that establishing CUVS will meet a number of significant needs for the College and for the profession.

- CUVS will expand Cornell’s role in specialty medicine by creating an integrated veterinary medical center that provides the highest level of specialty medicine, facilitates clinical research, and expands the educational experience for residents and students.
- CUVS will be a financially independent unit and will not receive New York State support. In addition, CUVS will be staffed primarily by boarded specialists recruited especially for this practice, not by existing faculty. Specialists will be recruited based on their medical qualifications and their ability to communicate and interface with referring veterinarians.
- The strongest veterinarians are those who have had access to a broad spectrum of experiential opportunities. Cornell’s educational program will be enhanced by the additional opportunities afforded by a high volume specialty caseload. We envision that CUVS will strengthen some of our residency training programs, serve as an additional opportunity for DVM student externships, and allow Cornell to effectively deliver continuing education programming to veterinarians in the New York metropolitan region.
- CUVS will provide clinical investigators at the College with additional clinical case material for their studies.
- Cornell is deeply committed to operating CUVS in an efficient and service-oriented manner. Positive aggregate net revenue will support clinical and student programs.
on the Ithaca campus and is an important element in the College's plan to address reduced state funding. For this referral practice to succeed, we will need to offer options that are highly valued by referring veterinarians and clients.

- Establishing an off-site clinical presence will allow Cornell to reach a broader base of clients and philanthropic supporters strengthening our academic program, while further enhancing the College’s regional and national recognition.

I am excited about CUVS and the positive impact we believe it will have on our profession. The practice, which we expect will open in early 2011, will expand the options available in the region and compete fairly based on the quality of medicine and client services delivered.

**International initiatives**
The College remains in discussions with the Qatar Foundation to establish the Cornell Veterinary Program in Qatar. We have proposed a program that includes clinical, teaching, continuing education, diagnostic and research components that would ultimately lift the standard of veterinary medical care in that region to be housed at the soon-to-be-opened finest equine-only facility in the world. Currently our partners in Qatar are continuing to discuss and negotiate the cost and scope of this program. While I am hopeful that we can come to an agreement, we will only proceed if the program meets the College's programmatic and long-term financial needs.

The College is also engaged in discussions with the City University of Hong Kong to establish the first AVMA-accredited veterinary program in Asia. The program will be taught in English with a critical food animal component in mainland China. We view this effort as having enormous potential to positively impact the standard of animal health care in Asia and to raise the profile of our profession in this region of the world. City University has funded us to fully define the academic curriculum and the college's personnel and capital needs. We will complete this report within six months and negotiate a collaborative agreement.

**4. Enhancing biomedical research**
In July, we welcomed Dr. Maurine Linder as chair of Molecular Medicine. Linder—whose responsibilities are divided between research, teaching, and service—is leading the department of approximately 45 faculty and staff who participate in veterinary education primarily in the pre-clinical curriculum and pursue cutting edge research in cell signaling, cell biology, and cancer biology. As the chair, Linder is enhancing the department's interdisciplinary programs with Cornell’s new Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology and Weill Medical College, and is revitalizing the graduate field of Pharmacology. We are currently recruiting for the director of the newly merged Baker Institute for Animal Health and Cornell Feline Health Center and making additional investments in the College’s research office, all of which will support four critical research areas outlined in the strategic plan: infectious disease control, comparative genomics, comparative reproductive medicine, and cancer research.

**5. Linking basic and clinical research**
Our efforts to link basic and clinical research will grow from the development of a clinical research center that will house the College's DNA Bank, imaging and various surgical operations, and will be the engine for clinical trials and activities. This initiative, along with increased DVM financial aid, is the highest priority development focus for the College.

**6. Continuing to attract a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff**
For many years, Cornell has been among the leaders in recruiting underrepresented minorities to the College's student body. We will continue to make access for all students of promise and purpose a priority and are working strategically to mirror this commitment in our recruitment efforts for new faculty and staff. The successful recruitment of Drs. Maurine Linder and Avery August (chairs of Molecular Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology, respectively) are two examples of recent success. Additionally, we are continuing to stress student financial aid as a vital mechanism to blunt the increase in student debt and ensure access for those with the greatest financial need.

I hope you are as excited by the College's progress and plans as I am. I appreciate the long-standing and loyal support this College has enjoyed from its alumni and friends and look forward to continued support as we implement initiatives that will make the College and the profession stronger. Please look for future updates in forthcoming College publications.

Sincerely,

Michael I. Kotlikoff, VMD, PhD
Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine
An emotional, ethical, and professional balancing act

Editor’s Note: To be an effective veterinarian, one needs the propensity to wonder why and the technical competence to discover the answer. Top-run veterinarians are also empathetic and compassionate. In addition, they are, as the following first-person essay reveals, skilled at handling conflicting feelings. Andrew Pisacano ’10 reflects on experiences during a recent rotation with the internal medicine service at Cornell University’s Hospital for Animals. It seems clear that he understands the concept of merging a science-based profession with the art of emotion and choice.

From behind the closed door I could hear a frail soprano and a creaky baritone voice choking out a soft tune in a language I did not understand. Opening the door, the puffy red eyes and tissues in the wrinkled hands of the elderly German couple warned me that today’s appointment was not going to be easy. Not for my clients, and not for me. Despite having managed their cat through its intestinal lymphoma for the past three years, the couple seemed unprepared to say goodbye, as they knew they had to…Wait a minute… Did they have to? Maybe Fluffy could survive another week, maybe even more.

Like so many of our stoic companions, it was hard to tell how much pain she was in. But it seemed like letting her go today would save her from suffering tomorrow. Sometimes there is a balance between what is right for the owner and what is right for the animal. As veterinarians, we take an oath to serve the needs of both the animal and the client. We have a professional and ethical contract with both parties, as well as to society at large. The toughest cases can pull you in different directions, so I really appreciated the hearts of gold that this German couple had. They made our job easier because they selflessly put the needs of their pet above their own needs. They mentioned that they were too old to get another cat, and I realized they were bravely facing the rest of their lives without their constant, loving companion of 15 years. This point was brought home with the lady’s tear-soaked words: “I came to you with a cat, and I leave with nothing.”

When love runs deep
There have been other times when the decisions and direction taken were not as definite. The options—and what I would do if the roles were reversed—all have pros and cons. As the student on the service, I’m the first person to speak with the client. I try to put my opinions aside. Silence them, if you will, and only share what I know. It’s hard not to express my opinion and just tell what’s possible without pressuring or leading the client.

Phrasing is so important. Linking treatment with love—if you love your pet …—it just doesn’t seem fair, but that’s how so many of our clients see it. I love my cat, so I have to do everything I can. It’s impressive to see the depth of love. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices. It’s genuine love. But, I can also see reality and concern in their eyes. They’re thinking of the cost and they still tell us to proceed, to do whatever we think will help. I respect that.

But I also have to wonder: Is it the right thing to do? Would I do it? I’ll never know. No one will ever know, unless they’re in that exact situation. I did do all I could once for my dog. Chemotherapy gave him an extra year of good, quality life. I’m glad I did it for him and expect that the clients I’ve seen on this service are relieved with the decisions they’ve made, too.

Balancing roles
The academic in me is always glad when our clients choose to do the full work-up. Maybe I’ll see something new. Maybe I’ll find something new. Diagnose a problem. A client came in with a 10-year-old mixed breed dog with a blocked nostril. I was thrilled to get the chance to use the CT scanner. What will the 3D image of the dog’s nasal passage look like? The most intellectually interesting possibility, a fulminant cancer, was also the most deadly. Is that wrong to think about?

I watched the doctor biopsy the impacted nostril and remember thinking maybe she’ll let me hold the forceps.
Maybe she’ll let me insert them into the nostril. When she asked me if I wanted to do the procedure on the clear nostril I was excited to have the chance to DO something. To not just hold, but use the instrument. To be at the table, literally, being part of the solution. There was some blood. This profession is definitely not for the queasy or faint of heart.

It’s also not for the inflexible. I try to schedule my day. I had planned to be at a follow-up appointment for the case that was the basis of my senior seminar and then an ultrasound was rescheduled for the same time. Of course I couldn’t be in two places at once, but I wanted to. I have “wanted to” more than once on this rotation. It just happens. There’s so much happening. So many things to learn. So much to see. Right now, I’m just hungry for any vet experience I can get.

To take the next step
The Internal Medicine rotation has taught me the value of the primary literature like no other experience of my life. The medicine we practice is at the forefront of the scientific frontier. We actually have more liberty than physicians to invoke potentially beneficial treatments. At the recommendation of a resident, I’ve built my own library of primary research on a 2-inch portable flash drive. Together with the more cumbersome (but much more personalized) notebooks that we all create, I will have a significant wealth of information to draw on. Next year when I am practicing on my own I’ll remember that I had a similar case when I was a student, and I will consult my notes and library to review what the experts said. I’ve learned a lot on all of the rotations, but internal medicine has been awesome.

Closing Comment: Andrew is currently pursuing a one-year rotating internship at a specialty hospital. He hopes that his dedication to a lifetime of learning and caring for patients and clients will allow him to make the best decisions possible throughout his career in the complex field of veterinary medicine.

Helping hands in Honduras
When Shannon Vicario DVM ’12 arrived on the Island of Roatan in Honduras last month, she found a float of American crocodiles wading in diesel fuel—the result of a storm-cracked tank. Under the leadership of Drs. Marisa Bezjian and George Kollias, the students triaged the animals, washed away the oil, performed physical examinations, applied lubricant to their eyes, and collected blood with a portable chemistry analyzer provided by Abaxis, Inc. This was just one of the experiences that Vicario and the group of 13 other students say illustrated the needs of tropical species during a recent class held in Honduras.

According to Vicario, “It was an amazing opportunity to gain field experience and to help these animals. Wildlife can be very delicate and many of the animals we examined had never been seen by a veterinarian. I feel, as veterinary students, it is important to learn our role in conservation. This was a life-changing experience for me and I am grateful to lend a hand.”

Now in its second year, the two-credit course, called Field Techniques of International Wildlife Management, affords Cornell veterinary students and professors the opportunity to help Honduran animal managers and caretakers improve the quality of life for captive native wildlife.
Leaders in the classroom, the community, and the laboratories

Two College faculty are among a list of thirteen Cornell faculty members who were named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science. The fellows were recognized February 20 at the annual AAAS meeting, held this year in San Diego. The new fellows from the College are Richard A. Cerione, Goldwin Smith Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Maurine E. Linder, Professor and Chair of Molecular Medicine.

In addition, three faculty—selected by the College’s student body—were recognized at this year’s White Coat Ceremony. Mary Bellosa DVM ’11 presented Dr. Korona Stipetic with the Basic Science Teaching Award of Excellence; Pati Kirch with the Clinical Science Teaching Award of Excellence; and Dr. Dwight Bowman with a new award offered this year that pays tribute to those who are leaders in service to the community. For more highlights of faculty achievement, turn to the news briefs on page 26.

Mary Bellosa DVM ’11 is pictured with Dr. Korona Stipetic (top right); Dr. Dwight Bowman and her aunt, Linda Koehler (bottom right); and Pati Kirch (below).
Committed veterinarian, enthusiastic sleuth: Lopez is all about public health

They are silent … even more so than a mouse. They don’t smell, and to see most of them takes special equipment. One of the best ways to track foodborne pathogens is to chat with people who are sick: maybe, says Karen Lopez, you’ll discover they bought a pound of ground beef from the same supermarket. Lopez, who will graduate with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University in 2011, thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to become a detective while working toward her Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Minnesota, which she will earn in May.

“Tracing foodborne outbreaks back to the very first illness—possibly to the very first jar of peanut butter—is fun,” said Lopez, who noted several foods that are known culprits, including raw oysters, red raspberries, raw milk, uncooked meats, and sprouts. “This is definitely part of public health. But so is making sure to speak with pet owners about MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) and deworming. The link between veterinarians and public health is strong.”

Lopez will be the first graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine to also graduate from the University of Minnesota’s public health program, taking advantage of a partnership between the two institutions. As one of three veterinary colleges to have a formal agreement with Minnesota’s School of Public Health, Cornell students have access to a faculty advisor, online courses at Minnesota, and a pre-determined list of Cornell classes that are accepted as transfer credits for the MPH. The agreement, which enables students to work toward both degrees simultaneously, was one of the features that attracted Lopez to Cornell.

“I’ve always known I wanted to be a veterinarian,” said Lopez. “I became interested in public health while an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins where I took a course that highlighted the clear connection between veterinary medicine and public health. It’s unmistakable.”

Although students can apply to Minnesota’s public health program anytime during their four years as a veterinary student (and take up to seven years to complete the program), Lopez applied to both schools simultaneously, which allowed her to begin completing Minnesota course work the summer before entering Cornell. She also visited Minnesota two other summers to participate in the 3-week Public Health Institute, where, she says, she was able to immerse herself in both the technical content and diversity of the field.

“At the Institutes, I collaborated with people from all medical fields, levels of training, backgrounds, and experiences,” said Lopez. “This diversity of people, knowledge, and outlooks on life gave me the tools I need to develop my own perspectives, perspectives that are based on true insights into how a particular issue affected people who bring many different positions to the table. It is really eye-opening.”

Lopez will earn her MPH this spring, after having completed 42 credits, a field experience, and a master’s project.

“Veterinarians with experience in public health have a vast array of career options,” said Kevin Cummings DVM ’96, who is currently completing his PhD in epidemiology and who serves as faculty advisor for students seeking the MPH from Minnesota. “At a time of increasing concern over emerging infectious diseases, food safety, and the health of our environment, we as a profession are in demand and well-positioned to profoundly impact the health of our society.”
Karley Hermans DVM ’11 grew up on a small farm in Midland, MI, surrounded by cows and sheep. She bought her first steer when she was 13. And yet, as a young girl, veterinary medicine was hardly her top career choice. “In fact, I swore that I would never become a veterinarian,” said Hermans with a laugh. “At that stage of my life, it just didn’t appeal to me.” However, as she worked with the livestock on her farm, she began to change her mind, resolving to focus exclusively on large animal medicine.

After completing four years of research in microbial genomics as an undergraduate at Michigan State University and receiving fellowships from the American Society for Microbiology and the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Hermans set her sights on veterinary school. She was drawn to Cornell by the strength of its faculty, its facilities, and by the research and clinical opportunities available for students interested in working with cattle. “Professors [Tom] Divers, [Chuck] Guard, [Daryl] Nydam, and [Ynte] Schukken are all very well known in the field,” she said.

In Ithaca, Hermans hit the ground running, getting involved in a great number of extracurricular activities and leadership roles. She has served as co-president of the Cornell chapter of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, treasurer for the Swine Club, Colic Crew Chief, SCAVMA board member, and College representative to Cornell’s graduate student assembly.

In 2008, Hermans began working as a research assistant on a calf model of the parasite Cryptosporidium parvum in Daryl Nydam’s lab. While Hermans had acquired research experience at the molecular level as an undergraduate, she welcomed the opportunity to conduct clinical and translational research and to learn about parasitology. “Karley has great potential as a veterinarian because she is bright, sees the big picture, is organized, and works hard,” said Nydam. “She has been instrumental in devising and testing methods to optimize our lab techniques, and she is equally adept out of the lab wrangling rowdy dairy calves and performing obstetrical procedures to deliver calves cleanly.”

Nydam also helped connect Hermans with a research project in Peru through Cornell’s Expanding Horizons, a competitive grant program that supports students working on animal research in developing countries. Hermans spent the summer of 2009 at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru, studying Ovine Pulmonary Adenomatosis, a type of lung cancer, and developing a blood-based diagnostic test. Hermans would travel regularly to a 130,000-head sheep farm high in the Andes to collect samples. In addition, she toured the Alpaca industry in the Andes and worked with the Vicuña, an endangered cameld that produces some of the finest fiber in the world. Hermans also found time to travel widely throughout Peru, visiting Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley.

Looking forward to an academic career in large animal medicine, Hermans plans to spend several years after graduation acquiring additional experience in a clinical setting before returning to academia for either a residency in internal medicine or a PhD.

*By Daniel Gurvich*
Beth Licitra, DVM/PhD Program, Field of Comparative Biomedical Sciences
Fear, fascination trigger professional goal

Sometimes a little fear can be a good thing. Growing up in New York’s Hudson Valley, Beth Licitra remembers being frightened by public television programs about Ebola and other deadly infectious diseases.

Frightened, but fascinated. The efforts of those working to understand and combat these exotic afflictions captured her imagination. Today, Licitra, a second-year DVM/PhD dual-degree student at the College of Veterinary Medicine, is on her way to a promising career in veterinary public health.

Along the way, a number of unique research experiences have enabled her to develop her early fascination. In high school, she worked with West Nile Virus and as an undergraduate at Cornell, she worked with vectors of Dengue. “There are great opportunities for Cornell students at all levels to get involved with a research laboratory, and Cornell makes a real effort to highlight those opportunities,” said Licitra.

The decision to pursue veterinary studies came late in her undergraduate career. “I was not one of those people who knew they wanted to be a veterinarian from the age of four,” she said. An undergraduate Cornell course in veterinary entomology and a field trip to a local dairy farm provided the impetus for Licitra’s decision. “Having grown up in a rural area with many farms, something clicked for me on that trip. I felt like I had come home,” she said.

Realizing that the College’s dual-degree program could help merge her primary interests—animals and public health—Licitra felt that the Cornell approach to veterinary education would be particularly conducive to her studies. “Cornell promotes a highly integrated, global and collaborative view of the world,” she said. “Translational collaboration is what will ultimately lead to medical breakthroughs, and Cornell really tries to promote those linkages.”

Following her first year of graduate study, Licitra participated in the Summer Research and Leadership Program, a highly selective research and enrichment program directed by Dr. Douglas McGregor for veterinary students who seek to broadly influence the veterinary profession through a science-based career. “Beth’s calm demeanor and sound judgment were an inspiration to her Leadership Program colleagues,” recalled McGregor. For her part, Licitra was inspired by the diverse and unique backgrounds of her cohort, which included an accomplished pianist, a competitive pentathlete, and an internationally-ranked martial artist, as well as many international students.

Licitra’s PhD research with Gary Whittaker, Associate Professor of Virology, is focused on studying the spike protein that the FIPV (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) virus uses to gain entry. She has been studying a potential FIPV viral inhibitor on a cellular level, but hopes to develop a mouse model in the coming years. Licitra hopes that her work will one day contribute to the development of a treatment for this fatal disease in cats.

Now in her first year of DVM studies at the College, Licitra looks forward to completing a residency in pathology and investigating zoonotic diseases for a regulatory agency such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For now, she has her hands full trying to balance her research and clinical education with time for her family. She is married, with a two-year-old son.

By Daniel Gurvich

Cornell promotes a highly integrated, global and collaborative view of the world.
As a girl growing up in Hawaii, Terri Iwata remembers being fascinated by the beauty of her natural surroundings and credits this childhood immersion in nature for her affinity for life sciences. It wasn’t until her undergraduate years as a biology major at Stanford University, though, that Iwata began to develop an interest in animal biology. A number of her courses at Stanford were taught by faculty members who were trained veterinarians, and Iwata went on to participate in a semester-long internship working with lab animal veterinarians at the Primate Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Kyoto in Japan.

The internship experience at PRI led Iwata to train for a career in lab animal medicine. “The lab animal veterinarian who I worked with in Kyoto was a very strong advocate for the animals, even when it caused conflict with the principal investigators (PIs),” said Iwata. “I thought that took a lot of courage, and I found her dedication to the wellbeing of the animals inspiring.” With these experiences as her guide, she chose to pursue veterinary medicine, choosing Cornell after speaking with a number of Cornell veterinary students. “I got the sense that they were generally happier than their counterparts at other institutions,” she said.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the clinics. Iwata spent the summer preceding her second year of veterinary studies (2006) conducting research through Cornell’s Veterinary Investigator Program (VIP). When she entered the program, Iwata explains, she was merely interested in gaining additional exposure to basic research in order to better understand the PI’s perspective. But her research experience through the program was so engaging that she eventually “caught the bug” for basic science.

Since 2004, VIP has provided first- and second-year veterinary students a focused experience in biomedical research guided by a CVM faculty mentor. Iwata studied genetic regulation in the placenta under the guidance of Dr. Mark Roberson, Professor of Physiology and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Although she held on to her interest in lab animal medicine, Iwata decided to incorporate clinical and research components into her career. She now looks forward to running a lab and designing experiments.

Following her second year of DVM studies, Iwata was accepted to Cornell’s highly competitive dual-degree DVM/PhD program. She is currently in her third year of PhD work, studying the genes that control the aging process in mammals with the lab of Dr. Siu Sylvia Lee, Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics. She hopes to determine whether mammalian genes homologous to those that affect aging in the worm C. elegans function in a similar manner in mammals.

While Iwata’s research interests have grown through the VIP and dual-degree programs, she stresses that she’s a “veterinarian first,” and ultimately hopes that her research will help advance veterinary medicine.

By Daniel Gurvich
Students on call to help pet owners through crises

Folks call Cornell's Pet Loss Support Hotline for a variety of reasons. For some, their recently deceased pet represented a last remaining link to a family member or an important place. Others are having trouble making sense of their confusing emotions or finding an appropriate way to memorialize their pet. Some struggle with religious or moral issues around euthanasia, while others call the hotline long after their pet has died: anniversaries can be especially hard.

No matter what their reasons for reaching out, callers are assisted by a sensitive and empathetic volunteer who has been trained in grief counseling. “We do a lot of listening,” said Ingrid Rhinehart ’11, one of the hotline’s coordinators. “People want a chance to tell their side of the story and to really be heard, so we do a lot of reflective listening and asking for details of their experience.” A collection of literature related to pet loss is also maintained by the hotline.

Rhinehart volunteered with the hotline as a first-year student and has been an active member ever since. She anticipates that dealing with grief and loss will be an important part of her career in companion animal general practice.

Student volunteers receive nine hours of training in active listening, stages of grief, euthanasia and memorials, and other topics. The sessions are led by professional staff from Cornell’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and by the hotline’s faculty advisor, Dr. Margaret McEntee, Professor of Oncology. Each year, 12 to 15 new students are trained, and there are currently approximately 20 active volunteers on the hotline. If callers voice concerns beyond topics related to pet loss and grieving (for example, major depression), volunteers are trained to connect them with appropriate community resources.

“The hotline offers students an invaluable opportunity to develop their own style and skill set in discussing pet loss with their clients,” said McEntee. “These types of discussions can be stressful and uncomfortable for the veterinarian. Hotline volunteers will be that much better prepared to understand clients’ reactions to grief and to try to help them.”

While Rhinehart originally joined the hotline in order to develop her skills, she says she stays with it because of the opportunity it affords her to help people in need, recalling in particular one youngster who felt better after writing a letter to his deceased dog, attaching it to a helium balloon, and releasing it into the sky. She hopes that veterinarians will remember this hotline and encourage their grieving clients to call. “It’s amazing what pets do for us to center our lives,” she said.

Cornell’s Pet Loss Support Hotline, (607) 253-3932, www.vet.cornell.edu/Org/Petloss/ is a free community service that operates Tuesday-Thursday, 6:00-9:00pm Eastern Time. Callers who leave a message outside of operating hours will receive a callback.

By Daniel Gurvich
Leslie Diaz DVM '10 didn't get in to Cornell on her first try. Nor the second. But the third time around, having gained experience in a lab animal facility and improved her GRE scores, she was offered admission by seven leading veterinary colleges, including Cornell. This story also exemplifies the not-so-secret ingredients in Diaz's recipe for success in life.

After attending Manhattan’s prestigious Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts to study visual art (she is still an avid photographer), she went on to major in zoology at Connecticut College. As an undergraduate, Diaz was exposed to scientific research, including a summer internship with the United States Geological Survey studying genetic divergence and variation in Sockeye Salmon in Alaska’s Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

When she visited Cornell, it immediately felt like home. She was struck by the helpful attitude of students and administrators, the faculty’s accessibility to students, and the positive climate for minorities at Cornell. “Cornell does a very good job in terms of diversity,” said Diaz, whose family is originally from Puerto Rico.

She came to Ithaca with a strong interest in lab animal medicine, however, after meeting Dr. Alfonso Torres, Associate Dean for Public Policy at the College, Diaz’ career orientation turned toward public health. She is currently looking into either a Master’s or a PhD in Public Health, with a particular interest in studying infectious disease outbreaks and foreign animal diseases. “Dr. Torres was essential in developing my interest in public health,” said Diaz. “He has an outstanding network, and he has always been more than willing to guide me throughout my academic career, and I am very grateful for that.”

Diaz, who also spent the summer of 2008 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, through the College’s Expanding Horizons program, recently assisted Torres with the 9th annual International Course on Transboundary Animal Diseases, conducted in Spanish at the Department of Homeland Security’s Plum Island Animal Disease Center to train foreign veterinarians in the recognition and diagnosis of livestock and poultry diseases. “We are very proud to have students like Leslie among us,” said Torres. “She is a great student ambassador for Cornell, and I am confident that she will have a very distinguished career upon graduation, providing needed contributions to the health and wellbeing of people around the world.”

Diaz also helped organize the College’s first symposium on zoonotic diseases, led the Cornell chapter of the American Society of Lab Animal Practitioners (ASLAP), edited the 2010 yearbook, served on the board of SCAVMA, represented the College on the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA), and promoted diversity as secretary of VOICE.

Diaz says that taking on these numerous responsibilities outside of class has actually helped her stay organized and focused in her studies. In addition, she feels that these extracurricular activities have been tremendously important in building her knowledge and her character. “Everyone’s busy at vet school,” said Diaz, “but when you find time to dedicate to community service, you can grow exponentially. It’s the things you do outside of the classroom that people will remember about you, not your grades.”

By Daniel Gurvich
Plato said that the soul takes nothing with it to the other world but its education and its culture. For some, though, obtaining an education can be an insurmountable obstacle for even the most highly qualified. This, according to Dr. William Abel ’51, is an atrocity that needs to be addressed.

The William Abel DVM ’51 and Tauna S. Abel Scholarship will provide financial assistance – in perpetuity – to students enrolled in graduate or professional programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, including but not limited to the DVM program, the dual DVM/PhD program, the Clinical Fellows Program, and post DVM studies. The first student will be named in the Fall of 2010.

“It is my hope that the development of intelligence will not depend on whether the person’s brain cells are bathed in androgen or estrogen, nor will it depend on the color of the scalp, or the day of the week that is devoted to rest and worship,” said Abel. “It will simply support excellence, wherever it is found.”

Abel has devoted his life to excellence. He graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine as a First Lieutenant through the Veterinary ROTC program, which allowed him to serve in the Korean War. Upon his discharge in 1956, he worked in private practice in the mid-West, where the commitment to farming made practicing large animal/food supply medicine a wise choice. Eventually, as concrete began replacing cornfields, he migrated to mixed animal practice, and ultimately operated a group of five small animal practices that supported six veterinarians. Now retired from the profession, Abel says he is busier than ever. The Tucson resident created a dog park in his community, serves as the properties committee chairman for a neighborhood of 2400 homes, and manages an extensive corn, soybean, and rice farming operation in Mississippi.

“My career and my life have been very gratifying,” said Abel, who raised three children and has six grandchildren. “I helped farmers economically. I enjoyed the relationships I developed with clients, and I found a great sense of confidence from my training at Cornell. My career has afforded me everything that we could have hoped to achieve: financial security, a happy and healthy family, respect in the community, satisfying work, and friendship. I am very pleased to be able to pass the possibility of this type of achievement on to future generations of students.”
Creative Ways to Give

Each year our veterinarians treat tens of thousands of animals—pets, farm animals, wildlife, zoo animals, and exotic species. To ensure the best health care for all of our patients, our medical staff must have access to equipment that inspires innovation in medicine and surgery. Our work depends, in large part, on private donations from people just like you, to purchase equipment, such as the items listed. This issue focuses primarily on the needs of the Cornell Equine Hospital.

Clinical Innovation.
Equip the premier veterinary teaching hospital in the country with items that will advance veterinary medicine through new techniques and treatment options. Gifts of any size for the hospital’s Clinical Innovation Fund.

Gifts of Any Size

Seeing More Clearly.
Support complex procedures such as tieback surgery, upper respiratory tract surgery and epiglottic entrapment through the purchase of an equine endoscope with video capabilities. Equine Hospital.

$40,000

Following the Trends in Human Medicine.
Enhance veterinary surgeons’ abilities to do many laparoscopic surgery procedures, including thoracosscopic procedures. A computer-controlled power supply is connected to a special handpiece that can be introduced into the abdomen or thorax through a very small port. An EnSeal handpiece seals the blood vessels with heat, limiting the hemorrhaging.

$15,000

Going Digital.
Provide a better surgical and teaching experience with high quality digital images and videos. We are seeking a storage system arthroscopy tower to allow for visualization and documentation of arthroscopy procedures for the Large Animal Hospital.

$11,350
“Hand” eling the surgery.
Shorten an animal’s recovery time and risk of hemorrhaging with support for a laparoscopic hand instrument to perform minimally invasive procedures. Equine and Farm Animal Hospital. $3,200

It’s in your blood.
Diagnose diseases like anemia, kidney disease, malnutrition or dehydration by purchasing a centrifuge hematocrit to run tests that determine the percent of red blood cells in plasma. Equine and Farm Animal Hospital. $800

Precision, precision.
Allow surgeons to target tissue and control bleeding with enhanced safety and control with the purchase of an electrosurgical cautery piece. Equine Hospital. $10,000

A truly open MRI.
Monitoring a patient during an MRI is a priority. An MRI ECG monitor is specifically designed for patient observation during an MRI, including remote monitors and vital sign screening. Equine and Farm Animal Hospital. $50,000

For more information, contact Amy L. Robinson.
Office of Alumni Affairs and Development
College of Veterinary Medicine
(607) 253-3742 || amy.robinson@cornell.edu
Recently completed testing has identified the presence of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV) in fish that were taken from Lake Superior. The findings were made by collaborating laboratories at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle, Washington. The Cornell investigators involved in survey design, collections and evaluation of the samples using a highly sensitive technique, referred to as qRT-PCR, are graduate student Emily Cornwell and collaborating graduate student Geof Eckerlin, Drs. Mark Bain, Paul R. Bowser and James W. Casey. Investigators at USGS Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle, Washington, who confirmed the presence of the virus by testing of the same samples with a different method and for genetic typing of the virus are Drs. Gael Kurath and James R Winton.

A test to determine if your client’s mare is pregnant just 45 days after breeding is now available with Cornell’s recently reintroduced pregnant mare serum gonadotropin (PMSG) test. PMSG rises rapidly after conception and can be detected through day 100. Using a blood sample, endocrinologists with the Animal Health Diagnostic Center assess conception and endometrial cup formation and evaluate for problems that can be addressed early.

Two student-run events this spring will be most successful with your help. The second annual Pedal for Pets bike-a-thon is scheduled for April 24. This year’s event will support the Patient Assistance Fund at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, helping to ensure that as many animals as possible receive the medical help they need, regardless of the family’s financial circumstances. Students are hoping that alumni and friends will consider riding or supporting a rider. More information can be found at www.vet.cornell.edu/events/pedal. The 44th annual Open House will showcase the veterinary profession on April 10. Students are preparing for displays and presentations, ranging from how to care for pocket pets to how to test a horse’s respiratory capacity on the equine treadmill. If you’re in the area, please visit the College for this annual event and encourage others to do so as well.

Veterinarians at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals are looking for healthy Labrador retrievers to undergo a free comprehensive health screening. The test results will be shared with the referring veterinarian, and the dogs’ DNA will go to the hospital’s DNA bank. The DNA will provide a control group of healthy dogs for gene discovery of multiple diseases of interest. For more information, contact dnabank@cornell.edu.

A two-year, multi-institutional study funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and the Collie Health Foundation has identified a new drug—pregabalin—as an effective anti-seizure option for dogs with poorly controlled epilepsy. The study assessed pregabalin’s ability to control seizures.

When Sir Noggin, a stray cat with a condition rarely seen, was referred to the CUHA, Dr. Curtis Dewey believed the condition could be treated. In what is thought to be the inaugural surgery to remove a feline encephalocele, a neural tube defect, Dewey removed
Sophy Jesty BS '94, DVM '01, Dipl ACVIM has spent some of the last two years tackling the most common cardiovascular cause of poor performance in horses: atrial fibrillation. Supported by the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research, she has evaluated a new antiarrhythmic drug for its efficacy in equine atrial fibrillation. If proven safe and effective, the drug could serve as an alternative for quinidine, which although effective, is associated with harmful side effects.

Clinical researchers at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals are hoping to turn back the clock for small breed dogs that have one of the most common cardiac diseases: mitral valve regurgitation due to degeneration of the valve leaflets. The team intends to develop a better understanding of the development of congestive heart failure. For more information, contact Dr. Sydney Moise (nsm2@cornell.edu).

The Neurology and Pain Management services at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals have combined efforts to ensure comprehensive care, from pre-operative diagnosis to post-operative, rehabilitative care. For more information, contact the neurology patient coordinator at (607) 253-3060.

A Cornell veterinary immunologist and a mare from his research herd are at the center of what may turn out to be one of the most important breakthroughs for horses. A paper published in a recent edition of the journal Science—written by the international Horse Genome Project team that includes Dr. Doug Antczak, Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Professor of Equine Medicine at the Baker Institute for Animal Health—provides a high quality draft of the approximately 2.7-billion DNA base pair sequence, as well as comparative analysis and population genetics of the horse.

For the third consecutive year, Nestlé Purina PetCare has made a donation to Partners in Animal Health to help support the ongoing development of educational videos for cat owners. Their gift this year made possible a 10-part video series produced to teach pet owners about a variety of gastrointestinal (GI) diseases.

Kylius M. Wilkins ’12 has been awarded the prestigious Claudia Cartwright Fellowship by the International Services (IS) division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Wilkins will receive $25,000 in scholarship funds for each remaining year of his veterinary studies and opportunities for paid employment with APHIS-IS before and after graduation.

Last November, a Concert for the Animals was held as a benefit for the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. The performances featured award-winning violinist Tim Fain and pianist Robert Koenig playing works by Saint-Saens, Ravel, Zhurbin, and Massenet. The concert was sponsored by Clement and Karen Arrison (pictured below) in memory of their beloved dog, DeeDee. At the concert, the Arrison’s presented the College with a gift to endow the DeeDee Arrison Holistic and Integrative Medicine Seminar Series.

Dr. Judith Appleton assumed the role of the director of the now merged James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health and Cornell Feline Health Center on July 1. The two entities are housed at the Baker Institute for Animal Health. Also on July 1, Dr. Bill Horne assumed the directorship of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.
Being a veterinarian involves more than giving rabies shots. In a special broadcast from Ithaca, NY, four veterinarians practicing in different areas joined NPR’s Science Friday host, Ira Flatow, to talk about their day-to-day work—from birthing calves, to tracking epidemics, to diagnosing a sick hamster. Cornell participants included Drs. Lisa Fortier and Alfonso Torres.

Dr. Fred Scott DVM ’62, PhD ’68 (pictured below) was recognized with the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service, which was presented at the 2009 New York State Veterinary Conference. The award recognizes and honors individuals who distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities or the College.

For the first time ever, the National Institutes of Health has awarded a veterinarian with the prestigious Director’s Pioneer Award. Reproductive biologist Dr. Alexander Travis will leverage the five-year, $2.5 million grant to harness the power in a sperm’s tail to drive tiny drug-delivering bio-machines. By breaking down the individual steps in the biological pathway that sperm use to generate energy, Travis and his research team plan to recreate that pathway for use in a human-made device.

Cornell researchers Dr. Flavio H. Fenton, Research Associate, and Dr. Robert F. Gilmour, Jr., Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, have teamed with three faculty at Stony Brook University to investigate atrial fibrillation, the most common form of heart rhythm disturbance. They are part of a 19-investigator team that was awarded $10 million under the prestigious Expeditions in Computing program of the National Science Foundation. Under the five-year grant, investigators from eight institutions will be helping to develop and apply the next generation of model checking and abstract interpretation.

For the seventh year, the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament was held at the Oncenter Complex in Syracuse, NY, last fall. A not-for-profit organization, the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament donates proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction to the Cornell University Equine Hospital and Vera House.

Through an expanded collaboration with Ithaca’s Shelter Outreach Services (SOS), students are assisting in providing high quality, high volume spay/neuter services to animals in need in the region. The partnership broadens the College’s relationship with SOS in an effort to provide students with more opportunities for quality surgical experiences that benefit patients whose access to medical care is limited. The students are gaining highly supervised hands-on surgical experience as well as experience in shelter medicine.

Dr. Hollis N. Erb, professor of epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, was selected as the 2009 recipient of the Calvin W. Schwabe Award for Lifetime Achievement in Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. The award recognizes Erb’s significant contributions to veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine.

Dr. Sarah Helmond was named the 2009 Clinical Fellow through a fellowship program that was started in 2008 to provide significant research experience for clinical specialists committed to pursuing an academic career.

Fred Scott DVM ’62, PhD ’68 (center) with Dean Michael Kotlikoff (left) and Jonathan May ’72, DVM ’80 at the New York State Veterinary Conference.
Class Notes

1960s

Class of 1962

Robert E. Treat, Manchester Center, VT, is partially retired and spending time with his children and eight grandchildren. He continues to be active with Boy Scouts (District Chairman - Ethan Allen District, Boy Scouts of America) and enjoys skiing, hiking, and some travel.

1970s

Class of 1970 - Reunion Year

Gregory J. Melkonian, MD, Hopkinton, NH, is a Pediatric Orthopedist at Children's Hospital Boston and on the teaching faculty at the School of Medicine at Harvard University.

Class of 1983

David N. Phalen, Australia, is the director at the University of Sydney, Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre, and Avian, Reptile and Exotic Animal Hospital.

Class of 1984

Donald P. Thompson, Lake Elmore, VT, has completed the advanced level of veterinary acupuncture certification, and has been named a Fellow of the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture. Thompson is the first to complete this advanced level of certification in New England and the 14th in the United States. Thompson owns the Aesculapian Veterinary Service in Morrisville, VT.

1980s

Class of 1986

Lisa C. Freeman, Manhattan, KS, has been selected as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Northern Illinois University. She currently serves as Associate Vice President for Innovation at the Olathe Innovation Campus at Kansas State University and will begin at NIU on July 1.

1990s

Class of 1990 - Reunion Year

Richard S. Goldstein, New Rochelle, NY, is appearing on the weekly show “Housecat Housecall” airing on Animal Planet.

Class of 1995 - Reunion Year

Jorge L. Colon, Lexington, KY, married Maggie Thompson in October in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands. Together they operate Equine Reproductive Veterinary Services in Lexington, KY, an embryo transfer and breeding management service that is part of his reproductive ambulatory practice. His daughter, Sydney, turned 8 in November and the three of them hope to make it to Ithaca for his 15th Reunion in 2010. You can reach them by visiting www.equinereprovetservices.com

Class of 1997

Catherine G. Stiner, Bloomfield, NY, started her own small animal hospital (Bloomfield Animal Hospital) in the summer of 2003, which she indicates is “very busy and very rewarding.” She has a small farm in the area but recently became “horseless (by choice!”) for first time in 31 years.

2000s

Class of 2002

Jennifer G. Barrett, Leesburg, VA, is an assistant professor of surgery at Virginia Tech’s Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center. Her Virginia Tech Engineering Team won a $300,000 National Science Foundation grant to study knee ligament sprains at the micro-mechanical level.

Kerry S. Bailey, Saddle River, NJ, has been appointed a (neurology) diplomate of the ACVIM.

Class of 2004

Dr. Ann L. Bilderback, New York, NY, and Dr. Edward MacKillop, Pittsburgh, PA, have been appointed as (neurology) diplomates of the ACVIM. Dr. Michael A. Kiselow, Campbell, CA, has also been appointed as an oncology diplomate.

Class of 2005 - Reunion Year

Karyn A. Havas, Fort Collins, CO, is a graduate student in the Department

www.vet.cornell.edu
of Clinical Sciences, Epidemiology, at Colorado State University, The Animal Population Health Institute.

Class of 2007

Aubri Elizabeth Burke, Williamsville, NY, married Steven Patrick Matroniano on September 20, 2008, at St. Rose of Lima Church in North Syracuse, NY. She is a veterinarian at Pinewoods Animal Hospital in North Tonawanda, NY.

Class of 2008

John Clayton Lovell, Mendham, NJ, married Michelle Marie Roche (DVM ’09) at Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, Princeton, NJ, on September 19, 2009. He is employed by Flanders Veterinary Clinic, Flanders, NJ.

Class of 2009

Michelle Marie Roche, Somerset, NJ, married John Clayton Lovell (DVM ’08) at Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, Princeton, NJ, on September 19, 2009. She is employed by Iselin Veterinary Hospital.

Plan now to attend Reunion 2010
June 10-13
www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/reunion

Lots to do, see, and explore.

Come to reacquaint with friends or bring the entire family to explore Cornell and Ithaca. There’s something for everyone.

Rooms are blocked for DVM alumni at local hotels. Call directly to make your reservation and mention you are with the College of Veterinary Medicine. We also have affordable housing available on campus. To reserve your on-campus room, call or email Kim Carlisle at (607) 253.3745 or kac43@cornell.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. George Wells Abbott ’45, September 17, 2009
Dr. Joseph W. Adams ’61, May 7, 2009
Dr. George Martin Baer ’59, June 2, 2009
Dr. Richard J. Bridgman ’39, November 4, 2009
Dr. Everett John Crawford ’43, June 17, 2009
Dr. Harold J. Cummings ’45, November 9, 2009
Dr. James C. Davidson ’51, July 3, 2009
Dr. Roger R. Fales ’41, January 2, 2010
Dr. Gregory W. Gallagher ’68, November 30, 2009
Dr. Abie Goldberg ’43, August 10, 2009
Dr. Tevis M. Goldhaft ’35, July 20, 2009
Dr. Thomas N. Gorman ’57, September 15, 2009
Dr. James H. Gray ’75, CALS ’71, July 24, 2009
Dr. Clifford H. Hoppenstedt ’35, September 26, 2009
Dr. Nils Isachsen ’51, May 6, 2009
Dr. Carleton R. Kelsey ’40, May 29, 2009
Dr. Mathias J. Kemen, Jr. ’68 MS, ’47, August 3, 2009
Dr. Edwin Leonard ’40, December 20, 2009
Dr. Amy Lynn ’06, September 22, 2009
Dr. Vincent X. Paciello ’40, June 19, 2009
Dr. Seely M. Phillips ’50, July 25, 2009
Dr. D. L. Proctor ’42, November 8, 2009
Dr. Benjamin A. Rasmusen ’55 MS, ’51, July 13, 2009
Dr. John D. Strandberg PhD ’68, ’64, August 1, 2009
Dr. Vincent M. Valinsky ’76, CALS ’71, July 12, 2009
Dr. Stanley Weissman ’57, CALS ’57, November 10, 2009
Dr. Russell D. Williamson ’53, July 13, 2009

Hotels that have reserved rooms for the College of Veterinary Medicine:
Courtyard by Marriott: www.marriott.com/ithcy. (866) 541-3600
The next *'Scopes Magazine* will be published in July 2010. Please let us know what you’d like to share with your classmates in our Class Notes section by April 30, 2010, for inclusion in our July issue.

Name ___________________________ (Maiden if appropriate) ___________________ Class Year _____

Address ___________________________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Please tell my classmates that... ___________________________________________________________________________

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Please send back to Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 39, Ithaca, NY 14853 or email us at vetfriends@cornell.edu.

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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this magazine via email, please send a note to vetfriends@cornell.edu with “Subscribe ’Scopes Magazine” in the subject line. We will add your email address to a list and remove your name from the print copy mailing list. You can read the electronic magazine online or download at your convenience.

Ensuring Tomorrow ...

Please consider naming the College of Veterinary Medicine as a beneficiary in your will. More than 230 of our devoted friends and alumni have let us know of their plans to support the future of veterinary medicine with a bequest. To assist you in your planning, please feel free to use the following language when reviewing or updating your will.

*I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Cornell University, an educational corporation in Ithaca, New York, for the benefit of the College of Veterinary Medicine...*[... dollars] [... percent] [all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate]...

Creating a permanent fund at Cornell through your will is easy and currently requires a minimum of $100,000. To create a bequest for endowment, add the following language:

...to establish an endowment to be known as the [(name of) Fund], the income from which shall be for the support of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

Requests may also be directed to a specific purpose such as canine or feline health, scholarships, equine research, patient assistance or faculty support. Please contact us to discuss your specific wishes. Many animals, people, and programs will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

For more information, please contact:

Amy L. Robinson  
Office of Alumni Affairs and Development  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
(607) 253-3742 || amy.robinson@cornell.edu
Members of the Class of 2011 received their white coats on December 5, 2009.