

Arthur Gordon Danks, DVM '33

Ellis Pierson Leonard, DVM '24

Frederick Oliver Wright, DVM '41

The first **Daniel Elmer Salmon Awards for Distinguished Alumni Service** on behalf of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine have been awarded to Drs. Gordon Danks, E. P. Leonard and F. (Bud) Wright. Initiated by the Alumni Association, the award is named in honor of Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon, the first person at Cornell and in the U.S. to earn a DVM degree from a regular academic program. The first recipients of this award recognizing exemplary alumni contributions were nominated by a body of the alumni and voted on by the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association. The presentation of awards was made by Dr. Edward C. Melby, Jr. at the Alumni Luncheon during the 78th Annual Conference for Veterinarians, January 7–9, 1986. In his remarks, Dr. Melby noted the special contributions each of the recipients had made to the College as alumni:

Arthur Gordon Danks '33, remains an enthusiastic ambassador for the College to its alumni and through his influence many substantial gifts have come to the College. At the 50th reunion of his class, with 10 out of 14 living members present, their class gift set a 50th class reunion record.

Ellis Pierson Leonard, '24, is the author of a book chronicling the College's first eighty years. This two volume set was the culmination of 13 year of work, during which Dr. Leonard located sources and photographs, identified those individuals who had contributed to the growth of the College, traced graduates in their far-flung careers, and finally compiled it all into a fascinating history. In addition, he has served as the secretary-treasurer of the Alumni Association for the past four years.

Frederick Oliver Wright '41, was the chairman of the College's first capital fund campaign from 1976 to 1980 which raised a total of nearly 7.2 million dollars from alumni and friends. He was a member of the executive committee of the Alumni Association from 1977 to 1983 including two years as association president elect and two years as association president. He has been a member of the College development advisory committee since its inception in 1976 and he has chaired the College's bequest and special gifts committee since it began in 1982. He has also

represented the College on the college liaison committee of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society for nearly 20 years.

Recipients were given a bronze plaque bearing the likeness of Dr. Salmon. The names of these and future awardees will be listed on a wall plaque under the newly restored Daniel Elmer Salmon portrait in the Flower Library.