

## New Lasers Change Surgery At Cornell

**T**hanks to funding from the Joint Alumni-Faculty Committee for Unrestricted Alumni Funds and a \$20,000 gift from Mr. & Mrs. William Entenmann, clinicians in the Teaching Hospital will soon have a carbon dioxide surgical laser available for their use. Arrangements have also been made for the loan of a second laser, a continuous wave YAG laser. The lasers will be used cooperatively by surgeons in the Small Animal and Large Animal Clinic.

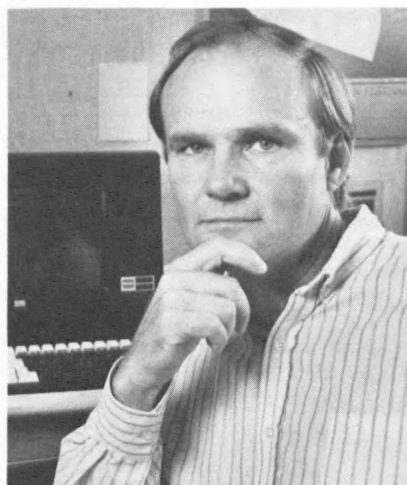
The laser's comparatively recent arrival on the veterinary medical scene means that its capabilities in companion animal surgery have not yet been fully determined. According to Dr. Jay Harvey, a surgeon in the Small Animal Clinic, the laser could be especially useful in cancer surgery. In cancer of the oral cavity and skin tumors, for example, the laser beam could be microfocused on very small spots for extremely precise cutting or tissue removal. The laser may also have applications in liver surgery, where the control of bleeding (hemostasis) is vital; laser activity at the surgical site can seal blood vessels less than 0.6 mm in diameter.

Drs. Alan Nixon, Normand Ducharme, and Richard Hackett anticipate many uses for the laser in large-animal surgery. Dr. Nixon, who is studying the treatment of equine joint and tendon diseases, will be able to reach previously inaccessible areas in joints since the laser can literally go around corners, with the help of a series of mirrors. The laser, with its hemostatic properties, is especially useful for resecting synovial membrane and adhesions inside the joints and tendon sheaths with a minimum of bleeding. Both Dr. Hackett and Dr. Ducharme see great possibilities for the laser in wound management. When a laser is focused on tissue, interstitial and intracellular water absorbs the light in the far infrared range. That makes the water in the cells boil and convert into superheated steam, destroying the cells' membranes. Since microorganisms are also destroyed by the laser, infected wounds are sterilized as the surgeon removes tissue. Other applications include the removal of granulation tissue and skin tumors in horses, oronasal tumor removal, and relief of upper airway obstructions such as enlarged or infected laryngeal cartilages. Finally, human patients with incisions and dissections made by lasers seem to experience less postoperative pain; the same benefit is expected for animal patients.



Dr. Alan Nixon (left) and Dr. Earl Gaughan discuss the approach for surgery in the fetlock of a horse. Inside the fetlock joint (inset photo) the laser probe vaporizes an abnormal soft tissue growth.

## Cornell Veterinarian: New Editor Plans Changes



Dr. Maurice White

North American veterinary institutions. He will continue the rigorous peer review every manuscript receives but at the same time he plans to involve more of those he calls the "enthusiastic younger reviewers" around the country. The editorial advisory board's task is to help identify those reviewers.

The Cornell Veterinarian began publication in 1911 at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. Published semiannually at first, the journal was a means of communicating among the students, faculty members and the alumni of the college. It was expanded to a quarterly in 1914. Past editors have included members of the College's original faculty: V. A. Moore, P. A. Fish and D. H. Udall. Since 1939, when Dr. D. H. Udall relinquished the editor's position, Drs. A. G. Danks, P. P. Levine, James M. Murphy, D. W. Brunner, Charles Rickard, and most recently Lennart Krook have served as editors.

Dr. White takes on editorial responsibilities in addition to his clinical and teaching commitments. Dr. White is an ambulatory clinician in the college's Teaching Hospital and lectures in selected D.V.M. program core courses. He is also the developer of CONSULTANT, a system for computer-assisted differential diagnosis and one of the first diagnostic data bases available for widespread use in human or veterinary medicine. Five schools of veterinary medicine are now licensed to use the data base and the program which are also being used in almost 250 private practices. CONSULTANT contains information on nearly six thousand diseases of dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and swine.

According to the journal's new editor, the strength of the Cornell Veterinarian has been the excellent and eclectic work featured in its pages. "We're driven by the interests of readers and researchers," says Dr. White, "and I hope it will stay that way. But to increase the scope of the journal, I'd like to add scientific editorials, opinions of individuals on scientific topics." A change that could enlarge the journal's scope has already been introduced. Dr. White has formed an expanded editorial board, with members at nearly all the major

**Veterinary Viewpoints** is published quarterly for friends and alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine, a Statutory College of the State University of New York. Correspondence may be addressed to: Karen Redmond, Editor, Veterinary Viewpoints, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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## Tuna Fish Diet: Not the Cat's meow

In one of the first reports of behavioral effects produced by a commercial cat food, researchers at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine have concluded that cats fed a tuna fish diet are less playful and active than beef-fed cats. The fish-fed cats also vocalize less and spend more time eating.

The research was conducted by Dr. Katherine Houpt, an associate professor of physiology at the College; Dr. Donald J. Lisk of Cornell University's Toxic Chemicals Laboratory, Linda Essick, a veterinary student at Cornell, and Eve Shaw, now a student at the Atlantic Veterinary College. They studied six male and six female six week-old kittens, half of whom were fed a commercial red-meat tuna exclusively for 188 days, while the other half ate a commercial beef ration. Behavioral observations began when the cats were six months old. The results were published in the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*, 24 (1988):161-72.

Although there have been studies of cats fed fish with added mercury compounds, this is the first report of behavioral effects produced by a commercial cat food. The researchers suspect that the changes in the cats' behavior might be traced to the toxic effects of a chemical such as mercury. Marine fish such as tuna contain appreciable concentrations of mercury in the form of methyl mercury, a neurotoxin that crosses the blood-brain barrier of consumers of the fish. It has been reported that cats fed 46 µg of mercury per kilogram body weight daily developed a minimal nonprogressive neurological deficit after sixty weeks. Dr. Houpt cautions that her study is not a toxicological study. "It cannot be said with certainty," she explains, "that the mercury in the tuna fed to cats caused the observed behavioral effects; however, the significant correlations between behavioral changes and brain mercury levels lends support to this hypothesis."





## The Class of 1992

**B**etween the deadline last November for applications to Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and the April mailing of acceptance letters, there were probably some anxious moments for the 457 applicants. In the end, eighty applicants -- twenty-three men and fifty-seven women were admitted to the college's class of 1992.

The majority, sixty-four, are from New York State. Fifteen students come from contract states with New Jersey sending a little under half of this number. The Class of 1992

proved that you don't have to attend Cornell as an undergraduate to be admitted to Cornell's Veterinary College; forty-four of the eighty-member class graduated from colleges in the SUNY system, from universities in nearly all the New England and mid-Atlantic states, and from private institutions including several in the Ivy League.

With a mean age of 24.7, they are a slightly older class than in previous years. They've had roughly 4.8 years of postsecondary education and their mean score on the graduate record examination was 1250. Their

mean undergraduate grade point average was a respectable 3.4.

All of the members of the class of 1992 have Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degrees, and seven of the students also have master's degrees. Undergraduate degrees were earned in such areas as agriculture, biochemistry, language, math, nursing, English, history, and psychology.

Numbers don't reveal everything about a class that includes a licensed animal-health technician, several rock-climbers, a former language teacher, horse trainers and horse show competitors, an English

major who concentrated on Milton, another who likes Russian authors, and a former instructor at the City University of New York. Many members of the class are raising children, dogs, and horses -- some simultaneously. They all seem to love to travel; many speak two or three languages, and an amazing number have demonstrable talent in at least one of the fine arts.

With all their talent and potential, they're still eighty disparate souls, trying to cope with campus parking, laboratory partners, and the hectic life of a veterinary student. In four short years, they'll be much more. They'll be veterinarians.

## Olafson Medal in Veterinary Pathology Awarded

**D**r. Frank Bloom has been awarded the Olafson Medal in Veterinary Pathology after nomination by noted pathologists in the United States and selection by a panel of faculty members and advisers at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. The Olafson Medal is given in recognition of outstanding individual commitment by a pathologist within the areas of teaching, diagnostic pathology and research, reflecting Dr. Peter Olafson's own dedication to and advancement of the field of veterinary pathology.

Dr. Frank Bloom, is recognized as one of the pioneer veterinary clinical pathologists in the United States. His interests ranged widely in the investigation of canine and feline diseases. Dr. Bloom was the first veterinarian to encourage the use of bone marrow biopsy as a clinical diagnostic tool. He was the first pathologist to delineate and report tumors of the mast cells as a new neoplastic entity in dogs, the first to report plasma cell myeloma in a domestic animal, and the first to recognize the changes that make up the extragenital lesions of canine pyometra. He is also the author of a book on the genito-urinary system of the dog and cat.

Dr. Bloom is a 1930 graduate of

Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and a former pathology student of Dr. Peter Olafson. He practiced in Flushing, Long Island from 1933 to 1972. During much of this time, he was affiliated with the New York University College of Medicine (now the Downstate College of Medicine) as an associate in the Department of Pathology. After retiring from clinical practice, he headed the pathology department at the Henry Bergh Memorial Hospital, ASPCA, in New York City, until 1974, then served as a consulting pathologist to two private laboratories and to the Cornell University Medical College until 1980.



Dr. Bendicht Pauli, chair of the pathology department, (photo l.) and Sigrid Olafson Farwell, daughter of Dr. Olafson, present the Olafson Medal to Dr. Frank Bloom.

Since that time he has remained active as consulting pathologist at the Papanicolaou Cancer Research Institute in Miami, Florida, and as clinical professor of pathology at the University of Miami Medical College.

The official announcement of Dr. Bloom's award was made August 18th during the annual Olafson Short Course in Pathology, held August 15 through 19th, 1988, at Cornell. At that time, Dr. Bloom was presented with the Olafson Medal, a specially cast gold medal with a bas-relief profile of Dr. Olafson.



The Olafson Medal in Pathology

### Dr. Peter Olafson

was born in 1897 in Gardar, North Dakota. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell in 1926 and was invited to join the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1945 Olafson was appointed head of the department of pathology and bacteriology, a position he held until his retirement twenty years later.

Through his research and teaching, Dr. Olafson was influential in shaping veterinary pathology in the

United States. His publications established the etiology of hyperkeratosis in cattle, defined bovine virus diarrhea, and pioneered investigative work in bovine listeriosis and in muscular dystrophy in lambs and calves. A dedicated teacher, Olafson trained many of today's leading pathologists. The Olafson Medal is sponsored by the Department of Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell, with support from the family, friends and former students of Dr. Peter Olafson.

# Lowe Named Cornell Equine Extension Veterinarian

**D**r. John E. Lowe has been named the new equine extension and field service veterinarian for the Diagnostic Laboratory, a unit of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. Dr. Lowe leaves a position as director of the Equine Research Park at the college, where he was closely associated with ongoing equine research and was instrumental in promoting service to the equine veterinarians of the state.

According to Dr. Donald Lein, director of the Diagnostic Laboratory, Dr. Lowe now takes on full responsibility for the equine field service, including the planning of extension programs for New York State equine veterinary practitioners and their clients. In addition, Dr. Lowe will promote the equine interests of the Diagnostic Laboratory and of Cornell's Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As the equine extension veterinarian, Dr. Lowe will also investigate



*Dr. John Lowe*

equine disease outbreaks and problems, backed by the extensive diagnostic and clinical facilities of the Diagnostic Laboratory and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Lowe has long been involved with efforts to safeguard the state's equine population against Contagious Equine Metritis and he will continue his involvement with the

management and operation of the Contagious Equine Metritis Quarantine Station at the College's Equine Annex, which is the only facility of its kind in New York State.

Dr. Lowe is a 1959 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. He joined the college's faculty in 1961 after completing a surgical internship and residency in the Teaching Hospital. He earned a master's degree in veterinary pathology and was appointed assistant professor of surgery in 1963. Dr. Lowe has held the position of associate professor of surgery at Cornell since 1969 and was director of Cornell's Equine Research Park from 1974 until 1988. He has been involved with various aspects of equine research, from locomotion studies with Dr. Stephen Roberts and nutrition studies with Drs. Herbert Schryver and Harold Hintz to drug studies to control colic. Dr. Lowe and Dr. Pamela Wilkins are developing a model

for strangulating intestinal obstruction, a common cause of colic, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of various medical treatments for the condition.

Dr. Lowe is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. For nine years he served as chairman of the board of directors of the American Horse Shows Association, and he is a member of the New York State Horse Council. He serves on the executive board of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and is a frequent speaker at equine conferences and seminars for both veterinarians and laymen.

## Phi Kappa Phi Award Honors Student

**J**ennifer K. Bull, class of 1992, has been awarded a \$500 honorable mention prize for graduate or professional study by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She was one of thirty students selected for an award from a group of 183 of the nation's outstanding college graduates.



*Jennifer Bull '92*

Ms. Bull earned her undergraduate in biology degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology. She has also been active in 4-H activities, raising and showing her own flock of registered Natural-Colored sheep.

Phi Kappa Phi is a national scholastic honor society with chapters at 247 colleges and universities throughout the nation. Founded in 1897 to recognize academic excellence in all disciplines, Phi Kappa Phi established its Fellowship Program in 1932 and since then has honored over nine-hundred scholars with awards.



## Conference on Production Disease To Meet at Cornell in 1989

**T**he Seventh International Conference on Production Disease in Farm Animals will be held at Cornell University July 25 through July 27, 1989. Scheduled between the annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (July 16 through 20 in Orlando, Florida) and the joint meeting of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society for Animal Science (July 31 through August 4 in Lexington, Kentucky) the conference is timed to draw a record number of visitors from the United States and abroad.

During the conference, the first Jack Payne Memorial Lecture on Pro-

duction Diseases will be given. The speaker, Dr. W. Ian Reid, will provide a historical perspective on production disease research as well as an overview of current trends. Two additional speakers will address the socioeconomic aspects of animal biotechnology and the importance of information transfer in the management and prevention of production disease. Keynote talks, posters, and papers will highlight the ways in which numerous factors, including stress during growth, digestive abnormalities, immune status, metabolic regulation, behavioral interactions, and abnormalities related to mineral nutrition and metabolism, affect

production disease. Speakers at the conference will include Drs. D. Bauman, R. Beilharz, J. Blum, C. Curtis, G. Dirksen, D. Giesecke, D. Rice, J. Roth and E. Watson.

The Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. Francis A. Kellfelz, welcomes presentations and posters and solicits suggestions for workshops. For registration information please write to VIIth ICPD, Department of Conference Services, Box 3 RPU, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-6401 USA.



# Interpreting the Odds in Disease

**A**s a veterinarian Dr. Janet Scarlett works with animals and disease -- as an epidemiologist, she translates disease into incidence rates, odds ratios and relative risks.

Dr. Scarlett works in an area of veterinary medicine that is receiving increasing attention. Epidemiological studies are being used to assess the risk of disease and to identify factors that influence that risk. In her work, Dr. Scarlett has studied the growing incidence of a disease that once occurred infrequently in cats; evaluated a suggested link between multiple sclerosis and dog ownership; and, in an on-going study, is testing the efficacy of a feline leukemia vaccine.

Dr. Scarlett is conducting a field trial with Dr. Roy Pollock that is looking at the efficacy of Norden's vaccine Leukocell for the prevention of feline leukemia. Seventy-nine cats in a large humane colony were randomly assigned to two groups. One group received vaccine and the other received a placebo. Both groups are housed with cats known to be infected with feline leukemia and share common litter pans, feed bowls, etc. The care-givers, the laboratory technicians who test the samples from the cats and the investigators in this study are unaware of which cats have received vaccine or placebo. At the study's conclusion, the mortality and infection rates will be compared for both groups to see if the vaccine really does confer protection against the disease.

Dr. Scarlett became involved in another study of cats because of a clinician's curiosity. Dr. Sydney Moise, cardiologist in the Teaching Hospital, suspected that she and other clinicians were seeing an increasing number of cases of feline hyperthyroidism. This disease generally occurs in older cats (8 years or older) and owners often report their cats exhibit kitten-like behavior and weight-loss despite increased appetites. Higher than normal levels of thyroid hormones account for these



*Dr. Janet Scarlett*

unique signs. Dr. Moise wanted to document an increased incidence of the disease, but looking at the frequency of diagnosis here at the college and at other veterinary schools in the U.S. raised further questions. Why wasn't the disease diagnosed before the 1970's? Were affected cats misdiagnosed before this time, or with an aging cat population were there just more old cats to develop the disease? Or was it really a new disease?

The last possibility seemed the most likely so Dr. Scarlett conducted a case-control study in which she questioned two groups of cat owners (one group owning cats with feline hyperthyroidism and one

group owning unaffected cats). The owners answered a series of questions on their cats' diet, environment, whether the cat was kept indoors or outdoors, whether it ate house plants or if there was exposure to lawn fertilizers.

In this preliminary study, the owners' of hyperthyroid cats reported that their cats were fed a larger proportion of canned food, were more likely to live in-doors, and were exposed to more flea powders and sprays than the control cats. Dr. Scarlett stresses that this study raises several hypotheses that require further work. She is working on refining, validating and evaluating the reliability of her dietary and

other questions before repeating the study in a larger population of both urban and rural cats.

She has also investigated a possible link between multiple sclerosis (MS) and dog ownership. The link was suggested first by a family where three sisters developed MS within one year of each other, following a "neurologic illness" of the family dog. Multiple sclerosis is a degenerative disease that attacks the myelin sheaths in the nervous system and because the canine distemper virus can cause a fatal degenerative condition in old dogs called "old dog encephalitis" it was suggested as the possible cause of MS. However, in a study of people with multiple sclerosis and people without the disease, Dr. Scarlett could not establish the connection between dog ownership and the development of MS.

As an epidemiologist Dr. Scarlett also consults on questions of study design, interprets statistical information, develops questionnaires, and helps researchers determine the correct sample size for their studies. Of course, as a veterinarian she brings a veterinary medical expertise to the study of disease in populations. The duality may suggest new preventive approaches to disease where the end benefit is improved animal health.

## Students Pull Out The (Classical) Stops

For eleven years, students who talked with Dr. Donald Postle in his capacity as director of financial aid, did so against a background of classical music. While the music probably didn't ease the students' financial burdens, it did much to soothe the savage, or at least financially worried, breast.



When Dr. Postle retired in fall of 1988, it seemed only appropriate to give a farewell concert of classical music in his honor. On October 26th, for an appreciative audience that included Dr. Donald Postle and his wife, Betty, a dozen students sang and played selected works by Bach, Vivaldi, Albinoni, Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin.

*Dr. Donald Postle and wife Betty.*

# American Veterinary Anatomists Honor Dr. Habel



**V**eterinary students in anatomy classes from England to India, Australia to the Americas have studied his anatomy books. He is Dr. Robert E. Habel, professor emeritus of anatomy at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, and by his own admission, he is a "nit picker". That's an indispensable quality in an anatomist who must locate, name and describe the muscular, skeletal, nervous and other internal structures of animals. Recently, Dr. Habel's life-long labors in the anatomical laboratories were recognized. He has received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists (AAVA).

Dr. Habel is only the second recipient of this award; Dr. Ralph Kitchell, the award's first recipient in 1986, presented Dr. Habel

with the award during ceremonies at the AAVA annual meeting held in Corvallis, Oregon. The award honors Dr. Habel for "his commitment to excellence, for his scholarly achievements and his distinguished contributions to veterinary anatomy."

In his career, Dr. Habel has "been into textbooks a lot", which is an understatement. He is the author of "Applied Veterinary Anatomy" and "Guide to the Dissection of Domestic Ruminants." He is also co-author of "Guide to the Dissection of the Horse" with Drs. J. R. Rooney and W. O. Sack. These books are used in veterinary medical curricula around the world.

Although officially in retirement, Dr. Habel is working on the latest edition of "Guide to the Dissection of Domestic Ruminants." The textbook will feature 48 additional illustrations and updated information on the latest anatomical research. As a "test drive",

he gave drafts of the textbook to the college's first year class, then worked with them in their anatomy laboratory to get their response.

Dr. Habel believes in the traditional emphasis on learning specific and detailed information and his books, reflect that philosophy. After nearly four decades as an educator, he worries that current curriculum changes will leave courses incoherent and students without the specific knowledge they need.

Dr. Habel earned his D.V.M. degree from Ohio State in 1941, then served in the army during World War II, returning to Ohio State in 1946 as an instructor in veterinary anatomy, histology, and embryology. He earned his master of science degree at Ohio and, in 1956, the M.V.D. (Medicinae Veterinariae Doctor) from the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. In 1947 he joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine as an assistant professor in the department of veterinary anatomy. He was named associate professor in 1949, then professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy in 1960, a position he held for the next sixteen years. He retired in 1978.

Dr. Habel served as chairman of the AAVA's Nomenclature Committee on Gross Anatomy for eleven years and as president of the AAVA from 1965 to 1966. In the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists, he served as vice-president from 1967 to 1971, then as president from 1971 to 1975. He has been a member of the International Committee on Veterinary Anatomical Nomenclature since 1958, serving as vice chairman from 1963 until 1980, and as a member of its editorial committee since 1967. Dr. Habel is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, and the American Association of Anatomists.

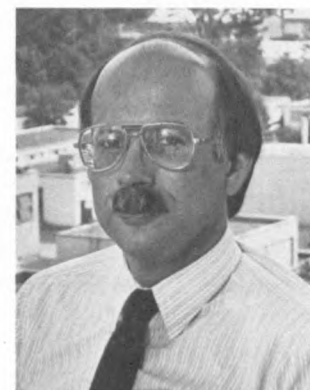
## New Posts, New People in Administration

**S**everal changes in personnel and job responsibilities took place over the summer in the colleges' administration.



*Dr. Douglas McGregor*

In the Office of Research **Dr. Douglas McGregor** has assumed a half-time appointment as associate dean for research while continuing as director of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health. He will direct the College Research Office, with responsibility for sponsored research, cooperative research initiatives, and biosafety. Dr. McGregor received both his undergraduate degree and his M.D. degree from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, and earned his D. Phil. degree in pathology at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford, England. He serves on the scientific advisory board of the Cornell Biotechnology Program and has served on numerous scientific advisory committees for the National Institutes of Health.



*John Semmler*



In the Office of Public Affairs **Mr. John C. Semmler** fills the newly created position of assistant dean for public affairs. Mr. Semmler will oversee the areas of alumni affairs, development, public information and publications. Mr. Semmler is an alumnus of Cornell University and has held several administrative positions in Cornell's Office of Sponsored Programs, in the Division of Biological Sciences, and in the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Elizabeth A. Fontana

**Ms. Elizabeth A. Fontana** joins the college as the director of development with responsibility for annual giving, corporate and foundation proposals, and the general solicitation of private support for the College. Ms. Fontana previously was acting co-director and director of development of the Gallery Association of New York State, Hamilton, New York, where she handled fund raising, public relations and advocacy activities for the statewide nonprofit organization.



Gloria Crissey

In the Office of Financial Aid, **Ms. Gloria Crissey** succeeds the retiring Dr. Donald Postle as director of

financial aid, while continuing her duties as the college's registrar. She has been registrar for the College of Veterinary Medicine since 1979. Ms. Crissey holds an associate's degree in business administration, and prior to joining the College of Veterinary Medicine's staff, held positions at Cornell's Personnel Services, the Office of the Director of the Industrial Research Park, and the Department of Design and Project Management. Combining the offices of the registrar with that of the director of financial aid will increase coordination between many of the programs and agendas those offices share and will facilitate student assistance.

In the Office of Facilities, a new director of facilities and services, **Mr. Robert J. Webster, Jr.**, has begun working with architects and the Central Planning Committee at the college on plans for the College's proposed \$70-million renovation and construction. Mr. Webster had been chief of engineering



Robert Webster

services at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Bath, New York, where he was responsible for over \$27-million in planning, design, renovation and construction on the medical center's campus. A 1974 graduate of Valparaiso University with a degree in civil engineering, Mr. Webster is a board member of the Genesee Valley Hospital Engineers Association and a member of the New York State Hospital Engineers Association.

## Japan Society Hosts Cornell Researcher *Marek's Symposium and Lecture Tour Combined in Japan Visit*

**T**hanks to a fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Dr. Bruce Calnek, chairman of the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine, was able to combine participation in the Third International Symposium on Marek's Disease held September 12 through 16 in Osaka, Japan, with a lecture tour of the country. The fellowship provided for his travel expenses so he could speak at universities and research centers throughout Japan. The JSPS is a semigovernmental organization founded for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of science. To promote international cooperation in science, the JSPS helps Japanese scientists invite their foreign colleagues to Japan for cooperative research and other academic endeavors. Dr. Calnek's host during his tour was Dr. Katsuya Hirai, a visiting professor at Cornell in 1978 who worked with Dr. Calnek and Dr. Stephen Hitchner.

In his travels, Dr. Calnek had the opportunity to see a side of Japan not on view to the tourist. Interestingly, in some of the veterinary colleges he found departments with as few as three faculty members--a professor, an associate professor, and a research associate. Graduate students served in a broad capacity, substituting for technicians and even glassware washers, while they carried out their academic studies and their own research. Despite the drawbacks we might see to that arrangement, Dr. Calnek observed that, "the system seems to work well for the Japanese, as evidenced by the high research productivity in their universities."

Several of Dr. Calnek's Cornell colleagues were also in Japan attending the Third International Symposium on Marek's Disease. Dr. Karel Schat and Catherine Fabri-

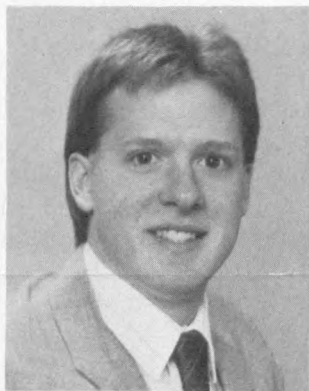
cant, were invited to make the trip to Osaka to speak at the symposium. Dr. Schat also had the opportunity to lecture at several Japanese universities before speaking at the symposium on his research into the characterization of Marek's disease cell lines.

The Third International Symposium hoped both to encourage international cooperation and stimulate future studies on Marek's disease. Discussion at the symposium centered on recent progress in Marek's disease research in the fields of molecular biology, latency, oncogenicity, the mechanism of disease, vaccine, antivirals, and epidemiology. Related fields such as general avian immunology and pathology were also included. Catherine Fabricant presented her work on the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis in chickens induced with Marek's disease herpesvirus, and Dr. Calnek, a member of the symposium's advisory council, spoke on the establishment of Marek's disease cell lines from locally-induced lesions. He also presented a paper dealing with maintenance of Marek's disease herpesvirus latency *in vitro*, which he coauthored with Dr. Celina Buscaglia. Dr. Buscaglia completed her doctoral studies in the college's Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine and is now working in Argentina.

For Dr. Calnek and his colleagues in the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine, the symposium was also a welcome continuation of their own efforts to promote research into Marek's disease. Four years ago at Cornell, they hosted the international symposium on Marek's disease. Nearly 130 people attended from twenty-five countries.

## VALSEP Students: *Learning & Earning On The Job*

**F**or the summer of 1988, the Veterinary Alumni Student Employment Program (VALSEP) committee selected two students to increase their earnings while working at the veterinary clinics of college alumni. Under the program, VALSEP matches the alumnus-employer's usual wage with a grant of up to \$1,500. Ken Byman '89 and Teresa Hlaing '89 reported back on a "learning and earning" summer that was, in some ways, more than they had expected. Ken Byman worked at the Homer, and Tully, New York, clinics of



Ken Byman

Dr. William Cadwallader. Office calls in a mixed-animal practice were good training for Ken; his opportunity to talk with clients about their pets gave him a realistic impression of what is important in a practice. "I'm beginning to realize the importance of blending medical, surgical, and social skills," Ken wrote to the VALSEP committee halfway through the summer. "You

can be the greatest surgeon in the world, but if you can't communicate, then the practice suffers." In addition to gaining practical experience in diagnosis and treatment every day at the clinics, Ken took time every night to read up on problems he encountered. He was, he wrote, "getting the experience [he] needed to develop as a complete veterinarian."

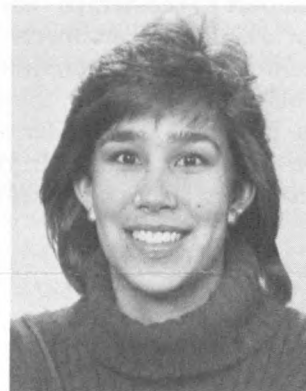
"I must say that my experience this summer turned out to be very fulfilling," wrote Teresa Hlaing. She spent the summer working with Dr. Gerald Bezner and his colleagues at the Boulevard Animal Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

Under Dr. Bezner's supervision, Teresa was able to develop her skills in elective procedures such as ovariohysterectomies and castrations and to assist the clinic's surgeons on many other surgeries. In her report to the VALSEP committee, Teresa wrote that, "some of the really great experiences of the summer included orthopedic surgeries I participated in. Although we learned a lot about orthopedics in school, I had never had the opportunity to participate in real clinical orthopedics before. I gained a real appreciation of how difficult orthopedics can be and a lot of respect for veterinary orthopedic surgeons."

Teresa wrote that the technicians at the clinic were especially helpful. "They patiently showed me how to

run CBCs, perform urinalysis and do other lab tests that they frequently perform and that I feel are important for the veterinarian to be able to do, as well." Like Ken, Teresa said that the opportunity to observe the client-patient-veterinarian relationship during office calls increased her confidence in her work.

In the coming academic year, the money Ken and Teresa earned will help pay the costs of tuition, room and board, books, and many incidentals that add up to over



Teresa Hlaing

\$13,000 for each student. However, Teresa and Ken would probably agree that the benefits of the summer's employment will be measured in more than dollars and cents. Those benefits can also be counted in terms of increased confidence, a broader professional experience, and an appreciation of the realities of veterinary practice.

## VALSEP Award *Honors Former Director*

**T**he Executive Committee of the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine has established the annual **Ralph A. and Jane Jones VALSEP Award** in honor of Mr. Ralph Jones, former director of Public Affairs at the College. The award recognizes Mr. Jones' outstanding service to the Alumni Association and his contributions to the Association's growth and prosperity.

The VALSEP or Veterinary Alumni Student Employment Program supplements a student's salary for summer employment in an alumnus' privately owned practice or laboratory, matching the alumnus-employer's usual wage with a grant of up to \$1,500. According to Dr. Herbert Schryver, secretary/treasurer of the Alumni Association, VALSEP funding gives students the opportunity to work within the veterinary profession while earning a competitive wage, thereby reducing their need to borrow. In 1988, the average debt for graduating students was \$31,000; VALSEP was begun to help students decrease this debt load. With the most recent addition of the VALSEP award honoring Mr. Jones, funding is now available to co-sponsor employment for three Cornell veterinary medical students.

## VETERINARY VIEWPOINTS

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