

C O R N E L L

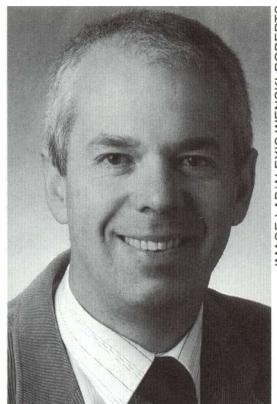
Veterinary Medicine

WINTER 1997

Key Leadership Appointments Announced



Katherine M. Edmondson



Robert O. Gilbert



Douglas D. McGregor

IMAGE LAB/ALEXIS WENSKI-ROBERTS

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As part of an initiative to update the academic and administrative organization of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Donald Smith, dean, has announced three key leadership appointments which focus on the college missions of education, research, and service.

Katherine M. Edmondson, MS, PhD, has been appointed to the new position of assistant dean for learning and instruction, in which she will serve as the principal college officer promoting the scholarship of teaching. She also will hold responsibility for administration of the offices of DVM admissions, student services, the registrar, financial aid, educational development, and the nondepartmental teaching facilities of the college.

Edmondson formerly served as director of the college's office of educational development for seven years. She was instrumen-

tal in the development and implementation of the college's innovative, case-based academic program, established as the college's formal veterinary curriculum in 1993. Her research interests include students' approaches to learning, development of science curricula, faculty development, and learning in the professions. She has participated in national and international meetings focusing on science, medical, and veterinary education. She is a member of the American Educational Research Association, the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, the American Association for Higher Education, and the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

Robert O. Gilbert, BVSc, MMedVet, has been appointed to the new position of associate dean for clinical programs and

professional service, in which he will serve as the principal college officer promoting the scholarship of professional service. He also will have administrative responsibility for the full range of academic, clinical, and professional service programs of the department of clinical sciences, the Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Gilbert will assume full administrative duties of his new

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Give the Earth's Animals a Healthy Future

Contributions to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University benefit animals around the world by funding significant advances in disease-fighting vaccines, animal behavior, nutrition, diagnostics, medical treatments, and surgical techniques.

For information on the benefits of end-of-year and stock gifts, please contact Chip Bryce in the trusts, estates, and planned giving office at 800-481-1865. Also consult your financial advisor.

Towards an Expanded View of Scholarship

The 1991 report of the Carnegie Foundation, entitled *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate*, encouraged universities to adopt a more inclusive approach to the definition of what constitutes scholarly activity. The central theme of this monograph, by the late Ernest L. Boyer, is that scholarship can be evident in areas of faculty responsibility other than the classical domain of research or discovery. The author argued persuasively that universities should provide broader and more flexible pathways by which faculty may develop their careers, to the benefit of both the academy and society. Boyer suggested that the definition of scholarship be expanded to include other forms of academic activity: integration (making meaningful connections across traditional disciplinary boundaries), application (defined in our college's setting as professional or clinical service), and teaching. For any academic activity to be regarded as scholarly, it must be excellent and innovative, determined after rigorous assessment by credible peers, using authoritative criteria for evaluation. In transcending the teaching-versus-research debate to embrace an expanded view of scholarship, we also were encouraged to develop a reward structure consistent across all areas of activity.

The Carnegie report had a significant impact on Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. It promoted broadly based discussions of the academic reward structure, including promotion and tenure. Emerg-



IMAGE LAB/ALEXIS WENSKI-ROBERTS

ing at the same time as we were redesigning our professional curriculum, it helped us recognize the need to embrace Boyer's principles as we developed our new academic program. However, despite a sincere attempt to provide an equitable approach to recognizing scholarly activities in various domains, the teaching-versus-research struggle continues to dominate discussions in some faculty meetings, in student lounges, and at alumni gatherings. How do we recognize and evaluate teaching in an environment that emphasizes cooperative development of interdisciplinary courses and in which faculty responsibilities include small-group facilitation as well as teaching in traditional lecture or laboratory environments? These issues most frequently return to the fore when a good teacher is denied tenure, or when a recruiting decision is based on an emerging area of research rather than an area of perceived curricular need.

We also are challenged by the

need to define, evaluate, and reward professional service activities. As part of our land grant mission, our college has a major responsibility to render exemplary clinical and professional service to the public. However, maintaining a high level of activity in clinical service, even if done well, does not by itself constitute excellence. Faculty also must provide evidence that their professional service is of such quality and influence as to advance the state of the art of the professional discipline and must be recognized nationally as such. For several years, faculty with appointments in the Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital have supported representation of clinical and service activities in the central administration to correspond to the representation of research and teaching provided by the former associate deans. This request has even greater merit when one considers the extraordinarily important role that the teaching hospital and the diagnostic laboratory play in advancing knowledge in veterinary medicine and the applied biomedical sciences.

While we have succeeded in articulating the need for an expanded definition of scholarship and in delineating criteria by which scholarly output in each area of activity should be defined, we have not established with sufficient clarity the criteria by which faculty activities in the various domains should be quantified, evaluated, and rewarded. Furthermore, there continues to be skepticism

SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 about the recognition of scholarship in areas other than research.

I concluded, therefore, that we should modify the existing associate and assistant dean positions to ensure that the various elements of scholarship relevant to our college — discovery and integration, teaching, and professional and clinical service — were represented at the executive level in the college. These appointments are now in place with Dr. Katherine M. Edmondson assuming the new position of assistant dean for learning and instruction, Dr. Robert O. Gilbert filling the new position of associate dean for clinical programs and professional service, and Dr. Douglas D. McGregor continuing in his role as associate dean for research and graduate education. Each appointee has a broad portfolio of administrative and supervisory responsibilities. An essential element of their efforts will be to promote scholarly activities specific to their individual area of responsibility and to ensure that the standards of quality, the rigor with which performance is assessed, and the institutional rewards for attaining excellence are equivalent across all areas of faculty responsibility. By elevating all aspects of scholarship in a visible and meaningful way, we will better achieve our goals for the college and foster and recognize excellence in all its forms.



Donald F. Smith, dean

APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 position on January 1, 1998, following completion of his sabbatical leave. During November and December 1997, he will have had a 50 percent commitment to this new position. Among the priorities in the initial year of his appointment will be to supervise the change in the administrative structure of the department of clinical sciences and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital so that faculty responsibilities for clinical service, as well as teaching and research, are administered through the academic department. During this period, Gilbert also will address the relationship between the diagnostic laboratory and the remainder of the college in order to develop a closer integration while maintaining the distinctive funding sources and special administrative and service responsibilities of the laboratory.

Gilbert previously served the college as associate professor of theriogenology in the clinical sciences department; chief of the section of theriogenology; and director of the Bovine Research Center at Cornell. He has a distinguished record of clinical service and applied research in the field of theriogenology and reproductive biology. He is a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists, and a member of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Douglas D. McGregor, MD, DPhil, will continue in his position of associate dean for research and graduate education, a post he has held for seven years. As associate dean, McGregor serves as the principal college officer for promoting the scholarship of research. Additionally, he has administrative responsibility for the college's office of sponsored programs, the graduate education and research office, and research service units within the college.

McGregor's major research interests are in cellular immunology and infectious diseases. His current research training support, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the United States Department of Agriculture, include projects in cellular and molecular medicine, comparative medicine, and animal biotechnology. McGregor has administered the Leadership Program at Cornell, a renowned summer program for DVM students interested in research careers, since 1991. He has been a professor of immunology in the college's department of microbiology and immunology since 1976. He also served as associate dean for research at the college in 1988-90 and as director of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health from 1976-91. He is associate director of the Cornell Agricultural Experimental Station, and a member of the Cornell Research Council, as well as the college's executive committee. ■

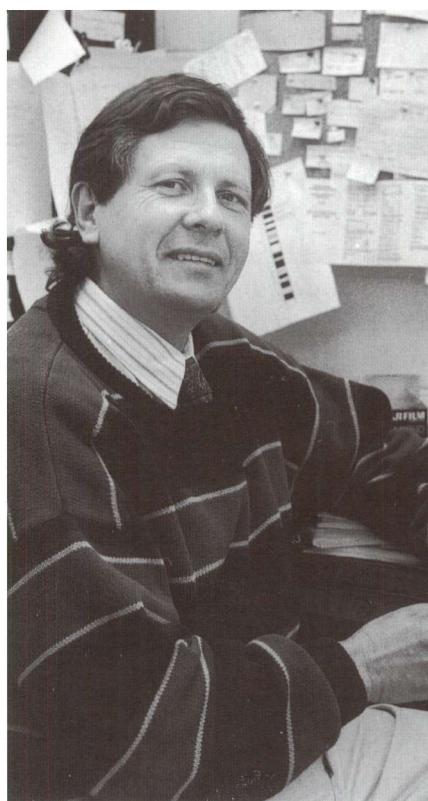
Workshop Unveils Major Advances in Canine Genetics

During the second annual Baker Institute Scientific Conference held at the college this past July, 100 geneticists from Europe and the United States gathered to talk about the groundbreaking research of 50 scientists in the forefront of canine genetics.

Gregory M. Acland, BVSc, senior research associate, ophthalmology; Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, PhD, professor of ophthalmology; and Kunal Ray, MS, PhD, senior research associate, molecular genetics — all of the college's James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, were co-organizers of the international workshop, *Canine Genetics: The Map, The Genes, The Diseases*. Several others from around the globe, says Aguirre, were instrumental in planning the event — including Matthew Binns, Animal Health Trust, Suffolk, England; Urs Giger, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Elaine Ostrander, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle; and Jasper Rine, Division of Genetics, University of California, Berkeley.

Principal sponsors of the workshop were the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, and the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust.

"For the first time, scientists who had been working for over a decade to perfect the modern tools of molecular biology for use in answering important questions about the dog finally had real data to present," says Acland. "These papers were like the first flowers in spring. When



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Gregory Acland in his office at the James A. Baker Institute.

you see them you say, 'My God, how beautiful!' But before long you know there will be whole fields of them."

Numerous conference participants, says Aguirre, have since commented that the conference was the best canine genetics meeting they ever attended.

The scientific program from the workshop was a compendium of prime research topics: the origin of genetic diversity in the dog, gene-specific markers for the canine genome, reference families for canine genome studies, microsatellite-based linkage map, identification of canine chromosomes, genetic disease and trait mapping, rod-cone dysplasia, genes and mutations, the cytogenetic map, the physical map, synteny mapping and cross mapping,

progressive retinal atrophy, progressive rod-cone degeneration, early retinal degeneration, DNA storage resources, standardized markers for parentage testing...

"The real news of the conference," explains Aguirre, "was that it marked the synergy of new-found resources and how, when combined, they offer incredible potential for high-quality canine genetics research."

He cites workshop presentations that described successes in mapping both the mitochondrial genome and the chromosomal genome, and in locating the genes responsible for single gene-inherited diseases, including progressive retinal atrophy (PRA). A group of researchers from the Baker Institute presented several papers dealing with the PRA group of diseases and for the first time, says Aguirre, identified the linkage of markers and genes to the disease. This news will make new diagnostic tests for the disease possible.

"Doing this was totally impossible before we had the map," says Acland. "In addition, such tools of molecular biology will allow us to look at how genetics influences morphological and behavior variations within a given species. The dog, with its rich diversity, is perhaps the ideal species in which to investigate such basic biological questions. Now we're in a position to do it." ■

Introducing Cornell Companions: A Program of Animal-Assisted Activities and Therapy

Cornell Companions, explains faculty coordinator, Jane Shaw, DVM, instructor in the college's anatomy department, is a program whose purpose is to share a love

of animals with children who have disabilities. Simultaneously, the program teaches that animals can make a difference in the physical and emotional well-being of those whom they touch.

"We strive to foster positive relationships between people and animals and also among different groups of people," adds Jennifer Matlow, DVM Class of 2000, student coordinator of the program.

Through Cornell Companions, members of the Cornell veterinary community and their pets make regular visits to local organizations to work with children who have disabilities. At these facilities, program participants and their companion animals engage in a variety of activities ranging from informal pet-the-pet classroom groups to individualized therapeutic regimens (such as speech or physical therapy) with a trained therapist.

For example, for six weeks this past summer, the group traveled once each week to the Special Children's Center in



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/ADRIANNA ROVERS

Ithaca to give children there an opportunity to interact with members' dogs. In a shaded area under an old oak tree, the children and the dogs — supervised by the

members of Cornell Companions and the children's classroom teachers from the Center — sat together, hugged, kissed, took walks, played ball, and enjoyed each other's company in the sunshine.

It is important, explains Shaw, that all program volunteers be adequately prepared for the commitment of regular visits to participating facilities. Participating dogs should be calm, reliable, and good with children. Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and free of external and internal parasites.

Prospective animal participants undergo an obedience and temperament screening that evaluates how the animal relates to people, other animals, unfamiliar situations, and mildly noxious stimuli. Human volunteers attend three training sessions to learn the principles and process of animal-assisted activities. Interested volunteers may sign up for animal screenings; for more details, contact Jane Shaw at <jrs31@cornell.edu> or Jennifer Matlow at <jm85@cornell.edu> ■

Pharmaceutical Leader Visits College

During a visit to Cornell to present the 1997 Robert S. Hatfield Address in late September, Raymond Gilmartin, CEO of Merck, interacted with several of the Merck-sponsored students from Cornell's Leadership Program during a luncheon at the college. Merck is one of the corporate sponsors of the Leadership Program at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, which brings 30 promising veterinary students from around the globe to Cornell each summer for an intensive research program with renowned faculty mentors and world leaders from the field of medical research. Eight of the Merck fellows are currently in residence at the college.

Joining Gilmartin for the luncheon and tour of the college was Antonio Gotto, MD, dean of Cornell Medical College and provost for medical affairs. ■



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/CHARLIE HARRINGTON

(from left) Dr. Antonio Gotto, Deborah Smith, and Raymond Gilmartin review a patient chart in the intensive care unit of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital during a tour of the college by Wendy Breckenridge, DVM Class of 1999.

Research Dollars and Quality-of-Life Issues

Remember the glory days when scientists produced the first miraculous antibiotics, eradicated deadly childhood diseases by chlorinating water, landed men on the moon? It was a time when taxpayers freely opened their wallets to researchers whose endeavors improved the quality of their lives. Those days of generous public support could return if scientists were to target their research projects to solving today's most vexing problems.

"Individuals, families, community organizations, industries, local governments, state legislators — all are desperate for solid research-based information to help them make more informed decisions in behalf of their own health and that of the environment," says Rodney R. Dietert, PhD, professor of immunogenetics in the department of microbiology and immunology. "When they get truly useful information they're

very appreciative, indeed."

Dietert knows whereof he speaks. He just stepped down from a five-year stint as director of Cornell's Institute for Comparative and Environmental Toxicology (ICET), an umbrella organization that coordinates graduate education in the field and funnels more than \$4.2 million in federal, state, university, and industry funds into the research of more than 40 Cornell faculty members.

"If there's one lesson I learned at ICET," Dietert says, "it is that we can recapture the public's confidence in the utility of research, make it worth their paying the cost, when we become problem-oriented."

Dietert cites two examples of large multidisciplinary research projects where college researchers, along with other Cornell scientists, have won over New Yorkers and their legislators. The first addressed a fear that stalks New York women — that pesticides, along with other environmental factors, may be the cause of 3,500 breast cancer deaths each year. The second offered New York City an alternative to the prospect of bankruptcy after the Environmental Protection Agency threatened to require it to build a \$14 billion water filtration system.

In the case of the Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors in New York State as well as the Watershed Agricultural Program (led by the Water Resources Institute), the starting point wasn't a department or an existing research program. Instead, the programs originated because of

major problems that the college (with collaborators elsewhere at Cornell) was in a strong position to address because of its unique wealth of research expertise, particularly in the area of toxicology, and its long-standing experience in working directly with the public as the state's land-grant institution.

The first thing administrators, and the researchers themselves, did was to become good listeners, a novel approach to generating research topics.

"In both cases we brought together all the constituent groups (often adversarial ones) with a stake in these issues, listened to what they had to say, presented research strategies, then heard their reactions to our ideas," Dietert says. "Meeting directly with taxpayers and the legislators who allocate research funding resulted in very strong support for us."

Such an approach is consistent with the philosophy underlying the college's interdisciplinary, interactive, case-based DVM curriculum, Dietert points out.

"We need to view research in the same way we now view our curriculum, to seek opportunities for problem-solving using multidisciplinary research teams," he says.

Encouraging faculty at the college to work as multidisciplinary research teams will promote problem-solving research, as will a criterion, now being developed, for hiring new faculty by their potential contribution to such endeavors. ■

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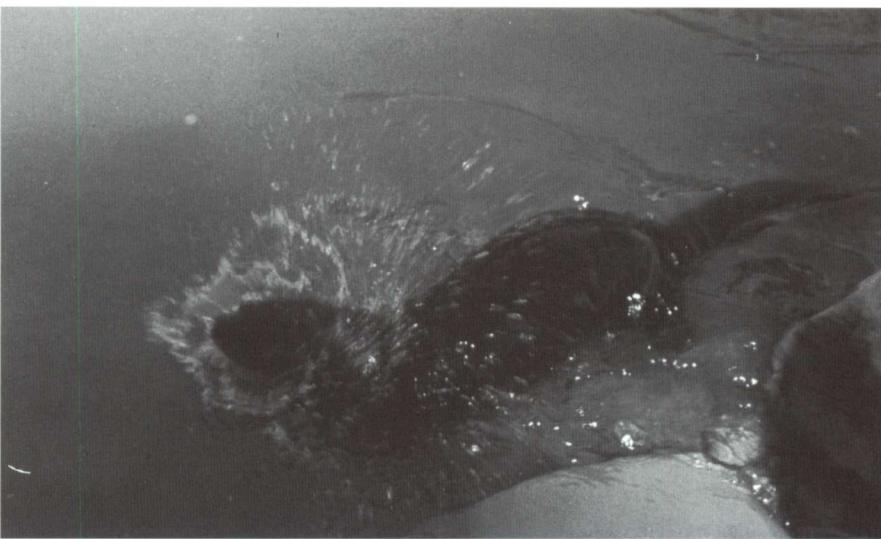
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River Otters Come Home



COURTESY GEORGE KOLLIAS

This fall, 27 river otters cared for by the college's wildlife health program were given new homes in historic habitat in the Genesee and Otselic rivers in upstate New York.

In 5 separate releases, the river otters are being reintroduced to waterways where they once bred and prospered, explains George Kollias, DVM, PhD, and Jay Hyman Professor of Wildlife Medicine, who is director of Cornell's wildlife health program and River Otter Project team leader at Cornell.

Once received at Cornell, the otters are given physical examinations, treatments, nutritional supplements, and microchip identification (for tracking purposes) by members of the college's wildlife health program, prior to release.

The otter population restoration effort is a cooperative effort involving the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, and the New York River Otter Project, Inc.

Once common throughout North America, the number of river otters dwindled in the 19th century in New York State. Habitat destruction, water pollution, and possibly unregulated trapping have contributed to their decline, say wildlife officials.

The otters released by the project were trapped in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, where their numbers are still plentiful.

This is the third year of the multi-year project to restore river otters in central and western New York State. This year, a total of 40 to 50 otters are expected to be released in the Letchworth State Park and Whitney Point areas of the state. Last year, 40 river otters were released in the Jamestown/Allegheny State Park area and the area of the Whitney Point Reservoir. In 1995, the first year of the project, 21 river otters were released in central and western parts of the state. Before its work is complete, the project plans to release a total of 270 otters in New York State. ■

Ceremony Celebrates Library Centennial

In celebration of its centennial year, the Roswell P. Flower - Isidor I. and Sylvia M. Sprecher Library and Learning Resources Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine held a celebration ceremony during Homecoming Weekend this past September.

Keynote speakers at the event included Donald Smith, dean of the college; Susanne Whitaker, librarian at the Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library; and Sarah Thomas, Carl A. Kroch Librarian at Cornell University Library. Presentations focused on the history of the library and its inception, the transition from a book collection to an electronic media resource, the impact of the library in the lives of many outside the veterinary and university community, and future directions for library systems at Cornell.

Veterinary Library Statistics: 1996-97

- square feet of space = 15,496
- gate count = 321,146
- circulation and reserve transactions = 29,684
- books and copies requested through interlibrary loan = 2,161
- books and copies obtained through interlibrary loan = 1,684
- reference questions answered = 9,751
- copies made = 306,897

These High School Students Need a Rabies

Most high school students with a knack for biology see but two career options: becoming a James Herriot-style veterinarian or a marine biologist who valiantly fights to save the manatee. "New Visions: Explorations in the Biological Sciences" intends to change that.

"If you want to expand students' horizons, you send them places they otherwise wouldn't have the chance to go," says Thea Martin of the new, year-long program that throws open the college's doors to 14 outstanding seniors from high schools in the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) district.

Every day from 10am until 2pm, they'll make the library, the teaching facilities of the Veterinary Education Center, and the patient-care areas of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital their classrooms, with forays down campus to research laboratories in Cornell's Division of Biological Sciences. All



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/FRANK DIMEO

to introduce these teens (seven men and seven women) to the working world of farriers, nutritionists, virologists, epidemiologists, parasitologists, and anesthesiologists. To boot, they'll earn four credits in English, government, economics, and college-level biology.

A blast, yes. Easy, no. Martin, the BOCES vocational teacher in charge, admitted to the class that the first reading assignment — a series of observations of swifts, worms, a viper, and a tortoise penned by early naturalist Gilbert White during the decade between 1770 and 1780 — took her more than an hour to plow through and resulted in a long list of learning issues, among them the meaning of the word "congener."

"The concept of evolution hadn't been thought up yet," she pointed out to her students, "so what do you suppose White

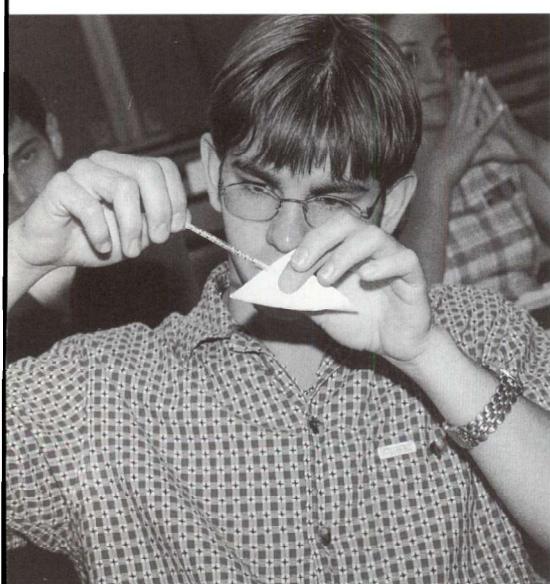
Oliva Wilson (left) and Justin Whitaker (right), with other students, learn how to prepare blood smears on slides for viewing under a microscope, during a lab with Marguerite Frongillo, PhD, teaching support specialist in the department of microbiology and immunology.

meant by congeners?"

Throughout the ensuing discussion, Martin modeled over and over again the approach to learning embodied in the college's interactive, case-based curriculum: to note what you don't know, what impedes your understanding, and then set out to learn about it. (To better understand White's methods of observation, someone asked whether he could have used a barometer. A volunteer stepped forward to find out just when the device was invented.)

"I chose Gilbert for the first reading because his letters had turned Darwin on to nature study," Martin explains. "These men had no formal background in science, no book learning. They just looked at the world

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/FRANK DIMEO



Student Jeffrey Toolan reading a thermometer during an introduction to animal physical exams.

Shot To Graduate



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/FRANK DIMEO

(from left) Students Tamar Melen, Jennifer Sibley, and Elizabeth Antczak practice using a stethoscope to hear a cat's heartbeat.

around them and thought interesting things about it and shared these thoughts with each other. This is how I'd like my students to approach the different fields associated with biology. First to see that they think about them, ask interesting questions, then later look up what they don't know."

"The program is the ultimate in contextual learning," says John E. Saidla, DVM, director of continuing education at the college, who guided Martin in developing the course format. "The new molecular tests so important in biology today are one example. They'll have meaning for these students when they can actually see them, perform them, and then see their application in the clinical setting. Then they'll no longer be just abstractions in a biology book."

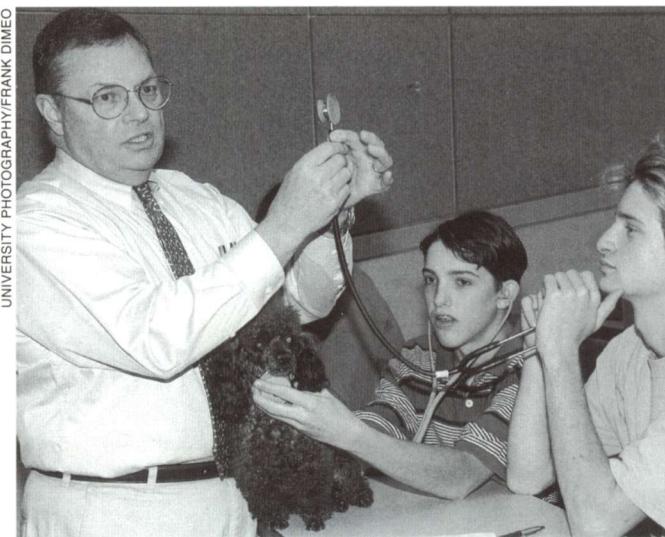
The interdisciplinary nature of the program ensures that the

science itself be viewed within the political, economic, and social context in which it is practiced. The course material is organized according to themes that are being debated (some hotly) in society today. Hazardous waste disposal, wildlife management, genetically engineered foods, and the use of animals in research — just for starters.

Take the veracity of DNA fingerprinting, an issue of much contention in modern-day murder trials such as that of

so we can do statistical analysis that demonstrates how lawyers arrive at figures like 'one in a million,'" Martin says.

Once students understand the technical process, they'll discuss the legal and ethical questions involved. They will learn about the economic side by playing a stock-market game using stock of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies that develop and sell DNA tests. This experience, Martin says, is essential in developing knowledgeable citizens.



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/FRANK DIMEO

Dr. John Saidla (left) explaining stethoscope procedures as students Justin Whitaker and Rob Poyer prepare to listen to a dog's heartbeat.

football star O. J. Simpson. Among the more than 30 writers whose nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and plays students will read during the year is Joseph Wambaugh's *The Bloodyard*, an account of the first murder case solved by DNA fingerprinting. After reading the book, students will conduct a DNA fingerprinting laboratory simulation, then visit a research laboratory in Cornell's Section of Ecology and Systematics that has DNA data from a real legal case.

"The data actually show where the markers come from,

And it's just what Jeff Toolan from Groton High School is looking for.

"I was getting very sick of the lecture format we have in high school," Toolan says. "I wanted to get out and get my hands dirty, to learn from my own experiences instead of just taking someone else's word for everything."

Daniel Ware, who comes in from Newfield High School, seconded him. "I want to actually do the proofs behind ideas and concepts."

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HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Both Toolan and Ware are also counting on the program to help prepare them for doing college-level work. That it will do so is one reason why a number of veterinary students, including Susan Klein '98, are eager to volunteer their time to help out.

"I would really have loved to do something like this when I was in high school," says Klein, whose own North Country high school offered no advanced-placement science courses. "When I went to Dartmouth, a lot of my classmates were much farther ahead of me."

As a former classics major Klein has offered suggestions for the reading list and is willing to be a mentor when New Visions students participate in clinical rotations in dentistry, dermatology, cardiology, surgery, radiology, necropsy, the Community Practice Service, and the Diagnostic Laboratory, later in the year.

"The college can be a very imposing atmosphere to high school students," Klein says. "If they have a veterinary student as a buddy, they'll feel more comfortable asking questions."

That's exactly what Professor of pathology Fred Quimby DVM, PhD, the college's coordinator for the New Visions Program, hopes they'll do.

"Many alumni who hire our graduates have told us that some of these young men and women have considerable difficulty communicating with the owners of their patients," Quimby explains. "After eight years of studying science, they've acquired a highly technical language that laypeople don't understand. Casting third- and fourth-year veterinary students in the role of teachers who help the high school students work through the learning objectives in each rotation will give the DVM students invaluable practice in communicating with people other than veterinarians or veterinary students."

The New Visions program in biology is modeled on the first of the T-S-T BOCES Vocational Center's New Visions programs, begun five years ago in conjunction with Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca to explore careers in the health professions. The health professions program has been so successful that virtually every student in the program has gone on to the college of his or her choice.

Chuck Gruman, T-S-T BOCES vocational director, saw a high degree of interest in biology among students in the tri-county area's high schools, including rural schools that have more modest resources.

(Three of the 14 participants come from Ithaca.) Quimby, who for more than 15 years has been informally bringing Ithaca High School students into the college's research labs, and Gruman initiated the idea of a New Visions program in biology. Three successive deans threw in their support.

"All expressed enthusiasm in the college providing community service where its resources would be used to improve public education," says Quimby. Scheduling morning tutorials in the veterinary curriculum, for example, leaves the microscopes and networked computers with their integrated media-interactive courseware free for the use of New Visions students. Francis A. Kallfelz DVM, PhD, director of the college's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, and Donald H. Lein, DVM, PhD, director of the college's Diagnostic Laboratory, also have welcomed New Visions students into their facilities to shadow clinicians and veterinary students on rotations.

Research faculty, too, have offered their time to the program. As part of their study of reproduction, New Visions students will read *Life before Birth* and *A Time to Be Born*, a compilation of 30 years' research on fetal development, written by Peter W. Nathanielsz, MB, PhD, ScD, MD, James Law Professor of Reproductive Physiology and director of the Laboratory for Pregnancy and Newborn Research at the college. Then Nathanielsz, one of the world's preeminent reproductive physiologists, will talk with the class about his own work and how it is that scientists now conclude that the

Centennial Room Dedicated

During Homecoming Weekend this past September, the college's Centennial Room was officially dedicated. Speakers at the event included representatives of those groups which contributed to the furnishing of the conference room — Douglas Aspros, DVM '75, president of New York State Veterinary Medical Society; Roger Saltman, DVM '81, president of the Alumni Association of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine; and Ann Phemister, a past president of the Auxiliary of the Alumni Association of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.

HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

onset of labor - in sheep, monkeys, and most likely humans - is initiated by a small group of nerve cells in the fetal brain.

The medical illustrator on the book, Paula DiSanto Bensadoun, also will visit the class to talk about her work.

Cornell University, too, is a full backer of the New Visions program, providing an Internet ID to each student (along with access to computers and training) and stack privileges in Mann Library and Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library. The Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers has furnished equipment, materials, and laboratory kits it develops for high school teachers. Cornell's Division of Biological Sciences also is actively involved.

"Faculty in the division have given New Visions students access to 120 different science laboratories in an enrichment program they offer freshman biology majors," Quimby says. "New Visions students can spend time in these labs talking with the researchers, their technicians, and graduate students about their responsibilities on the job and about what it takes educationally to enter the field."

While the division participates with an eye toward recruitment, Quimby is quite clear in saying that the college's approach is different.

"We want to show these students there is a wide array of careers associated with the study of biology beyond veterinary medicine," he says. "And introduce them to skills of independent learning they'll need to excel anywhere in the biological sciences." ■

Alumni Forum Goes Online

Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine alumni are known for setting standards for veterinary professionals the world over. So when members of the college's Alumni Association saw the need for a means of communication accessible to all alumni, they looked to the World Wide Web, says Alison Smith, associate director of alumni affairs and annual giving.

The result is the Alumni Forum, a threaded-topic discussion board on the Internet, developed by Roberta Militello, the college's Web administrator, office of public affairs, in cooperation with staff of the college's office of computing services.

This past October, the Alumni Forum officially went on-line on the World Wide Web, with a group of 15 alumni (members of the Alumni Association executive committee) who volunteered to test the forum. "After a successful test phase," says Militello, "the Alumni Forum is now prime time — available to all college alumni."

The forum is a series of electronic conversations, known in Web lingo as threads, each of which contains a discussion about a particular topic. Forum participants may read each message (or post) in a thread and thus follow the evolution of a particular discussion. Participants can join the conversation by adding their own comments (posts) onto existing threads, or they can initiate new threads.

How To Access the Forum

The Alumni Forum is a closed-access forum that requires a user to apply for a userid (user identification) and password. You must be an alumnus of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine to apply. A user needs only apply once.

1. Get onto the Internet by opening your computer's browser (e.g. Netscape); then go to the Alumni Forum at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/alumni.asp> Next, you should see the Alumni Forum page. (You also will hear the Cornell chimes, if your computer system has audio plug-ins.) If you have problems accessing the forum, check the way in which you typed-in the URL (Web address). It needs to be exact.
2. Apply for user identification (userid) and password by clicking the "apply" button, filling out the information in the form, and then clicking the "submit" button. Your application will be processed and you will receive notification of your new userid and password via email.
3. Once you have your userid and password, it is easy to access the forum: enter your userid and password in the spaces provided, and then click the "OK" button on the screen. (Clicking the "return" key on your keyboard will not work.) If you have problems accessing the forum, check how you typed-in your userid and password; they need to be exact.
4. Review the current available topics (shown in red type adjacent to the red "reply" buttons). It is wise to browse through the threads to understand the nature of a threaded-topic discussion forum.
5. If you wish, you can reply to a post and add to the discussion by entering a post of your own. To do so, click the "reply" button and proceed. You should create a new thread only if the topic you wish to discuss is not available on an existing thread. ■

People, Honors, and Awards

Douglas Aspros, DVM '75, president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, lauded the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell in a column in the September/October issue of the society's publication, *Veterinary News*. He cited the college's transformation into "a premier biomedical teaching institution" which now has a strong and mutually supportive relationship with practitioners across the state. He ends the column saying that he is "a supporter, a booster, and a proud alumnus."

Leland Carmichael, DVM, PhD '59, and the John M. Olin Professor of Virology in the college's department of clinical sciences, has been awarded the 1997 New York State Veterinary Medical Society Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine Award. Carmichael, who earned his DVM from the University of California, Davis and his PhD from Cornell University, has been a member of the faculty at the college's James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health since 1959. He has made significant contributions to the diagnosis and control of many infectious diseases, including hepatitis, brucellosis, canine parvovirus-type2, minute virus of canines, and herpesvirus. He has published more than 130 papers and participated as an inventor of five US patents and 35 foreign patents in the field of animal diagnostics and animal vaccines. He is a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and has been elected to the National Academies of Practice.



(from left) Dr. Thomas Divers, Dr. Michael Ball; (fourth from left) Dr. Christina Cable, Dr. Robert Hillman — with the trophy winners.

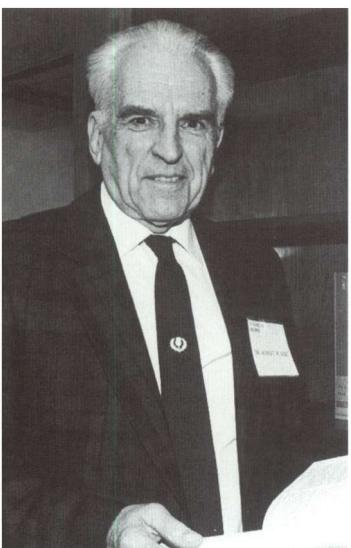
Michele Cohen, DVM Class of 1999, has been selected by Morris Animal Foundation as one of 13 Ballard Students who will serve two-year terms as ambassadors to educate the student body and faculty at his or her school about Morris Animal Foundation.

Martha Gearhart, DVM '79, has been recognized by the New York State Veterinary Medical Society as its 1997 Merit Award recipient. Gearhart, a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in companion animal practice, is a member of the Hudson Valley Veterinary Medical Society. She is affiliated with the Millbrook Equine Veterinary Clinic while in the process of establishing a small animal practice in Millbrook, New York. In 1988, Gearhart received the first Congressional Fellowship in Science and Engineering from the American Veterinary Medical Association. In 1989 she was appointed to the AVMA political action committee policy board, serving as chair in 1995-96. She also has been a member of the NYSVMS government relations committee since 1990.

Robert Hillman, DVM '55, MS, emeritus professor of

theriogenology in the department of clinical sciences at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, presented the trophy in the 1997 Genesee Valley Breeders Association Trophy Race at Finger Lakes Race Track to Thomas Muller, Jr., owner of first-place finisher Oblinor. Hillman serves as a board member for the Genesee Valley Breeders Association. He was accompanied at the race by several other Cornell veterinary faculty, including Thomas Divers, DVM, professor of medicine, department of clinical sciences; Michael Ball, DVM, instructor, department of pharmacology; and Christina Cable, DVM, resident in large-animal medicine, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Robert Kirk, DVM '46, emeritus professor of medicine in the college's department of clinical sciences, recently was lauded by The Seeing Eye, Inc. at a ceremony dedicating its Robert W. Kirk Canine Health Library in his honor. The library is part of the institute's new \$7.5 million, state-of-the-art Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center. Kirk, an internationally renowned teacher, lecturer, and scholar, has served as a member of the institute's board of direc-



COURTESY THE SEEING EYE, INC.

Dr. Robert W. Kirk

tors since 1977. As chairman of its canine committee and member of its buildings and grounds committee, his personal mission has been to ensure the excellence of the school's canine health and veterinary programs. Kirk joined the veterinary faculty at Cornell in 1952 and in 1969 was named chairman and professor of the department of small-animal medicine and surgery as well as director of the small-animal clinic. He retired in 1985.

Donald Lein, DVM '57, PhD, director of the college's Diagnostic Laboratory, has received the 1997 Friend of the Department award from the poultry section in the department of animal science at Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He received the award for his "immense devotion and persuasion" in acting as liaison with legislative and governmental leaders in order to help restore the state's support for the avian diseases program, as well as for his and the laboratory's diligent and continuous assistance to the faculty in the avian poultry group.

Franklin Loew, DVM, PhD, former dean of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine is one of six veterinarians who were invited to lecture during the Distinguished Speakers Series celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Loew currently is president of Medical Foods, Inc., a Cambridge, Massachusetts company engaged in research and development of foods with proven clinical benefits for patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes and arthritis.

David Morrow, DVM '60, has been selected to the Centennial Honor Roll of the Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, which includes 100 Alpha Zeta members and 100 nonmembers chosen for their embodiment of the fraternity's four founding principles: leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and character. Centennial Honor Roll members represent the depth, breadth, and diversity of the fraternity's 95,000 members. Morrow is a professor emeritus at Michigan State University. He received the 1980 and 1982 Borden AFMA Awards from the American Veterinary Medical Association for dairy cattle research. He received the SCAVMA Outstanding Teacher Award at Michigan State University in 1979, 1980, 1984, 1985, and 1986. He is known for his research in fat-cow syndrome.

John D. Murray, DVM '39, has been awarded the New York State Veterinary Medical Society Distinguished Life Service Award, its highest honor. In 1957 he entered into partnership with Dr. DeWitt Baker of Ithaca and built the Murray-Baker

Animal Hospital in Corning, New York. Prior to that time, Murray was in general practice in Painted Post, New York for 16 years, in a mixed practice he had purchased from Dr. Richard Olmsted. Murray served for eight years as the NYSVMS delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association; he also was president of the Southern Tier VMA, and an executive board member of NYSVMS, serving as president in 1970. Murray serves on the Cornell University Council and the College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council. He was a member and chair of the college development committee and president of the college Alumni Association. Murray received the Daniel Salmon Award, the highest award of the college's Alumni Association. He also has been recognized for his significant contributions to the college with the naming of a lecture hall in his honor.

Robert Sofarelli, DVM '71, has been elected 1998 president-elect of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, to serve as president in 1999. He is owner of the Saratoga Veterinary Hospital and a veterinary clinic in Corinth. He has been a member of the NYSVMS and the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society since 1971, serving as regional president in 1984 and chairing the regional society's low-cost spay/neuter program. He has represented the Capital District VMS on the state society's executive board since 1989. In 1987 he served as social program coordinator for the NYSVMS annual meeting; he served as general chairman for annual meetings in 1991, 1993, and 1995. He currently

PEOPLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

serves as chairman of the site selection committee.

Frederick Tierney, DVM '62, MS '63, has been awarded the New York State Veterinary Medical Society Distinguished Life Service Award, its highest honor. Tierney is an active member of the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City, having served for 10 years as a board member and also as past president. He has been in private practice in New York City since 1972. From 1963-72, he served as chief-of-staff for the Humane Society of New York. In 1983, Tierney served as NYSVMS president. Tierney also served on the AVMA Council of Veterinary Services for six years and has been the NYSVMS delegate to AVMA since 1992. He was a member and officer of the NYS Association of the Professions for 12 years, and a board member of the Cornell Alumni Association and the Advisory Council to the New York City Board of Education.

Joseph Wakshlag, DVM Class of 1998, has been selected by the Morris Animal Foundation as one of five scientists nominated this year to its Foundation Fellows program, a prestigious group of more than 300. The Fellows program honors students who participate in the investigative teams of Foundation-sponsored animal health studies. Wakshlag was selected as a fellow for his work with measuring muscle glycogen in horses with polysaccharide storage disease.

Gene Wheeler, MBA '80, has been appointed assistant dean for finance and administration

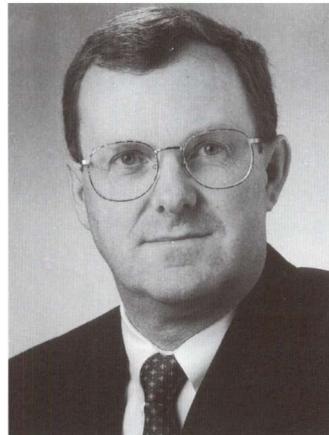


IMAGE LAB/ALEXIS WENSKI-ROBERTS

Gene Wheeler, assistant dean

at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. He formerly served as director of finance and administrative operations for Cornell's College of Human Ecology, a position he held for six years. As chief business officer for the college, he was responsible for financial planning and monitoring, budget development and implementation, personnel management, business activities, and facilities projects. He led the college's 1994 effort to codify and implement records retention standards, procedures which later served as a model for the development of the university's records retention policy, introduced in 1997. Wheeler also served as director of finance and administration for Cornell University Library, 1984-90; and from 1975-1981 he served as budget administrator, associate bursar, and payroll supervisor for the university. Wheeler also has served on the university's strategic planning committee.

Bruce Widger, DVM '51, has been selected to the Centennial Honor Roll of the Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, which includes 100 Alpha Zeta members and 100 nonmembers chosen for their embodiment of the fraternity's

four founding principles: leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and character. Widger is retired director of the Division of Animal Industry in the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, served as a trustee of Cornell University from 1961-1981.

William Zitek, DVM '59, has been elected to the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Veterinary Services, small animals. A member of the Long Island Veterinary Medical Association, Zitek served on the executive board of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society for six years and as president in 1992. In 1994, he was recognized by his peers for his dedication to the profession and named New York State Veterinarian of the Year.

Harold Zweighaft, DVM '56, has been named 1997 New York State Veterinarian of the Year, an award announced by the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. Zweighaft was recognized for a distinguished career which embodies the true veterinary spirit of fellowship, volunteerism, and commitment to animals. Since 1981, he has been the director of West Parc Veterinary Clinic in New York City. From 1958-1984 he served as director of the Tri-Boro Animal Hospital. He is an active member of the Veterinary Medical Association of New York City, having served on the board of directors for eight years and as president; in 1973 he was elected to serve as VMA representative to the executive board of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. In

1977 Zweighaft was appointed by the Board of Regents to serve on the New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine. Also in 1977 he was elected by the NYSVMS as alternate delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association; two years later, Zweighaft was elected as AVMA delegate. In 1992 he was elected by AVMA District 1 to the executive board; in 1997 he was elected as chairman of the board of AVMA. He is a member of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the House Advisory Committee of the AVMA, and the Advisory Council to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

Travers Ball Raises \$78,000

The Travers Committee Inc. sponsors an annual dinner-dance at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center during the week of the Travers Stakes at Saratoga Raceway each August. Ticket sales to the dinner-dance support equine research at Cornell and programs at Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

The 1997 ball grossed more than \$78,000, according to Travers Committee officials. More than \$500,000 has been raised in the 18 years of the Travers Committee's existence to support the two programs.

At the committee's annual meeting in August, new officers and members were inducted. Officers for 1998 are: Ellen R. Bongard, president; Herbert Chesbrough, vice president; Elizabeth N. Tesiero, Jr., secretary; and George W. Walker, treasurer. Honorary chairperson of the Travers Committee is Penny B. Chenery. ■

In Memoriam

S. Gordon Campbell, professor of microbiology and immunology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, died on September 29 in Ithaca.

Campbell held veterinary degrees from Glasgow University (MRCVS, BVMS, veterinary medicine, 1956) and Toronto University (MVSc, veterinary bacteriology, 1959) and a PhD in veterinary microbiology from Cornell (1964).

Following graduate school, Campbell served for two years, beginning in 1964, as a senior lecturer at Australia's University of Melbourne before returning to Ithaca, where he established Hickory Ridge, a working farm in the Highland tradition, on which he raised Black Angus cattle, Highland and Dexter cows, and Black Face Suffolk and Cheviot sheep. Campbell joined the Cornell faculty in 1967, as an assistant professor in the department of microbiology and immunology. He became an associate professor in 1970, and a professor of immunology in 1979.

In 1985, Campbell was named associate dean for academic affairs at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, a position he held for five years. He served on numerous college and university academic and administrative committees at Cornell. Beginning in 1990, he became the college's director of international programs, participating in projects with the World Bank, United States Agency for International Development, and the Land O' Lakes Foundation — endeavors which took him to places such as Kenya, Uganda, Morocco, Southeast Asia, Macedonia, Argentina, Chile,

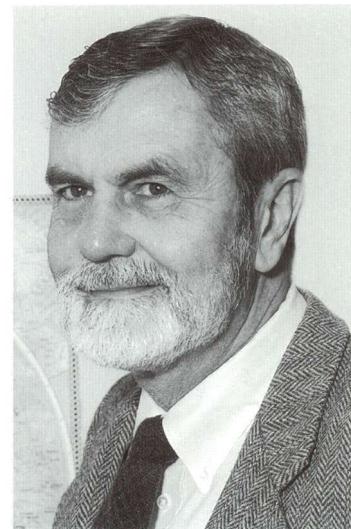


IMAGE LAB/ALEXIS WENSKI-ROBERTS

Peru, and Bolivia.

He was a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; American Association of Veterinary Immunologists; American Veterinary Medical Association; and New York State Veterinary Medical Society.

He received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1994 from Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture. He was a member of numerous honor societies: Alpha Zeta, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Psi, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Zeta.

He also was a member of the Tompkins County SPCA, where he served as president (1979-81).

Gordon Campbell is survived by his wife, May Elizabeth Craik Campbell, and three sons: Rory Mor Campbell; Kyle Brodie Campbell, Cornell DVM Class of 2000; and Scott McIntyre Campbell.

The family plans a memorial service on May 2, 1998, from 3 to 6pm at Hickory Ridge in Ithaca. ■

C O R N E L L
Veterinary Medicine

College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853-6401

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

Calendar of Events

Events are at Cornell unless otherwise noted. Call 607-253-3200 with questions about continuing education programs; for information about other events, call 607-253-3744.

December

- 7-10 American Association of Equine Practitioners Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- 16 NYS Equine Educators Meeting, Cornell

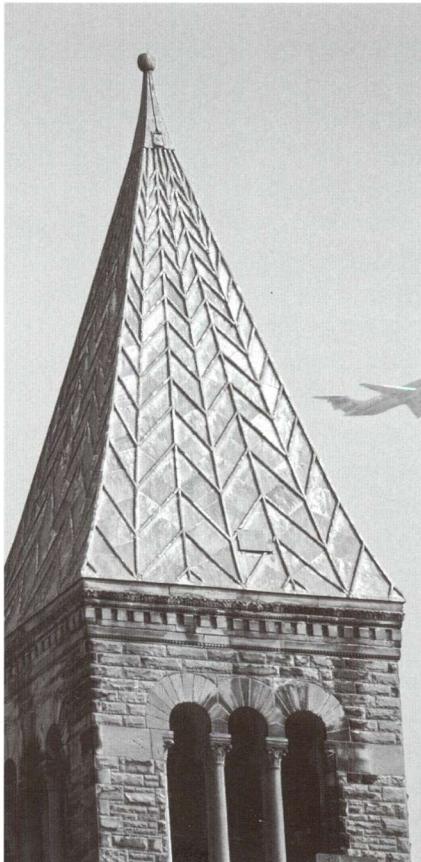
January 1998

- 11-15 North American Conference, Orlando, FL

February 1998

- 1 Western States Conference, Las Vegas, NV

Engineering the Great Pumpkin Caper



UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY/FRANK DIMEO

It appeared, to everyone's surprise and most people's delight, on Wednesday morning, October 8 — perched ever so assuredly atop McGraw Tower's lightning rod. After much official discussion, it was agreed that physical measures to remove the pumpkin from its perch would be dangerous and facilities personnel at Cornell decided to simply let the Great Pumpkin follow its natural course. Meanwhile, people could not stop talking — and speculating (helicopter? expedition rock-climbers? brazen engineering students? even Cornell's president teasingly took credit at one point...) — about the pumpkin's ascent to fame. The behemoth, of course, was the media star of the month, with coverage in a variety of publications — story and photo in the *Cornell Chronicle* on October 9, front-page color photo in the *Ithaca Journal* on October 10, regular updates in *The Cornell Daily Sun* throughout the month of October, a story in the *Syracuse Post-Standard* on October 28, a *New York Times* story replete with a series of photos on October 27, and a spot on NBC's *Today Show* on the morning of October 28. Just to name a few. (PS As of this newsletter's printing, no one yet had claimed the credit — and the limelight — for the feat. And the pumpkin remained majestically aloft.)