Changing Lives Everyday: The Impact of Scholarships

The calls came, appropriately, during the dog days of summer. As each of three unsuspecting Cornell veterinary students answered their phones, they were greeted with a request to attend a special meeting at the college. There was nothing to worry about, the caller assured; the news they would receive would be welcome.

One by one, they anxiously appeared for the appointments and listened intently while Katherine Edmondson, assistant dean for learning and instruction, shared the shocking good news: each had been selected on the basis of academic performance as the recipient of a full scholarship, one that would cover the costs of tuition and living expenses for the upcoming academic year. (Tuition at the College of Veterinary Medicine is $14,500 for New York state residents and $19,600 for nonresidents; living expenses are estimated at $11,480 per student per year.)

And if that news was not enough to stir the spirit on a summer day, there was more.

Kenneth I. Gumaer, Sr., DVM '43, and his wife, Catherine A. Gumaer, were honored in early June as Foremost Benefactors of Cornell University. In a ceremony based on Cornell tradition, University President Hunter R. Rawlings III delivered remarks and presented Gumaer with a bronze statue of Ezra Cornell, university founder. The ceremony included a visit to the Uris Library Terrace, location of the Foremost Benefactor memorial wall. Following the ceremony, Donald F. Smith, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, hosted a luncheon for Gumaer, his family, and several classmates. (Catherine Gumaer was unable to attend, but the ceremony was videotaped for her by her grandson.)

Gumaer and his wife, Catherine, support the College of Veterinary Medicine through an advised bequest and annual gifts of securities. He has expressed an interest in naming the college’s soon-to-be-remodeled necropsy facility. As a veterinary student, Gumaer enjoyed working in the necropsy room with Peter Olafson, DVM '26, MS '27, professor of pathology at the college from 1936 to 1965.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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Knowledge as Primary Resource

excerpted from the commencement address presented by the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine to the Class of 1998 at the college's Hooding Ceremony on May 23

As you leave academia and move out into the world, you will find yourself in an increasingly complex and highly integrated environment. In society today, knowledge is the primary resource.

The traditional measures of land, capital, and labor valued by economists of my generation have by no means disappeared, but they have become secondary. They are commodities that you can obtain easily, provided you have specialized knowledge, and provided that you integrate this specialized knowledge with information from other fields into a functional whole.

In today's world, the function of any organization, whether its mission be to cure animal disease, to promote food safety, or to advance biomedical knowledge, is the integration of specialized knowledge.

Past generations of veterinarians have had great pride in their rugged individualism. Many of us defined our professional identity by our ability to be more effective by ourselves than through the sum of our collective efforts. We had the desire and the ability to master a particular domain, whether it was orthopedic surgery, equine medicine, or experimental immunology. We developed the professional skills and we honed our expertise to stay ahead of the knowledge curve and to be independently indispensable.

However, society is changing and, with it, the rules have changed. And I'm pleased to say that the graduates of the Class of 1998 have progressed with these changes.

You have experienced and, in some cases, flourished, as an integral part of a learning community. You have allowed personal visions to become more broadly identified as shared visions.

You have learned that colleagues matter and are valued, that every individual carries a responsibility — emotional as well as intellectual, and that each member of the team is important.

In our veterinary curriculum, we stress the importance of integrating the sciences rather than learning each discipline in isolation from the other. The skills that you have developed here will be expanded richly as you take your new positions in society. You will see that the isolated, linear, cause-effect relationship is outdated; you will now have necessity to use the new approaches of a systems-thinking mentality.

Working in teams, being part of a learning community, applying systems-thinking solutions — these are some of the skills that you already have begun to master here at the college.

These will become dominant approaches as society enters the new millennium.

Donald F. Smith, dean
Sled Dog Superstars: Cornell Team Wins World Cup

Not every dog has its day in the style of Cornell’s Sled Dog Team. Marvin, Bill, Carla, Prancer, Niki, Demi, Doc, and Nolan Ryan are something quite special — these Alaskan huskies are superstars to Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD, and musher. The International Federation of Sleddog Sports recently announced that the Reynolds team has won the 1998 World Cup Gold Medal in 8-dog team, Nome-style speed class sled dog racing.

“I’m so proud of these dogs,” says Reynolds, lauding the team. The leader, Marvelous Marvin, is only a year old, he adds. “He’s so young to know so much, to do this well.”

A nutrition specialist, Reynolds studies the relationship of nutrition and performance in the sled dogs — to establish the protein requirements of working dogs so they can be properly fed; help their muscles adapt to the metabolic changes that occur during training, by altering amounts of fat and carbohydrates; and help them retain hydration and recover more completely from exercise.”

The focus of his research, Reynolds explains, is improving the welfare of working dogs. Winning the World Cup says wonders not only about the qualities and spirit of the dogs on the team but also about the knowledge, skills, and leadership of the musher behind the team.

To obtain World Cup points in a racing class, a musher must enter at least three competitions in the same class anywhere in the world. Final point calculations are based on a musher’s best three performances in a class. IFSS selected 22 sled dog racing events in Europe, Scandinavia and North America to make up its 1998 World Cup Series. Races were held in Germany, France, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, and the United States; 1,282 mushers participated in the races.

World Cup Series points are accumulated in 4-dog, 6-dog, 8-dog and unlimited Nome-style speed classes (where the musher rides or pedals a sled pulled by a specified number of dogs at speeds in excess of 30 km/hour) and pulka-style classes (where a cross-country skier races together with one to three dogs pulling a small, weighted pulk or sled). Reynolds and his 8-dog team race Nome-style. In Nome-style speed classes, short-distance races are 3 to 25 miles per day, depending on the maximum number of dogs allowed. (The largest unlimited teams include as many as 24 dogs running in tandem.) Speed races consist of 2 to 3 heats over the same course; speed sleds are very light, sometimes in the 10-15 pound range. Speed race teams average just over 20 mile per hour on hard, flat, fast snow-packed trails (compared to about 6 to 10 miles per hour for distance racing teams).

Reynolds and his sled dog team raced in three World Cup Series races: January 17–18 in Minden, Ontario; March 28–29 in Tok, Alaska; and March 13–15 in the North American Championships in Fairbanks, Alaska. They accumulated 308,444 total points, which ranked them in first place in the 8-dog Nome-style class and earned them the World Cup gold medal.

Sled dogs are some of the best-trained animals in the world, explains Reynolds.
Cornell Hosts Ninth Summer Leadership Program

Veterinary honors students from around the world gathered at the College of Veterinary Medicine this summer to participate in the 1998 Leadership Program. The intensive, research-oriented learning experience combines faculty-guided research with career counseling, interactive learning, and professional enrichment activities.

Among the two dozen 1998 fellows were four veterinary students from Cornell: Erin Crotty, Class of 2001, studying equine motor neuron disease with Thomas Divers, DVM, professor of medicine, under the sponsorship of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research, and Pfizer Inc; Steven Fleischer, Class of 2001, studying host immunity to Toxoplasma gondii with Eric Denkers, PhD, assistant professor of immunology, under the sponsorship of NIH and The Merck Foundation; Guanina Jenkins-Serrano, Class of 2001, studying metabolic consequences of portocaval shunts with Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD, assistant professor of nutrition, under the sponsorship of NIH and The Merck Foundation; and Larissa Minicucci, Class of 2000, studying developmentally regulated nematode proteins with Judy Appleton, MS, PhD, associate professor of immunology, under the sponsorship of NIH and The Merck Foundation.

Throughout the 10-week program, student fellows conduct individual research and participate in group projects to develop leadership skills, a code of professional ethics, and an awareness of opportunities for advanced training in research and clinical studies.

Participants in the program also visit the research facilities of the NIH and USDA in the Washington, DC area and, at Cornell, meet with representatives of the program’s corporate sponsors.

Now in its ninth year, the program, is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Agriculture, The Merck Foundation, Florence Gould Foundation, Marilyn M. Simpson Trust, and Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation, and The Wellcome Trust. The college’s office of research and graduate education administers the program.
Alumni Grants Fund Seven Projects

The Alumni Grants Fund awards annual competitive grants from funds contributed by college alumni to faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

“The primary goal of the program is to maintain the margin of excellence of the college,” explains Donald Smith, dean.

The Alumni Grants Fund formerly was called the Alumni Unrestricted Fund.

Small, competitive grants are awarded for three types of projects: clinical and diagnostic research and service, teaching students in the professional program, and continuing education for career development.

Grants awarded in 1998 total $46,977; recipients include:

Emily Butler and Paula Moon: fetal responses to dobutamine infusion after maternal hemorrhage and fluid resuscitation in sheep, $4,139.

James Farese and Rory Todhunter: effect of triple pelvic osteotomy on the dorsolateral subluxation test and the development of osteoarthritis in dogs with hip dysplasia, $5,300.

Marc Kraus: localization of ventricular arrhythmias in Boxers, $8,528.

George Lust and Michael Oliver: comparison of Y chromosome sequences in dogs, wolves, and other endangered canids and applications to wildlife observation, $9,125.

Sydney Moise: purchase of 24-hour electrocardiographic recorders (Holter monitors), $2,925.

Rory Todhunter: ultrasound visualization of femoral head mineralization and subluxation in Labrador retrievers, $3,760

Rory Todhunter: genotyping for microsatellite heterozygosity in an outcrossed canine pedigree, $13,200.

Travers Committee Announces Annual Awards

The Travers Committee, which raises money to support research that benefits the equine industry, has selected two research projects at the College of Veterinary Medicine for 1998-99 funding.

Dwight Bowman, MS, Ph.D; Thomas Divers, DVM; and Hussni Mohammed, BVSc, DVPM, MPVM, PhD, received $9,743 for their study titled Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis: Parasite Isolation and Maintenance.

Alan Nixon, BVSc, MS received $9,880 for his study titled Molecular Aspects of Osteochondritis Dissecans Lesions: Predictors of Cause and Effect?

Throughout its history, the Travers Committee has contributed more than $375,000 toward the study of equine health by funding numerous research projects at the college.

Upon graduation from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1943, Gumaer became assistant pathologist at the University of Kentucky. Later that year, he was called to active duty as a first lieutenant from the US Army Reserves and assigned as a Captain in the Veterinary Corps, 31st Quarter Master Mule Pack Troop; he debarked for India from New Orleans with 65 enlisted mule packers and 360 head of mules. In India, he was assigned to the First Battalion’s White Combat Team (Merrill’s Marauders), serving in Burma. Gumaer recalls that period of World War II, in a typically understated way, as “an experience of a lifetime.”

In 1947 Gumaer returned to Ithaca and worked as a field veterinarian for the college. In 1948, he opened a general veterinary practice in Rhinebeck, New York, where he worked primarily with large animals. Fifteen years later, he returned to his interest in pathology as a veterinary pathologist at the Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute in Rensselaer, New York, where he worked from 1965 to 1982.

Now retired, Gumaer is a longstanding member of the university Tower Club and also served as co-chair of his class’s 55th Reunion this year.

Cornellians in Gumaer’s family include son, Kenneth I. Gumaer, Jr., BS ’68, DVM ’76; daughter Holly Gumaer Schrom, BS ’81; and grandson Douglas Gumaer, BS ’86.
William Rebhun admits he's slowing down a bit. He's not spending as much time on the road as a decade ago, but still he finds giving invited lectures one of his greatest pleasures.

"I think we get too focused on the few things we know about and tend to forget the big picture — that in 50 years we'll know a zillion more things than we know now," says William C. Rebhun '67, DVM '71, Dipl ACVO, Dipl ACVIM, a professor of medicine and ophthalmology in the college's department of clinical sciences — who speaks to three or four state and regional veterinary associations and colleges each year.

"While I enjoy transmitting practical information veterinarians can use, I always emphasize that there are areas that remain unknown."

Venturing into those unknowns is what Rebhun's 21-year career in the college's Equine and Farm Animal Hospital has been all about. He's had primary responsibility for large animal ophthalmology and for diagnosing and treating infectious diseases of horses and cattle and abdominal diseases of dairy cattle. A jack-of-all-trades, you might say.

In taking on cases that have stumped veterinarians in the field, Rebhun has led an impressively productive research career. With the teaching hospital as his data source, Rebhun has published more than 100 refereed papers where he has defined new problems in clinical medicine and reported improvements in diagnostic procedures and treatment options. Most appeared in journals read by practitioners.
There have been high points along the way, among them the first description of corneal stromal abscesses in horses. Another, the first description of gastric ulcers in foals, appeared in Rebhun’s 36th published paper (with colleagues in the teaching hospital as co-authors). Back in 1982 this was a new discovery. Today it’s diagnosed and treated worldwide.

“I see large numbers of referral cases for problems, where the average practitioner might only see one,” Rebhun explains. “Always keeping the best interests of the patient, client, and referring veterinarian in mind, I’ve tried to help those animals and then report the relative success or failure of those efforts. Once a paper is published I hope it will stimulate my colleagues elsewhere to challenge my results and try to improve upon them.”

In the publishing arena Rebhun’s other major contribution to veterinarians and veterinary students is Diseases of Dairy Cattle, the major textbook in the field, which he published in 1995. As a generalist in internal medicine Rebhun was well suited to select and present the most common problems. The book was his payoff, he says, for having grown up on a dairy farm in eastern New York.

Rebhun attributes his prolific output to the college’s collegial environment where collaboration across disciplines is the name of the game. In Rebhun’s first few years at Cornell three-quarters of the clinical faculty had been newly hired, offering a period of unparalleled innovation and specialization. New blood brought new ideas, and working with faculty, students, and referring veterinarians has been a continuing source of excitement. That was something of a surprise for him — early in his career, Rebhun thought he would go it alone.

When he graduated in the early ’70s he joined a mixed practice in Delmar, New York, then three years later opened his own practice in Troy and limited it to large animals and to diseases of the eye. Three years later the phone call came. It was from Rebhun’s former mentor, Alexander de Lahunta, DVM, PhD, then chair of clinical sciences (and currently a professor of anatomy) at the college. There was a position open in large animal medicine and de Lahunta thought Rebhun should apply.

“I always find I’m a better teacher when we’re busy in the clinics.”

“I really wasn’t interested — a few years down the line, I thought — but came to the interview anyway out of respect for my former teacher,” Rebhun recalls. “The constant challenge of referrals looked appealing to me and, since most academic faculty haven’t had private practice experience, I thought I could offer what I’d learned to students.”

To this day it is Rebhun’s tremendous amount of client experience and savvy in dealing with people that stands out in his teaching. While he enjoys classroom lecturing in large animal medicine and surgery and in ophthalmology, it’s when the hospital cases heat up that Rebhun says he’s really “on.”

“I always find I’m a better teacher when we’re busy in the clinics,” Rebhun says of his responsibility in supervising students on their rotations in the teaching hospital. “I feel if something is going to rub off, it will be when they see me interact with the patient, client, and referring veterinarian.”

When asked about the future, Rebhun’s first concern is about the reward system for students going through specialty training. “We are asking them to jump through more and more hoops to obtain the position I have as a tenured faculty member,” he says of the mandatory eight years of college, four more in internship and residencies, and then a PhD on top of it all. “The kids I work with are great; they work their buns off. But many will be in their 30s before they can begin paying off college debts. We lose some very talented people because they just can’t give up that number of years.”

The promise of a never-ending stream of demanding cases that lured Rebhun out of private practice continues to enthrall him.

“We grumble at the really hard cases, the ones that make you feel stupid and depressed and totally worthless when things go bad,” he says. “But really, I look forward to all those unknowns walking through the door!”

Raising money for scholarships to offset the expense of DVM and graduate education is a priority at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. For more information or to make a contribution to a scholarship, contact Alison Smith, associate director of alumni affairs and annual giving, at 607-253-3742 or via email at ars1@cornell.edu.
International Program Offers Life-Changing Experiences

Turtle eggs are everything to the people of Ostional. The entire economy of this village on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica depends on the health of olive ridley sea turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea), which come ashore there by the thousands to lay their eggs on the warm, sandy beaches. So Lillian I. Good, '99 had some explaining to do when she set about taking tissue samples from animals that are virtually the lifeblood of the community. She had to be convincing — in Spanish, a language not her own.

"There I'd be, working on the beach in the middle of the night, and the townspeople would come up to me and ask what I was doing," says Good, who went to Costa Rica in 1997 as part of the college's Expanding Horizons program, to document the incidence of fibropapilloma-like tumors first reported in the olive ridley turtles just five years ago. "I'd try to explain the importance of finding out whether these turtles are threatened with the same infectious disease that has already brought a decline in populations of green (Chelonia mydas) and loggerhead (Caretta caretta) turtles."

Such is the role of veterinarians in more than half the world where the economies of towns, indeed of entire countries, are held hostage to an understanding and control of animal diseases. Yet veterinarians trained in the United States would never know such jeopardy firsthand were it not for Cornell's Expanding Horizons program. The program began a decade ago to offer students an international perspective on the practice of their profession. Each year about five veterinary students from Cornell spend the summer between their second and third academic years helping veterinarians in developing countries with animal disease management.

"The program offers more than just a look-see," says David Robertshaw, BVMS, PhD, the college's director of international programs, who, as an ecological physiologist, spent a dozen years working in Kenya. "Students participate in ongoing projects of real significance that can range from highly technical laboratory research to epidemiological studies."

"One of the greatest concerns facing the veterinary profession is the substantial amount of debt students graduate with," says Daryl Nydam, DVM '97, currently in a large-animal practice in Granville, NY, who himself went to the Dominican Republic twice through the Expanding Horizons program, which is underwritten by the Lincoln Ellsworth Foundation and the Alumni Association at the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Private contributions to programs like this make it possible for students to have life-changing experiences."

The experiences of the Expanding Horizons students are indeed remarkable. During the summer of 1997, Jeffrey A. Seaman, '99, investigated methods for monitoring animal diseases on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. That same summer, Nina Deibel, '99, conducted molecular biological research on Trypanosoma at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya.

And Sharon A. Sickle, '99, who went to southern Chile, tackled a disease that is newly emergent in that region — mycoplasma mastitis. This untreatable, highly contagious disease is a potential threat to Chile's expanding dairy industry. While working in private and academic laboratories in Osorno and the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia, Sickle was the first person to isolate the causative organism, Mycoplasma bovis, from a bulk tank of Chilean milk. She did so under working conditions in stark contrast to those she was accustomed to in Quality Milk Promotion Services, a unit of the college's Diagnostic Laboratory. "I quickly realized the tremendous level of sophistication to which I was accustomed in New York and which I would have to learn to do without," Sickle wrote in her post-visit report.

"I quickly realized the tremendous level of sophistication to which I was accustomed in New York and which I would have to learn to do without,"
Private contributions to programs like this make it possible for students to have life-changing experiences.”

Expanding Horizons is underwritten by the Lincoln Ellsworth Foundation and the college’s Alumni Association.

Learning to make do with what is at hand is another benefit of the Expanding Horizons program, Robertshaw points out: “Students come to understand for themselves that language, infrastructure (is there an airport?), the reliability of communications systems, the culture — all these and more determine what it is and is not possible to accomplish.”

There’s no direct path from veterinary school to an international career. In her tour of Ecuador in the summer of 1997, Heather O’Leary, ’99 discovered that, rather than working in grassroots animal production, she could have a broader impact through advisory activities. She met Elizabeth Daut, DVM ’96, who was an impressive role model. Daut, an Expanding Horizons graduate, is setting up a diagnostic laboratory at the University of Loja. O’Leary became even more firmly committed to working abroad.

“Being in Ecuador made a big change in me,” O’Leary says. “The fact that the International Advisory Committee thought I was worth funding — that whatever I found out would be worthwhile — that in itself helped me on my way.”

The college’s 1998 Expanding Horizons students have now returned from their adventures. Joshua Weisberg, ’00 worked with the Peace Corps in Ecuador. Jennifer Katz, ’00 and Jody Weiser, ’00 spent the summer at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Chris Kennedy, ’00 worked at the College of Veterinary Medicine in Kampala, Uganda. And Robyn Kurzel, ’00 spent the summer with the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development Project in Ghana.

As they reflect on their experiences, they will have many stories to tell.

Gordon S. Campbell Annual Lecture

To honor the late S. Gordon Campbell BVMS, MRCVS, VSc, PhD, founder of the Expanding Horizons program, student members of Veterinarians Interested in Developing Areas have established a fund to endow an annual lectureship in his name beginning in the 1998-99 academic year.

“The memorial lectureship not only keeps Dr. Campbell’s work alive but expands it,” says David Robertshaw BVMS, PhD, director of international programs. “That students would raise so much money on their own shows how important they feel it is to have a global perspective on the profession.”

VIDA is seeking contributions to the S. Gordon Campbell Annual Lecture Fund. If you are interested in making a contribution to the fund, please contact Alison R. Smith, associate director of alumni affairs and annual giving, Office of Public Affairs, Box 39, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-6401; phone: 607-253-3742.
International Lecture Fund Honors Memory of Professor

The S. Gordon Campbell Annual Lecture Fund, established by Cornell students who are members of Veterinarians Interested in Developing Areas, honors the memory of Gordon Campbell, BVMS, MRCVS, VSc, PhD, former professor of microbiology and associate dean who died in September 1997. Campbell initiated and developed Cornell's Expanding Horizons program in international veterinary medicine. VIDA is encouraging contributions to the fund.

VIDA and the college gratefully acknowledge the following people and organizations who have made contributions to the fund.

Contributors to the Gordon S. Campbell Lectureship Series
(Alumni of Cornell are listed with their graduation years.)

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Anonymous (2)
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Chitra and Surinder Wadhwa
Charles and Jane Walcott
John F. Wootton, '51, MS '53, PhD '60 and Joyce Wooton, PhD '62
Harold M. Zweighaft, DVM '56
The Class of 2000

S. Gordon Campbell Memorial Exhibit
Cornell alumna, Joyce Turk, presents her paintings of wildlife, domestic animals, and landscapes, from August 20 through October 31, in the gallery at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The public is welcome.

Turk is holding the art exhibit in honor of the late S. Gordon Campbell, her colleague and friend. Turk's realistic work represents landscapes and animals she has enjoyed during her life of working and traveling internationally. The artist will donate 15 to 20 percent of all show sales and commissions to the S. Gordon Campbell Memorial Lecture Fund.

To purchase a painting, please contact Jennifer Katz, class of 2000, via e-mail at: jk76@cornell.edu or by telephone: 607-257-9410.
Reorganization Update: Academic Departments

As part of the college reorganization, the structure of academic departments was changed, effective July 1.

"The faculty committee making recommendations on department restructuring, the committee on academic futures, worked to assure that the reorganization would achieve a balance of responsibilities across all departments," explains Donald Smith, dean.

"The new department structure organizes academic efforts in a way that positions the college for the new challenges and emerging priorities in veterinary medicine and in the biomedical sciences."

Academic departments now include:

**Biomedical Sciences**

[primarily comprises former departments of anatomy, pathology, and physiology]

The following faculty (chairs of the former departments) will share joint responsibility for department administration, while an international search is being conducted for a department chair:

*Barry Cooper, BVSc, PhD, acting chair, pathology section; Cornelia Farnum, DVM, PhD, acting chair, anatomy section; John Wootton, MS, PhD, acting chair, physiology section*

**Clinical Sciences**

[existing department]

*Robert Gilbert, BVSc, MMedVet, acting chair, while an international search is being conducted for a department chair*

**Microbiology and Immunology**

[existing department]

*Robert Avery, PhD, chair*

**Molecular Medicine**

[primarily comprises former department of pharmacology; some faculty from the department of pathology who are working with the cancer program]

*Geoffrey Sharp, PhD, DSc chair*

**Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences**

[primarily comprises diagnostic laboratory; former sections of ambulatory/production medicine and epidemiology from department of clinical sciences]

*Donald Lein, DVM, PhD, chair, who also will continue as director of the diagnostic laboratory; Edward Dubovi, MS, PhD, associate chair for laboratory operation; Yrjo Grohn, BVSc, DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD, associate chair for academic programs*

Cornell’s World Cup team includes two one-year-old dogs, three two-year-olds, and three four-year-olds.

Training is paramount. The dogs need to recognize and effortlessly respond to commands that Reynolds, as musher, will call out during the race. *Gee and haw* (right and left), *straight ahead*, *go*, and *whoa* are basics, but there are many more nuances that the dogs learn from the musher. Each dog has a position on the team and, through practice — and patience and love from the musher — learns the ultimate behaviors for requirements such as turning through curves on the trail, staying untangled in the lead lines, remaining focused on the run, closely passing other teams of dogs, running on narrow trails, and ignoring noisy crowds and equipment.

"Sled dogs love to run," Reynolds explains. "They are bred to run. And they live to run." Performance animals, he says, are much like human Olympic athletes: highly trained to be focused on every detail of their sport, but also obviously filled with great enjoyment for what it is they do.

That is obvious to anyone watching Reynolds’ team, even during a training run. In the pre-run moments, as the dogs are watered and waiting with their teammates to be harnessed, they are excited — and quite loud in their enthusiasm. Then, as Reynolds steps on the sled and calls out the signal to start, there is instantaneous quiet. In a contrast of moments, motion gracefully replaces noise.
Scholarships at the College

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The full scholarship, explained Edmondson, would renew for each veterinary student for each future academic year until the receipt of the DVM degree (provided that a grade-point average of 3.5 was maintained).

Yes, three very fortunate DVM students had just received news that their veterinary education would be financially cost-free to them from here on in — Steven Fleischer, Class of 2001, from Toms River, New Jersey; Dennis Bailey, Class of 2000, from Hamburg, New York; and Ryan Storey, Class of 1999, from Delhi, New York.

"...It is a tremendous honor to have been selected for such a gift, which will significantly ease the burden of my educational pursuits...That you have chosen the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell with which to share your generosity makes me even more proud to be a Cornellian..."

— Ryan Storey, Class of 1999, in a letter to the Cestone Foundation

Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation Scholarship

Good fortune, however, is not to be credited — it is the academic perseverance and accomplishment of each of these three students that has earned them the Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation Scholarship. The scholarship, established in 1998, is awarded on the basis of academic merit; the foundation has stipulated also that the scholarship be awarded to one student from New Jersey (the state in which the foundation is located) and to two students from the New York–New Jersey–Connecticut tri-state area.

The Cestone Foundation was established by Eclesia Cestone to honor the memory of her parents, Michele and Agnese; since 1990, the foundation has benefited animal welfare in numerous ways. When Eclesia Cestone passed away several years ago, her estate added funds to the foundation. "To use the funds wisely and in a way...

"...I do not even know how to begin to accurately express my gratitude for the generosity of this foundation...Scholarships such as this one have long-lasting effects not only on the recipient but on an entire family...Scholarships also have the power to significantly alter decisions made during and after school that may bear lifelong implications...

— Steven Fleischer, Class of 2001, in a letter to the Cestone Foundation

"...I arrived at the Cornell campus as an undergraduate freshman five years ago with a single goal: to become the best veterinary medical scientist I can. The phenomenal faculty, student body, and facilities here have been invaluable resources. I am confident that when I do leave this institution my goal will have become a reality. And this will be due, in no small part, to your generosity...

— Dennis Bailey, Jr., Class of 2000, in a letter to the Cestone Foundation
in which they thought Eclesia Cestone would approve,” explains Alison Smith, the college’s associate director of alumni affairs and annual giving, “the trustees changed the by-laws, since it was felt they needed to broaden the mission of the foundation, and thereby established the scholarship.” The trustees chose to place the scholarship at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, according to Smith, after they conducted thorough research on veterinary colleges throughout the United States.

Patricia Ann Milton Scholarship
A fourth fortunate Cornell veterinary student also was presented with important scholarship news this summer. Jonathan Levine, Class of 2001, was chosen as the 1998-99 recipient of the Patricia Ann Milton Scholarship. This full-tuition, three-year scholarship will renew for each future academic year until Levine receives the DVM degree (provided that a successful academic record is maintained).

The scholarship was established in July by Arthur Milton through the Arthur and Phyllis Milton Foundation, in memory of the Milton’s daughter, Patricia, who loved animals and aspired to be a veterinarian herself. The scholarship is awarded to a second-year veterinary student who is a New York state resident and has demonstrated outstanding scholastic competence and financial need.

A Million Dollars in Scholarships
“The gift from the Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation touches the core of our college’s mission: outstanding veterinary education for the highest quality students,” says Donald Smith, dean. “The Cestone Scholarship is a magnificent support of education.”

“Many devoted alumni and friends have established scholarships at the college,” says Smith. “Contributors to scholarships understand the financial burden that most of our graduates carry in the early years of their careers and what it can mean to receive assistance in the form of scholarship.”

For the 1998-99 academic year, the College of Veterinary Medicine has a total of $1,050,000 available in scholarship funds for students in its DVM program of study, the largest amount of scholarship funding in the history of the college.

Cornell DVM Graduates, Class of 1998

Average Indebtedness: $59,555.
Average Salaries (based on the 85 percent accepting employment on graduation)
small-animal practice: $39,450
large-animal practice: $35,000
equine practice: $30,666
mixed practice: $37,125
internships: $18,000

statistics are based on an AVMA survey of Cornell’s 1998 DVM graduates

To date, more than 40 of the college’s 104 graduating classes have established class scholarships for veterinary students. Additionally, more than 100 scholarships have been established by organizations and individuals to support veterinary students in their academic pursuits. Scholarships are based on merit and financial need, according to the requirements for recipients set by the donor.

But the Need Is $7 Million
“The college is extraordinarily fortunate to have considerable scholarship support from alumni and friends, and we are very grateful for the generosity,” says Smith. “Yet when we
How To Establish a Scholarship

Establishing an endowed scholarship at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University is the ultimate gift to the college’s veterinary students, helping them meet their education costs and lessen their debt burden after graduation. Scholarships assure that the most qualified students are able to pursue careers at the college, regardless of their economic backgrounds.

If you are considering memorializing a friend, colleague, family member, or companion animal, you might consider creating a scholarship in their name.

The process is easy, and the choices are many. There are several endowment levels for scholarships at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The minimum amount with which a scholarship at the college can be established currently is $25,000. A percentage of the principal is used annually for student aid and the remainder is put back into the endowment to grow the principal over time so it retains its purchasing power forever. (For example, a $25,000 endowment provides an estimated $1,250, in 1998–99 dollars, in perpetuity.)

Ashman Scholarship

This scholarship honors Lt. (jg) Robert Irving Ashman, Jr., DVM '40, the only college alumnus to lose his life in the line of duty during World War II. Ashman enlisted in the US Naval Reserve after his Cornell graduation and in May 1942 reported for active duty as a navigator in a patrol squadron. He died while on an airplane training mission off the coast of Africa in November 1942.

In 1995, Ashman's college roommate R. George Wiswall, DVM '40 and his wife, Polly, along with Jerome Payton, DVM '40, established the Robert I. Ashman Scholarship Fund in honor of their friend, classmate, and patriot. The scholarship is given preferentially to a student who has prior military or Reserved Officer Training Corps experience or who intends to pursue a military career. The Wiswalls also gave the college a bench, dedicated in Ashman's honor; the bench sits in the foyer of the Veterinary Medical Center under Ashman's photograph.

In 1998–99, the Ashman Scholarship was awarded to Eve Varon, Class of 2001, who has been an enlisted member of the Army Reserve for six years and now holds the rank of Sergeant in the field of water purification. She also holds a secondary military operational skill (MOS) in chemical operations; her duty station is the 1019th Quartermaster Company in Mattydale, NY.

Eve Varon, Class of 2001, standing near the Ashman memorial.
"...Your scholarship has given me hope and admiration for the human spirit, as your gift is a random act of kindness. I will try to keep your spirit of giving alive by doing something myself, for someone else, in some way, now and in the future."
— John S. Kim, Class of 2000, recipient of the Class of 1977 Scholarship

Scholarships that would cover the full expense of tuition can be created with endowments of $300,000 for New York state residents and with endowments of $400,000 for out-of-state residents.

To create a full scholarship that provides for tuition, fees, books, and basic living expenses to New York state residents, an endowment of $525,000 would be required; an endowment of $625,000 would be required to create a full scholarship for any student, including those who are out-of-state residents.

For more information on establishing a scholarship, please contact Alison Smith, the college’s associate director of alumni affairs and annual giving — you may reach her by phone at 607-253-3742 or by email at arsl@cornell.edu.

James Law Scholarship

The college’s James Law Scholarship is provided to a Cornell student accepted into the combined DVM/PhD program.

Named in honor of the college’s founding dean, the scholarship provides full tuition for up to three years while the student is enrolled in the DVM program and a stipend and full tuition for an additional 3-1/2 years while the student is pursuing graduate studies at Cornell leading to the PhD degree.

In 1998-99, the James Law Scholarship was awarded to Antonia Jameson, Class of 1999.

Antonia Mameson, Class of 1999, with Indiana
Web Site Images Highlight College Activities

You'll see a different photograph every day on the home page of the college Web site. The site opens with the heading Cornell Veterinary Medicine and features a photograph, such as the one shown above, which changes daily. The images are intended to highlight the education, research, and service activities at the college.

From the home page, users can select from a list of topics (for an overview of the site content, users can refer to the Site Map) arranged to help them find accurate, up-to-date information fast.

The address of the college site on the World Wide Web is: http://www.vet.cornell.edu

Check it out!

Contents of the Site Map

Public Resources
  — About the College
  — News and Events
  — Showcase
  — Animal Health

Extension & Services
  — Alumni Forum
  — Clinical Services
  — Continuing Education
  — Consultant
  — Image Lab
  — Information Services
  — Pet Loss Support Hotline

Research & Development
  — Research and Development Services
  — Cornell Corporate Connections

Academics & Admissions
  — Admissions & Financial Aid
  — Research & Graduate Education

External Resources

Searches & Directories

Hospital Welcomes ECFVG Interns

The following individuals have recently begun a year of supervised clinical experience in the college's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, as part of the 1998-99 Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) program, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

ECFVG interns have graduated from foreign veterinary colleges and are participating in this step of the AVMA's program in order to obtain licensure to practice veterinary medicine in the United States.

We welcome them.

Dr. Yelena Berlinrut, Leningrad Institute of Veterinary Medicine, 1986

Dr. Dario Duke, National University of Costa Rica, 1997

Dr. Gabriel Flores, National Autonomous University of Mexico, 1988

Dr. Perpetuo (Pete) Palacpac, Gregorio Araneta University, Philippines
Celebrating Reunion 1998

Reunion Weekend was held at Cornell University in early June. In addition to numerous university-wide events, alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine also attended several events specific to the college: a welcome reception hosted by the dean; tours of the college facilities; a breakfast; a State-of-the-College address by the dean; a keynote speech by William Rebhun, DVM '71 and professor of medicine and ophthalmology at the college; workshops introducing the Alumni Forum on the college’s web site; a college picnic at the Equine Research Park; class picnics; and class dinners.

Shown here are several photographs from the Friday evening picnic at the Equine Research Park. (Photographs by Kathy Morris.)

(clockwise from upper left):
(left) Milford Becker, DVM ‘43 and Vicky Rafter, DVM ‘68
(left) Francis Fox, DVM ’45, with Richard Henry, DVM ’68; and his daughter, Dana Henry, CALS ’96
(left) Joanna Guglielmino, DVM ’78; Kathleen Clark, DVM ’78; and Julie Wilson, DVM ’78
(left to right) R. George Wiswall, DVM ’40, with his wife, Polly; and Vilma Wiswall, with her husband Irving Wiswall, DVM ’54 (George’s brother)
Research on Genetic Diagnosis of Hemophilia B

Preliminary findings indicate that researchers at the college may have identified a genetic marker for hemophilia in a rare breed of dog, the Deutsche Drahthaar, a German wirehaired pointer.

Four scientists — Marjory Brooks, DVM, senior extension associate in comparative hematology in the department of population medicine and diagnostic sciences; Kunal Ray, PhD, and Weikuan Gu, PhD, both molecular geneticists in the college’s James A. Baker Institute; and James Catalfamo, PhD, senior research associate and director of the coagulation section of the department of population medicine and diagnostic sciences — undertook the project in January 1997 to search for the mutation that causes hemophilia B in the breed.

Hemophilia B is a hereditary bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency of coagulation factor IX, a critical blood protein that is required for normal blood-clot formation.

“The specific aim of this project is to find the abnormal sequence, the mistake in the blueprint, of the factor IX gene associated with hemophilia,” explains Brooks.

The practical application of the research will be the development of a DNA-based test for hemophilia-carrier detection.

To date, the researchers have studied blood samples from more than 40 dogs. Laboratory studies, consisting of the isolation of DNA, specific amplifications of portions of the factor IX gene, and analyses of the gene structure and sequence, have been completed for 25 dogs. Preliminary results have revealed a marked abnormality in gene structure in 3 dogs, each affected with hemophilia B.

However, more studies are needed, explains Brooks, for confirmation of the findings and for understanding of how the mutation affects factor IX functioning.

In order to confirm the preliminary findings, the researchers will need to examine the factor IX gene and protein in dogs from hemophilia-affected and hemophilia-clear pedigrees.

“In the course of this study,” says Brooks, “we have refined and simplified blood-sample submission, and we’ve had excellent cooperation from veterinarians in obtaining samples...The willingness of owners to submit blood samples has been critical for the rapid pace and productivity of this project. All participants should be congratulated for their dedication to the breed.”

The research is being funded, in part, by the Verein Deutsche-Drahthaar Group and the college’s Alumni Grants Fund. Members of the Verein Deutsche-Drahthaar Group have participated in supplying blood samples from their own dogs.

With continued participation of group members, the development of a scientifically valid, highly accurate DNA test for identifying hemophilia B carriers may be accomplished within the next year, according to the researchers.

As the dominant force, and the team glides down the trail, ecstatic in the run. Later, when the run is finished and the dogs are unharnessed from the lines, watered and fed and resting, they have that unmistakable look of healthy contentment that shows on athletes who’ve worked their best.

Sled dog sports are growing rapidly. The International Federation of Sled Dog Sports now has 23 member federations representing thousands of participants around the world.

An IFSS survey of sled dog racing during the winter of 1996-1997 found that 20,883 mushers participated in 1,005 sled dog racing events in 30 countries, with 45,896 teams entering the 3,773 class races that were held during the 12-month survey period.

The International Federation of Sled Dog Sports was formed in 1985, to organize sled dog racing on worldwide basis and to make an appeal to the International Olympic Committee for sled dog racing to be brought into the Olympics as a full Winter Sport.

The IFSS World Cup Series was first held in 1996; in alternate years, IFSS hosts the Sled Dog Racing World Championships at venues around the world.

As a 1998 World Cup gold medalist, Reynolds automatically qualifies to race in the IFSS World Championships in Sils, Switzerland in February 1999.
People, Honors, and Awards

Susan Barnes has joined the college as acting director of the Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library for one year, during which time a national search will be underway for a permanent library director. Barnes has served for the past nine years as a senior librarian in Mann Library; she has experience in medical and agricultural library systems, as well as in digital technology and information management systems.

Linda L. Carr has been named the new director of financial operations for the college's office of clinical programs and professional service. This appointment is the first step in the development of a consolidated approach to delivery of financial and related services in the area of clinical programs and professional service.

Cornell Companions and faculty advisor Jane Shaw, DVM, recently received kudos from Cornell News Service. A story about the group, which was written by News Service senior science writer Roger Segelken and published in the Cornell Chronicle (October 2, 1997), was one in a group of five stories that garnered the organization a 1998 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Gold Medal in science writing. Cornell Companions is an animal-assisted therapy program that brings well-trained dogs to facilities for children who are developmentally disabled, encouraging hands-on interactions. Special thanks goes to Cornell Companion, Jake, and the children at the Special Childrens Center in Ithaca, whose photograph accompanied the story.

Sonia Hernandez Foerster, DVM, has joined the college's department of clinical sciences as a post-doctoral associate in wildlife medicine. She holds a DVM from Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine; she completed a small-animal medicine and surgery internship at Sonora Veterinary Surgery & Oncology in Scottsdale, Arizona. Foerster, who says that as a child she always wanted to be a zoologist, went to veterinary school with the mind of learning about nontraditional animals. She enjoys field work and observing animals in their normal behaviors and natural settings. She has interests in internal medicine/pathology, conservation issues, and ecology.

"I value the challenges of zoo medicine," she says. "To make quick assessments of zoo animals, exotic pets, and wildlife, you must be good at looking at animals."

Foerster served most recently in Costa Rica for three years as chief veterinarian for the Baird's Tapir Ecological Research Project in Corcovado National Park, a project funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society and San Diego Zoological Society.

"As educational tools, zoos are irreplaceable," she believes. "They also offer us experiences with animals that most people would never otherwise have."

She also recently served as relief veterinarian for Camelwest Animal Hospital in Glendale, Arizona, and for Del Lago Veterinary Hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona. She has worked extensively in exotic, zoo, and wildlife externships, as well as in clinical research and field projects. Recent publications include Immobilization of Free-Ranging Baird's Tapirs (co-authored with A. Paras, C. Foerster, and D. Leandro), American Association of Zoo Veterinarians Annual Conference, Mexico, 1996. She is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20
member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Arizona Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, and Association of Avian Veterinarians.

Donald Lein, DVM, PhD, chair, department of population medicine and diagnostic science; Sang Shin, DVM, associate chair of the department; and Donald Smith, DVM, dean, were speakers at the Korean Society of Veterinary Science conference in Seoul in May. Lein spoke on bovine viral diarrhea and rabies; Shin spoke on food safety; and Smith spoke about the challenges and prospects of veterinary science in the 21st century. During the trip, Smith also spoke about Cornell's veterinary academic program during a visit to the Suwon Campus of Seoul National University.

Jon Patterson, DVM '77 and Edmund Rosser, DVM '76 each received a Teacher Award this past spring from the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association at the Michigan State University.

College of Veterinary Medicine. Patterson is an associate professor of pathology at MSU and Rosser is a professor of small-animal clinical sciences.

Thomas Reimers, PhD, professor of endocrinology and director of the college's office of research and development services, has been named the 1998 recipient of the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Animal Clinical Chemistry by the Division of Animal Clinical Chemistry. He was cited specifically for his efforts in raising the standard of multi-species hormone analysis and interpretation in US pharmaceutical and chemical safety testing laboratories, for his activities in continuing education and public service, for his contributions as a reviewer for several veterinary journals, and as the author of a chapter on hormones in the upcoming second edition of The Clinical Chemistry of Laboratory Animals, edited by Walter Loeb and Fred Quimby, as well as two chapters in the fifth edition of McDonald's Veterinary Endocrinology and Reproduction, edited by M.H. Pineda and M.P. Dooley.

Susanne Whitaker, who has served as the college's principal librarian for the past 20 years, has been reappointed for an additional five-year period. She will focus her attention on public services and reference services, as well as general library support.

In Memoriam

Louis Leibovitz, DVM, Cornell professor emeritus of avian and aquatic animal medicine, died on August 22 in Falmouth, Massachusetts, after a long battle with cancer.

He joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1973 after serving for 10 years as a field veterinarian at the Duck Research Laboratory in Eastport, New York. At Cornell, he developed new courses in the diseases of aquatic animals and also taught in the Aquavet program operated jointly by Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
In 1988, he retired as director of the Laboratory for Marine Health at Woods Hole and as a professor at Cornell. Leibovitz was predeceased August 4 by his wife of 46 years, Anne Twer Leibovitz. He is survived by two sons, Daniel Leibovitz of Hilliard, Ohio, and Henry Leibovitz of North Kingston, Rhode Island.

Sydney Nusbaum, DVM '46, died in August. He had served from 1968 through 1977 as director of the college's Diagnostic Laboratory. He is survived by his wife, Helene Nusbaum, and three sons, Martin, '79; Kenneth, '76; and Eric, '75.

William Reese, DVM '35, died in May in Norwich, New York. He had been a lifelong resident of Sherburne, New York, where he owned and operated a veterinary practice and a dairy farm. He was a charter member and past president of the Catskill Mountain Veterinary Society and a member of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Sweet Reese, and two daughters, four sons, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Alfred O. Severson, DVM '50, died on February 23.

Lawrence M. Sherman, DVM '57, died in July. He is survived by his wife, Betty M. Sherman of Plattsburgh, New York.

Philip Weber, Jr., BS '55, DVM '59, died on June 19 in Lockport, New York. He is survived by his wife, Julie Sage Weber.
John F. Cummings Memorial Award: Bharathi A. Ranjithan, Class of 1999, for best exemplifying the qualities of Dr. Cummings

A. Gordon Danks Large-Animal Surgery Award: Christopher R. Byron, Class of 1998

Donald D. Delahanty Memorial Prize: Gita P. Kumar, Class of 1998, for exceptional proficiency in equine practice

The Dermatology Service Award: Matthew D. Winter, Class of 1998

Hugh Dukes Prize in Experimental Physiology: Julie E. Fixman, Class of 1998

Ettinger Incentive Award: Ann Marie Schaivetta, Class of 2000, for the student who has made the greatest improvement in cumulative GPA between the first and second year

Myron G. Fincher Prize: Elizabeth E. Edmunds, Class of 1998, for her work in large-animal obstetrics and reproductive diseases

The Gentle Doctor Award: Joseph A. Consigl, Class of 1998, for enthusiasm, motivation and dedication to excellent patient care

The Hill's Buddy Award: Joseph J. Wakshlag, Class of 1998, for proficiency in animal nutrition

Grant Sherman Hopkins Prizes: Morna Pixton, Class of 1998; and Julie E. Fixman, Class of 1998, for interest, ability, perseverance and performance in anatomy

The Iams and Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society Award: Daniel L. Chan, Class of 1998, for demonstrating excellence, interest, and proficiency in the field of small-animal emergency and critical-care medicine

P. Philip Levine Prizes in Avian Medicine: Sara E. Childs, Class of 1999; and Dawn Z. Tornusclo, Class of 1999, for the highest grade in avian medicine


Jane Miller Prize: Dennis B. Bailey, Class of 2000, for the best work in physiology

Malcolm E. Miller Award: Sara Y. Sanders, Class of 1998, for perseverance and scholastic diligence that will bring credit and distinction to the veterinary profession

Mary Louise Moore Prize: Michael B. Capel, Class of 2000, for the best work in bacteriology

New York State Veterinary Medical Society Prizes: Joseph A. Consigl, Class of 1998; and Emily C. Pershing, Class of 1998 (with honorable mention awards to: Fred R. Levy, Class of 1998; Jennifer E. Rawlinson, Class of 1998; and Paul D. Virkler, Class of 1998), for outstanding seminar presentations

Anna Olafson Sussex Pathology Award: Tristan K. Weinkle, Class of 1999

Leonard Pearson Veterinary Prize: Christine A. Petersen, Class of 1998, for professional and/or academic leadership

Pfizer Animal Health Veterinary Award: Ryan T. Storey, Class of 1999, for attaining a high level of academic achievement and productivity


Phi Zeta Award: Dennis B. Bailey, Class of 2000, for the best academic record upon completion of the first three semesters

Colonel Floyd C. Sager Equine Obstetrics and Pediatrics Award: Karen P. Laidley, Class of 1998

E. L. Stubbs Award: Laura L. Delia, Class of 1998, for outstanding competence and motivation in avian medicine

Jacob Traum Award: Joseph J. Wakshlag, Class of 1998, for superior interest and accomplishment in bacteriology, epizootiology, pathology, and virology

Upjohn Clinical Award: Elizabeth E. Edmunds, Class of 1998, for proficiency in large-animal medicine

Upjohn Clinical Award: Cheryl E. Balkman, Class of 1998, for proficiency in small-animal medicine

Horace K. White Prize: Elizabeth E. Edmunds, Class of 1998, for the student with the highest academic record during veterinary training

The Wild Bird Research and Rehabilitation Award: Margaret Catherine Pivonka, Class of 1998
The American Veterinary Medical Association held its 135th annual convention in July in Baltimore. The following faculty from Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine gave presentations.

Diane Frank, DVM, Friskies resident in animal behavior, spoke about Treatment for Spraying Cats.

Robert Gilbert, BVSc, MMedVet, associate dean of clinical programs and professional services, made two presentations: The Epidemiology, Pathogenesis, Consequences and Treatment of Bovine Endometritis, and also The Relationship Between Protein Nutrition and Fertility of Dairy Cows: Pathogenic Mechanisms.

Syed Naqi, BVSc, MS, PhD, professor of avian medicine, spoke on Immune Responses to IBV.

Karel Schat, DVM, PhD, professor of avian medicine (with Zheng Xing, MD, a Cornell graduate student in veterinary medicine/virology, and R. W. Morgan, a collaborator from the University of Delaware), spoke on Characterization of ICP4 Proteins of Marek’s Disease Virus.

Beth Valentine, DVM, PhD, assistant professor of pathology, gave two presentations: Septic Myopathies and Metabolic Myopathies.

Three Cornell DVM students — Wendy Breckenridge, Class of 1999 (left, with vaccine); Caroline Selles, Class of 2001 (center, holding dog); and Robyn Kurzel, Class of 2000 (not pictured) — joined Mary Fadden Arquette, DVM ’90 (not pictured), natural resources damage coordinator and veterinarian for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, to vaccinate animals against rabies at a clinic held in May in the Mohawk Nation Territory of Akwesasne (located east of Massena, New York). The clinic was a success, with 150 dogs and cats vaccinated for rabies, distemper and parvo.

The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, one of several sponsors of the clinic, presented each of the three students with a traditional Mohawk black ash and sweetgrass basket made by a basketmaker from Akwesasne in appreciation for their time and effort in helping out at the clinic. The Task Force also presented a plaque to Fred Quimby, VMD, PhD, professor of pathology and director of Cornell’s Center for Research Animal Resources, and the pharmacy of the college’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, in thanks for their help with the clinic and donation of vaccine and supplies.

“During the severe ice storm in January, Akwesasne lost electric power for several weeks,” explains Arquette, “and thus lost all the rabies and distemper vaccine stored in refrigerators. In order to offer a free clinic, we needed to replace the vaccine and the college stepped in to help.”
Calendar of Events

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

September
24–25 American Association of Bovine Practitioners Conference, Spokane WA
25–27 NYSVMS 108th Annual Meeting, Rochester NY

October
4 NYSVMS dinner for students
8–11 American College of Veterinary Surgeons Conference, Chicago IL
16–18 Homecoming Weekend (Bucknell)
17 College of Veterinary Medicine Tailgate Party
22–24 Trustee/Council Annual Meeting

High School Biology Award
Tamar Melen (left), a student in Cornell's New Visions program, received the College of Veterinary Medicine's 1998 Ithaca High School Biology Award. She is shown here with Thea Martin, New Visions instructor, viewing a specimen in the Bilinski Laboratory.