

News from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine

'Scopes

From the Ecosystem to the Economy: Serving the State's Needs

Hands-on learning prepares graduates for animal/public health needs • 3

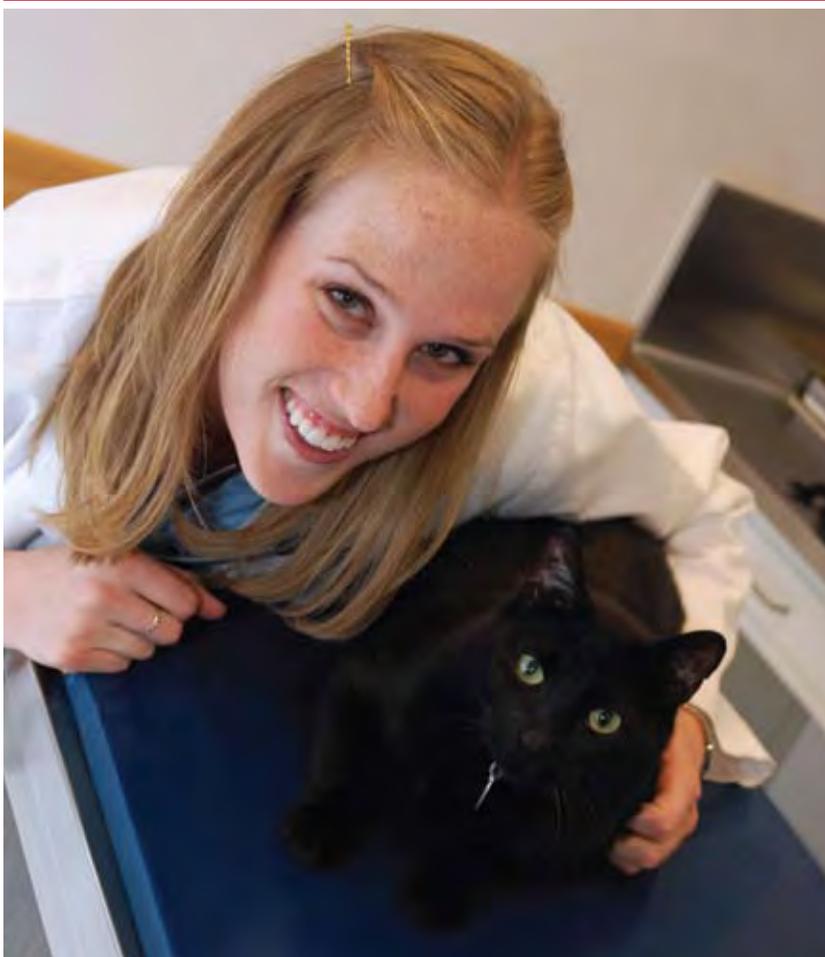
'Scopes Magazine

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NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY CONFERENCE

October 1-4, 2009
Cornell University

Outstanding speakers, wet labs, exhibits, and a fun and informal "Purple Party." Keynote presentation by Dr. Dennis McCurnin: "We are just entering the golden age of veterinary medicine." To remain on the mailing list for upcoming information, email amm36@cornell.edu.



Jennifer Olson DVM '09, is the fourth generation in her family to graduate with a degree in veterinary medicine from Cornell. To read more, visit www.news.cornell.edu/stories/May09/OlsonProfile.html.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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From stethoscopes to microscopes to the scope of the College, **'Scopes** is your source for news from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. The magazine is published twice yearly and complements the College's annual report published every fall. To change your address, please contact Kim Carlisle at kac43@cornell.edu or 607-253-3745.

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PICTURED ON THE COVER: The Animal Health Diagnostic Center's biggest client is the dairy industry, one of the State's primary food industries and critical to many rural economies in upstate New York. New York State is the third leading dairy producer in the United States.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

To provide the best education in veterinary medicine



Cornell's veterinary teaching program is as old as the University itself, with the first classes taught in 1868. The nation's first DVM degree was granted at Cornell in 1872 to Daniel Salmon, who is credited with the discovery of *salmonella*. Today, the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University enjoys an international reputation as a global leader in veterinary medical education, animal health, biomedical research,

and public health. With these distinctions come responsibility and the privilege to serve the people of New York State.

A core component of the College's mission is to prepare the next generation of veterinarians, researchers, academicians, and public health officers. This year's entering class, the Class of 2013, will have 92 students as opposed to 86. Even so, Cornell has by far the smallest class size of the four top-ranked US veterinary colleges. The College's strategic plan calls for increasing the College's class size by 30 students per year, with 50 percent of this growth dedicated to preparing veterinarians who have expressed an interest in food animal medicine. (To review the executive summary of the strategic plan, visit www.vet.cornell.edu/college/deans/stratplanSummary.pdf.)

To successfully prepare students, the College must provide them with the opportunity to see cases that reflect the entire spectrum of veterinary medicine. In Ithaca, our students and house staff are increasingly seeing cases that require tertiary care—non-typical and advanced cases that are at the most critical end of the spectrum. Similarly, our house staff, who are some of the most highly selected graduate veterinarians in the country, are presented with a range of cases that, in some cases, is less than optimal for their training. Nationally, an increasing percentage of residents are being trained in a private referral practice setting that provides limited exposure to academic medicine, decreasing the likelihood that they will develop into the academic trainers and clinician-scientists of the future. These are trends that we expect

to continue, and to which Cornell and other veterinary colleges are responding in an effort to ensure the outstanding preparation of the next generation of clinicians and clinician educators/scientists.

To address these trends, the College is exploring the option of establishing a satellite teaching facility that we expect to locate north of New York City. Some Cornell house staff will spend regular rotations assisting staff veterinarians, experiencing a broader caseload, and seeing more typical cases. Similarly, veterinary students will observe a more typical referral and emergency practice, learning the pace and expectations of real life medicine and surgery. This model, which has been successfully implemented by numerous human and veterinary academic medical centers, will foster the training of specialists in an environment that includes academic medical support, more closely linking clinical research and specialty medicine. It will also provide the College and the profession with extended opportunities to advance evidence-based medicine through rigorous clinical trials. Importantly, our satellite referral facility will not engage in general practice, but rather provide the highest quality of specialty medicine available to clients referred by area veterinarians. Following treatment, clients will be sent back to referring veterinarians for appropriate follow-up as soon as possible. Referred clients and patients will also have access to leading specialists affiliated with our teaching hospital, and accordingly, to the most cutting edge procedures and protocols. The referral center may also offer 24-hour emergency and critical care services, but this will depend on a variety of factors.

In addition, the metropolitan practice will enable us to extend our continuing education and outreach initiatives, bringing them closer to practices in the New York metropolitan area. We envision workshops and lectures that will foster interactions between referring veterinarians, specialists, house staff, students, and technicians that will enhance our outreach mission.

Sincerely,

Mike Kotlikoff

Michael I. Kotlikoff, VMD, PhD

Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine

MEETING WORKFORCE NEEDS

Hands-on learning prepares graduates for animal/public health needs



Jen Chediak DVM '06 currently works at Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, providing medical care to large and small animals.

News outlets from CNN to hometown weekly newspapers have carried stories about the national shortage of veterinarians who serve food animals. These are the very people who are instrumental in meeting one of humanity's basic needs: abundant, affordable, and safe food. Compounding the shortage, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has predicted that employment opportunities will grow in the veterinary sector by 35 percent, faster than most other occupations. To grow, though, society needs people willing to step forward to meet the need—and colleges ready to prepare those who do.

MEETING THE WORKFORCE NEEDS

The College of Veterinary Medicine's strategic plan

proposes to expand the DVM class size by 30 students per year, to 120. Approximately 50 percent of this growth will be designed for those interested in food animal medicine and for those who have specifically expressed an interest in serving the needs of producers in rural New York State. Successful implementation of this initiative is contingent upon securing a sufficient level of funding from New York State.

"To meet the state's workforce needs, the College must expand its class size," said Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine Michael I. Kotlikoff, noting that Cornell has by far the smallest class size of the highly ranked programs—with funding and facilities adequate for a class of about 90 students. "More veterinarians are needed to conduct research, to teach, and to advocate for animal

THE AMBULATORY AND PRODUCTION MEDICINE CLINIC TEAM IS A KEY COMPONENT OF CORNELL'S FOOD SUPPLY VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM:

Dr. Kerstin Baer, intern

Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho, assistant professor

Dr. Chuck Guard, associate professor

Dr. Sabina Mann, resident

Dr. Jess McArt, resident

Dr. Daryl Nydam, assistant professor

Dr. Mary Smith, professor (pictured below, right)

Carol Smith, administrative assistant

Michelle Stefanski-Seymour, technician

Dr. Lorin Warnick, associate dean and professor



and public health policies. The State also needs practicing veterinarians, in particular those who are interested in food supply medicine.”

FOOD SUPPLY VETERINARY MEDICINE: EDUCATING THE WORKFORCE WHILE SERVING CLIENT NEEDS

Every graduating veterinary student from Cornell is required to complete a two-week core clinical rotation in ambulatory medicine, concentrating on the health needs of cows, horses, small ruminants, and camelids.

Moreover, approximately 15 percent of students complete additional courses and rotations that prepare them for a career in food supply veterinary medicine. Five faculty members, two residents, an intern, and technician provide clinical service and instruction and are also involved in research, classroom teaching, and continuing education programs. During the rotation, students travel with veterinarians to area farms, gaining first-hand experience in primary veterinary care for farm animals and production medicine. The Ambulatory and Production Medicine Clinic makes about 3,600 farm calls and provides veterinary services for approximately 37,000 animals annually.

Students may also participate in the Food Animal Medicine Externship, designed to expose students to the breadth of the specialty through a series of extended externships with public health laboratories, progressive veterinary practices, and dairy farms. In addition, for those who want to really enhance their production medicine skills, the Summer Dairy Institute offers an intensive eight weeks of hands-on field experience. Selected participants from accredited veterinary colleges across the country convene at Cornell for up-to-the-minute professional information

on subjects such as reproduction, nutrition, dairy facilities, dairy record systems, biosecurity, public health and regulatory considerations, financial decision-making, and udder health. Classroom and wet lab learning are integrated with a variety of off-site/on-farm activities supported by industry and the local dairies.

To keep Cornell’s educational program on the cutting edge, instruction is also informed by primary research conducted by our faculty. For instance, while most of the nation’s veterinary students will learn about Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho’s work with lameness, reproduction, and bacteriophage therapy for animals and humans after it is published in scientific journals, Cornell’s students are watching the investigation unfold—and often participating—themselves. Dr. Bicalho is also engaged in the isolation and characterization of bacteriophages that may serve as new antimicrobial agents against bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*, and other multi-drug resistant bacteria, which lead to, for example, corneal ulcers in dogs and mastitis and metritis in cows.

“When we see these conditions on the farm, it is an opportunity to enhance learning,” said Dr. Bicalho. “We discuss the research, its current status, its potential impact on animal health, and the farm’s economic situation.”

FINDING THE REWARDS

Through these experiences, students often find that a food animal veterinary medicine career is among the most rewarding in the profession.

“We work with people who are the salt of the earth,” said Dr. Daryl Nydam DVM ’97, PhD ’02, assistant professor of dairy health and production medicine. “Many of them are Ivy League graduates who might hold

MBAs and have decided to make their living as dairy producers. We’re white collar, all college graduates with advanced degrees, but when we’re doing our job right, our collars don’t stay white for very long. We’re just as likely to figure out the answer to a challenging situation—why a cow has stopped producing milk, for example—while we’re being chased by a heifer as we are while we’re working in our offices.”

FROM FARM TO FORK

In addition to preparing the future generation of veterinarians who serve large animals, Cornell’s program in food supply veterinary medicine also safeguards the State’s food supply. Through production medicine instruction, our students learn to address management and husbandry issues in order to improve health, productivity, and profit for livestock businesses. Veterinarians providing production medicine services use information from epidemiology, agricultural engineering, nutrition, economics, and personnel management, in addition to traditional veterinary skills. Leveraging these tactics, veterinarians are instrumental in helping to improve the yield of safe and affordable food.

“We are at our best when the news is boring,” said Dr. Nydam. “Headlines—outbreaks of food-borne illnesses and rising food prices, for example—mean we need more food supply veterinarians with appropriate training who can help us ensure that the transition from cow to cup or farm to fork is safe.”





Dr. Alexander Nikitin is investigating stem cell biology. Inset: iPS cells (green) generated from mouse fibroblasts.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

Stem cell research

Imagine a world where diseases, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease, are curable or a world where spinal cord injuries are not permanently crippling. Diseases, such as Parkinson's and diabetes, are catalysts in the stem cell research movement. Stem cells are unique because they are able to develop into different specialized cells in the body, such as brain cells, nerve cells, and blood cells. The research being done with stem cells is important to regenerative medicine, because stem cells may be able to replace cells, tissues, and organs wiped out by disease or injury. Dr. Alexander Nikitin, associate professor of pathology at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, is optimistic that understanding how stem cells work will open the door to a future full of new opportunities.

"Medical and biological research serves to improve the human condition," explained Dr. Nikitin. "This research also advances the well-being of all animal species. The College benefits from the ability to conduct comparative research."

Dr. Nikitin's research team is trying to understand biological properties of stem cells by using mouse models. The team also wants to see how these mechanisms are involved in the formation and maintenance of cancer stem cells. The lab is focused on three main organ systems—mammary gland, ovary, and prostate—and is intent on

understanding normal cell biology, which Dr. Nikitin believes will open the doors to a better understanding of the biology behind cancer cells.

Understanding stem cell biology is also beneficial for other areas of stem cell research, such as tissue repair and regeneration. For this reason, Dr. Nikitin has worked with other researchers at the university to obtain funding that would further strengthen and invigorate stem cell research on campus.

In February 2008, their efforts paid off when Cornell University was awarded nearly \$2 million in the form of two institutional development grants (one going to Cornell Ithaca and the other to Weill Cornell Medical College) from NYSTEM, a program of the New York State Department of Health. NYSTEM dispenses stem cell research funding, influenced by recommendations from the Empire State Stem Cell Board.

The funding awarded to Cornell gave birth to the Cornell University Stem Cell Program, a university-wide initiative led by Dr. Nikitin that is aimed at promoting stem cell research across the campus. This funding also helped to sponsor the first annual Stem Cell Symposium, which brought together researchers from within the university, as well as from other institutions also conducting stem cell research. The most recent NYSTEM grant will aid in the creation of an induced pluripotent (iPS) cell core facility at the College.

The iPS cell core facility will be located in one of the labs in the Veterinary Research Tower overseen by Dr. John Schimenti, professor of genetics and director of Cornell's Center for Vertebrate Genomics. This new lab will enable researchers to try to create iPS cells of many different species. The benefit of iPS cells is that they are undifferentiated, allowing them to be used to create any type of cell, eliminating the need for the controversial embryonic stem cells, according to Dr. Nikitin.

While the majority of medicine at the moment is developed for humans, explained Dr. Nikitin, many of the advances in human medicine can be translated to veterinary medicine. He believes that it is very important for the veterinary and medical communities to work together to further stem cell research. Since Dr. Nikitin's lab works mainly with cancer and mice, there's immediately a comparative aspect.

"Our mouse models closely mirror cancer in humans and provide an essential tool for understanding cancer and the development of new treatments," said Dr. Nikitin. "Not only can we use them to determine how cells in a human might work, but we can compare them to other animal species to see if there are similarities or differences that we can explore to benefit the entire animal kingdom."





Dr. Ynte Schukken works at the interface of patho-biology and mathematics to unravel the riddle of mastitis.

SMART BACTERIA AND SUSCEPTIBLE COWS

The efforts to eliminate mastitis

With 10 years worth of bacteria frozen nearby, thousands of research subjects chewing their cud within minutes of his laboratory, and collaborators from practically any discipline one could imagine on campus, Dr. Ynte Schukken can't think of a better place than the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell to conduct research on one of the biggest challenges facing dairy producers: mastitis in their cows. Annually, approximately 30 percent of a herd can suffer from repeated bouts of clinical mastitis, a painful condition that may lead to death. The infection immediately impacts milk production (reducing it by up to 10 percent annually), which makes the disease an animal welfare and economic concern.

Clinical signs of the disease include an inflamed udder, precipitated when somatic cells are released into the mammary gland to fight a foreign body that has invaded the mammary gland. Usually, this pathogen is a bacterium that multiplies and produces toxins that damage milk-secreting tissue and various ducts throughout the mammary gland. Elevated somatic cells cause a reduction in milk production

and alter milk composition. These changes, in turn, adversely affect the quality and quantity of milk, and eventually, dairy products.

“My research uses epidemiological methods and field data to drive thinking about persistent infections,” said Dr. Schukken. “A multi-disciplinary approach is valuable to unraveling the riddles that infection and disease pose. Most progress is made when we try solving it at the interface of patho-biology and mathematics. To develop control programs, treatment protocols, vaccines, and prevention strategies, we need an in-depth knowledge of infection dynamics and disease occurrence from multiple scientific perspectives.”

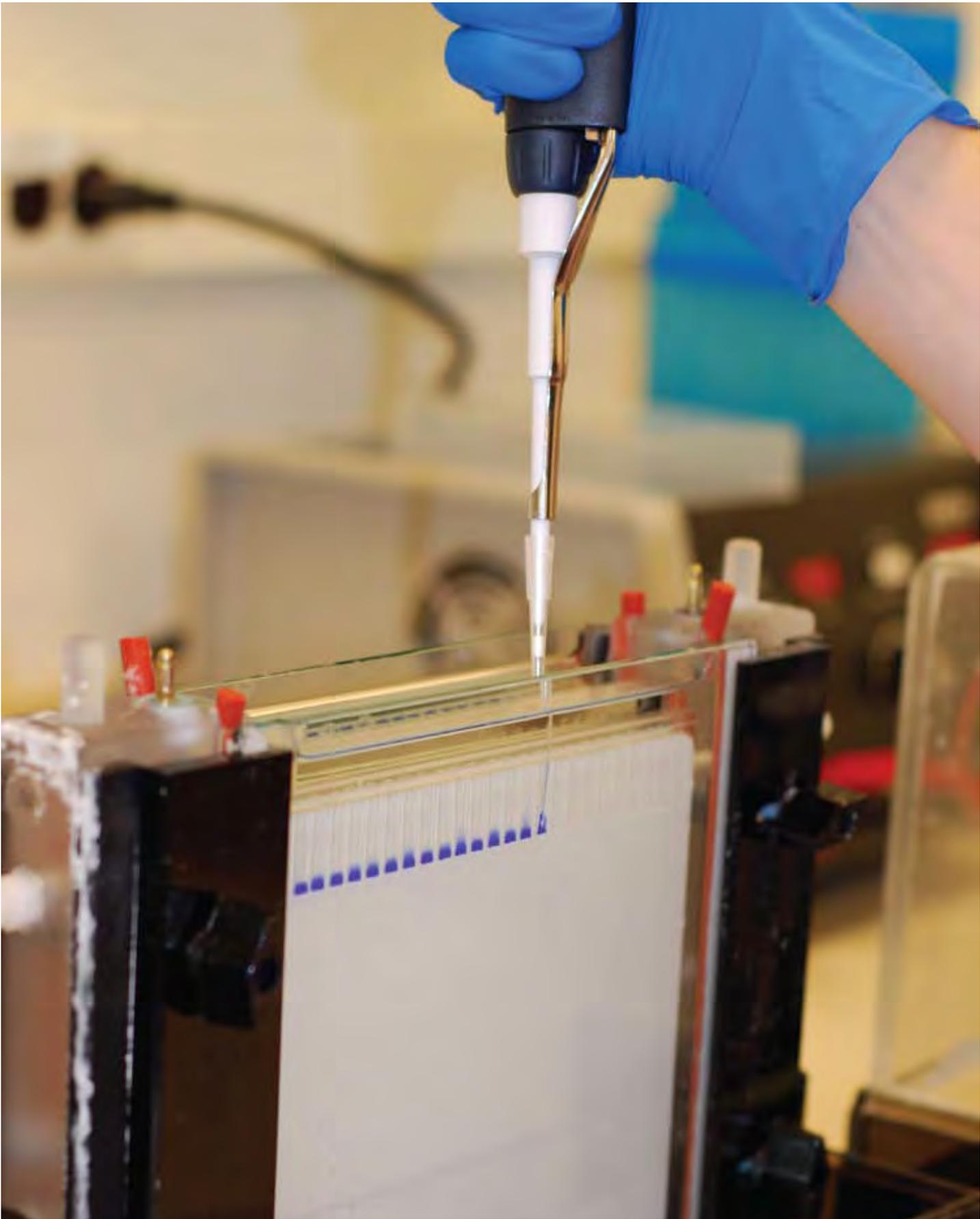
Furthermore, Dr. Schukken's research explores these dynamics at the animal level (why is a cow repeatedly susceptible to the bacteria that cause mastitis?) and the population level (once introduced into the herd, how is the disease transmitted through the herd?). His research team is comparing bacteria that do and do not cause mastitis to determine the significant genetic differences in these bacteria. Noting that mastitis-causing bacteria have adopted tricks from other bacteria (allowing them to infect but not kill their host), Dr. Schukken's investigations are

exploring the possibility that some of the principles underlying the treatment of urinary tract infections in other species may be relevant for the cow.

“Mastitis can be traced to a combination of several factors, including host-adapted ‘smart’ bacteria and susceptible cows,” said Dr. Schukken. “Inadvertently, genetic progress for milk production has made cows more susceptible to mastitis-causing bacteria through our breeding programs. With the recent sequencing of the bovine genome, we will have much better insight into how breeding for faster milk production may have affected disease susceptibility. Some of these advancements may have reduced a cow's ability to fight infection, so it seems we may have skewed the balance between production and disease resistance.”

Dr. Schukken's research team focuses on helping to restore this balance, by eliminating the disease, reducing infections, and/or reducing the severity of infection.





The loading of DNA samples into a polyacrylamide gel.

A PAIR OF GENES THAT FITS

Business started for DNA diagnoses

Dr. Gregory Acland finds motivation for his life's work in the promises he has made to people who are waiting for life-changing answers, knowing that the answers will often be found at a research bench.

"I've told people that when we do the research, we'll find the gene that is the key to eliminating a disease," said Dr. Acland. "We still have promises pending, but it's rewarding to know that we've gotten 'there' on several occasions."

Among other discoveries, Dr. Acland is referring to his work on progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), a disease that steals a dog's ability to see. In his lab at the Baker Institute for Animal Health, Dr. Acland and his team that includes Dr. Gustavo Aguirre at the University of Pennsylvania are focused on understanding and ultimately preventing this hereditary condition. Their work will shed new light on the pathology and potential therapies for PRA and enable breeders to make informed choices.

Concentrating in two main areas—gene mapping, identifying mutations, developing diagnostic tests, and characterizing the mechanisms related to canine hereditary retinal degenerations; and developing

and evaluating, in canine models, potential therapies for human retinal degenerative diseases—the team has made discoveries in the lab that boast tremendous benefits for animals and people, as well as serving as the seed from which OptiGen sprung.

A service company established to provide DNA-based diagnoses and information about inherited diseases of dogs, OptiGen employs approximately eight researchers, scientists, and office professionals who have a wide range of experience with the problems and challenges faced by dog owners and breeders. In addition, the company contracts with many local and regional firms to handle various business needs, further supporting the local economy.

"The business grew out of the lab when we were hot on the trail of the gene that causes PRA in many canine breeds," said Dr. Acland. "Its roots can be found in the Baker lab, when we ran tests on nights and weekends, but the work quickly became a burden for the College-run lab. OptiGen allows us to continue important work without compromise or conflict of interest."

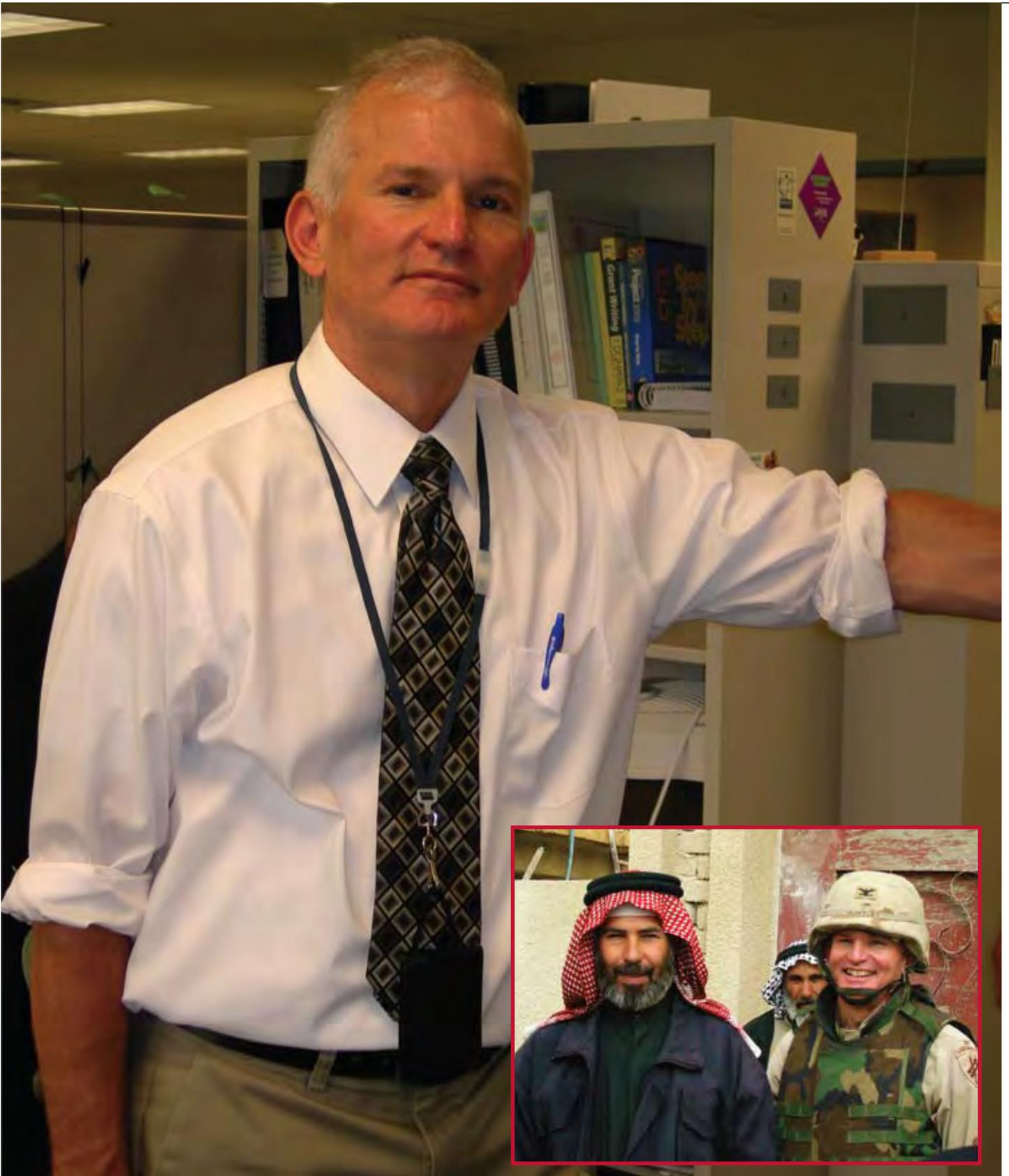
To found OptiGen, Drs. Acland, Aguirre, Kunal Ray, and geneticist Jeanette Felix consulted with area experts in business and law, established an LLC, and determined

that the company would fly—or not—by its bootstraps.

"People told us to invest and take risks," said Dr. Acland. "We risked only what we could afford to lose. We trusted our judgment, had confidence in ourselves, and understood that we would be wrong more often than not. We faced all of this honestly and consistently moved ahead. Owning a business can be very rewarding."

Specializing in canine tests, OptiGen has grown since opening its doors in December 1998, from 20 samples per week to more than that per day, and serves customers who span the state, the continent, and abroad. Today, this company that was conceived in a lab on Snyder Hill maintains collaborations with Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, dog breeders, and pet owners, working diligently to better understand opportunities for improving the quality of life for companion animals.





Dr. John Huntley DVM '80 sees an obvious connection between animal health and public health. Inset: Pictured in Baghdad (right), he served as the commander of the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion that restored infrastructure—such as water, electricity, and sewage—and positive relationships between America and Iraq after the invasion.

AN EYE ON DISEASE

Dr. John Huntley thwarts public health issues

Sometimes the best laid plans lead to something better. As a teenager, John Huntley DVM '80 pictured his future underwater—or at least working with those who spend their lives underwater. He planned to be a marine biologist.

“There appeared to be only two jobs in that field, though, and Jacques Cousteau had one of them,” said Dr. Huntley, explaining how he came to consider veterinary medicine as a profession. His passion for animals, large animals in particular, though, has been an acquired taste. Unlike many typical veterinarians, he didn't grow up surrounded by animals. As an undergraduate at the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Huntley worked for a large animal practitioner, assisting on farm calls and at the veterinarian's personal broodmare farm.

“It was my introduction to the profession,” said Dr. Huntley. “I was hooked by the opportunity to problem-solve on the farm and the obvious connection between animal health and public health.”

Shortly after graduating with his DVM, Dr. Huntley embarked on what has become a personal mission: to help others see the relationship between animals and public health—and value it.

“Second only to the financial district in New York, agriculture drives the State's economy,” said Dr. Huntley. “When

we drink milk produced close to us, we can be proud of helping to lower the carbon footprint. When avian influenza does not penetrate the dense metropolitan areas despite the more than 90 live bird markets in New York City, we can rest easy knowing that it is because our preventive measures are working. There are clear social, economic, public health, and animal health issues that make animal health and welfare important to everyone in the State.”

Dr. Huntley's mission began in 1981, when he became a regional veterinarian in Saratoga County. It gained momentum, though, when he became the State's highest ranking veterinarian in 1989. Today, he is the state veterinarian and director of the Division of Animal Industry at the State Department of Agriculture and Markets. As such, his office ensures the health of the State's livestock, as well as domesticated deer. Diseases under surveillance currently include mad cow for cattle; tuberculosis; brucellosis; scrapie, a fatal nerve disorder in sheep and goats; and chronic wasting disease in deer.

“Our work helps to ensure that New York has a low incidence of disease,” said Dr. Huntley, adding that this is critical for successful domestic and international trade programs.

Dr. Huntley's office also works with accredited regional state veterinarians

who are contracted to monitor pet dealers, dog shelters, maintain the State's dog licensing operation, and operate a population control program to help with the overpopulation of companion animals.

To accomplish his goals, Dr. Huntley said he frequently turns to his “right arm”: the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“The State could not do its job without the diagnostic center,” said Dr. Huntley, adding that the expertise across Cornell—the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in particular—is second to none. “We work hand-in-hand to have the resources and to detect and respond to animal health issues and disease outbreaks in the State. We have a degree of synergy that is not matched anywhere in the nation.”

Collaboration, successful partnerships, and this level of synergy don't just happen. As one of Dr. Huntley's early mentors, Dr. Donald Lein '57 told him success takes three basic skills: an ability to work with people, enthusiasm, and basic knowledge that can move a project from concept to implementation. Dr. Huntley, it seems, listened well.



UNRAVELING MYSTERIES

Animal Health Diagnostic Center



Because certain strains of bacteria can penetrate an egg's shell, tests at the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center monitor the safety of the State's egg supply. The Center routinely tests poultry flocks for salmonella enteritidis, a pathogen that does not affect chickens, but does attack people who eat infected eggs.

In January 2004, eight greyhounds died at a track in Jacksonville, Florida. No one was really sure why. Some suspected that it was a disease specific to greyhounds that had been plaguing the racing industry for years. Others wondered if kennel cough was to blame. Early indicators suggested the deaths may have been an isolated incident. When Dr. Edward Dubovi, from the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC), tested fluid and tissue samples, though, the evidence proved otherwise.

A virologist, Dr. Dubovi isolated a highly contagious virus that was spreading a sometimes-fatal respiratory flu among greyhounds in Florida and was also responsible for a major dog-flu outbreak in New York. Canine influenza is a respiratory infection of dogs that is caused by an influenza virus (H3N8) of horses that jumped hosts. In doing so, the virus wreaked havoc in the greyhound racing industry and devastated families who lost beloved pets. Currently, the canine influenza virus has been found in pet dog populations in Florida, Colorado, and the New York City-Philadelphia areas.

Surveillance testing of the animal population plays a critical role in detecting current and emerging animal diseases, like rabies, bird flu, mad cow disease, *salmonella*, and others. Although there is currently no indication that canine influenza can infect humans, about 70 percent of human infectious diseases are of animal origin. As such, the testing and investigations conducted by the AHDC have a direct impact on human health as well.

“Every day, every person in the State benefits from the work done at the AHDC,” said Dr. Bruce Akey, executive director of the AHDC. “Everything we do is tied to people’s health, their livelihoods, and the economy.”

In addition to surveillance testing that monitors animals for diseases, the Center’s work ensures food safety, security, and quality and supports the economic infrastructure of industries that are the foundation of the State’s economy. The Center’s biggest client is the dairy industry, one of the State’s primary food industries and critical to many rural economies in upstate New York. Many parts of the Center, including the Quality Milk

Production Services section, work with these producers to ensure that New Yorkers across the State have safe, wholesome, and reasonably priced milk on grocery store shelves—a win for consumers who need affordable milk and a win for producers, whose financial stability is based on selling their product.

“Many jobs in our State are dependent on and even intertwined with the dairy industry,” said Dr. Akey. “The Center identifies and works to overcome problems that threaten the viability of the industry.”

Beyond the dairy industry, the AHDC provides significant support for the horse, poultry, pet, wildlife, and virtually all animal industries.

Being a university-based diagnostic facility also means having a research component. New vaccine candidates for John’s disease were developed at the Center, as were many new diagnostic techniques

and protocols for John’s disease, vaccine titers in pets, brucellosis and Lyme’s disease among others. Canine influenza was identified at the Center, which remains one of the few testing laboratories in the country capable of doing routine testing for this virus. The tests to ensure horses entering the country from international origins are not carrying Contagious Equine Metritis were developed at the AHDC, which maintains one of the country’s most respected quarantine facilities for these horses. The AHDC was the first lab to implement measures capable of diagnosing and preventing West Nile virus, a threat to public and animal health. In 2005, the laboratory identified chronic wasting disease in the New York captive and wild whitetail deer population for the first time, leading to rapid response and a successful eradication of this devastating, mad cow-like disease. Work conducted at the

Center led to the implementation of an oral vaccination program for the control of raccoon rabies, and the Center successfully isolated equine herpesvirus type 1 and an equine rhinovirus that were affecting South American llamas and alpacas. The Center’s work with Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus, one of the most devastating diseases that cattle encounter, has helped control this disease found in the United States and across the world.

For many, though, at the top of the AHDC’s list of responsibilities is this: Assisting dairy producers and state regulators to make sure that the pint of milk children drink in their school cafeteria is safe. For more information on the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center, visit <http://diaglab.vet.cornell.edu/>.



Dr. Bruce Akey, AHDC executive director: “As world trade expands and animals, animal products, and people travel around the world faster and easier, diseases will find more opportunities to spread and infect. The Center is ever vigilant to detect this activity.”

Approximately 240 people conduct more than one million tests annually and process greater than 300,000 samples every year at the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center. The team and its activities are led by Dr. Bruce Akey, who is driven by an insatiable curiosity to understand how things work.

“My work is a recipe for lifelong learning,” said Dr. Akey, noting that diseases and pestilence don’t take holidays. “I am always being challenged and have the opportunity to engage in and help solve different problems every day.”

Dr. Akey is an assistant dean for diagnostic operations and executive director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center, part of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences.

He earned degrees from the College of William and Mary (BS 1977), the University of Florida (MS 1981), and the University of Minnesota (DVM 1987), working in a diagnostic laboratory while pursuing his veterinary degree. After a few years of veterinary private practice, Dr. Akey became the director of the Virginia Animal Health Laboratory System and chief of the Office of Laboratory Services at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (1990-2003). In 2003, he became the assistant state veterinarian for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In that capacity, he was the liaison between the State of New York and Cornell for the operation of the AHDC, which was founded to conduct the tests that the State needs.



Lisa Ford is the Spanish translator and educator with Quality Milk Production Services. She spent several years in the Peace Corps in Guatemala and Honduras.

¿TIENES LA LECHE? GOT MILK?

Quality Milk Production Services

“Getting” milk isn’t always easy. Days are long and physically

demanding. Mother Nature isn’t always in a good—or even predictable—mood. And even in economic recessions with record-high unemployment, labor isn’t readily available.

According to a Cornell report presented at a May 2008 conference, many sectors of the commercial agriculture industry rely heavily on the work of immigrants. Cornell researcher, Tom Maloney, indicated in the presentation that New York’s dairy employers began to hire Mexican and Guatemalan workers in the mid-1990s and their numbers have increased steadily since.

“While access to this pool of labor can be the difference between succeeding or not, it does pose additional challenges for dairy producers,” said Lisa Ford, the Spanish translator and educator with the College’s Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS). “To keep the size of our dairy industry moving, we need to hire Spanish-speaking laborers. However, when employees literally don’t understand what their employers say, it’s difficult for expectations to be met.”

As an extension associate, Ford spends her days bridging barriers between languages and cultures—

making sure people are on the same page. Hispanic workers frequently do not understand English and are not familiar with milking routines, mastitis challenges, calf-care issues, and functioning in America. Dairy producers cannot communicate their needs and are often not familiar with the steps an employer must take to help immigrant labor meet the day-to-day challenges of living far from home and family. Ford designs customized programs, including presentations and instructional posters prepared with Spanish, English, and pictures. Serving as the liaison between the farmer and the laborer, Ford also assists with human resource management.

“Farmers want to run the best farm they can,” said Ford, speaking from her office decorated with cow images—posters, mugs, picture frames, postcards, and baseball caps. “Likewise, laborers want to do the best job they can. Neither will be successful if they can’t communicate.”

Topics of communication can include anything. Ford explained she has been called upon to provide resources for laborers to get their stoves fixed (noting it is difficult for employees to focus on their employer’s concerns when their personal life is not in order); communicate updates about the farm and “share the vision” with laborers to inspire continued commitment; and teach laborers about modern dairies.

Whatever the task, Ford’s goal is always the same: to ensure the quality, safety, and affordability of New York’s milk supply through high quality training on techniques and human resource management. As part of QMPS, she considers herself a partner, working equally with farmers and laborers to keep the State’s farms and businesses strong.



ABOUT QUALITY MILK PRODUCTION SERVICES

Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS), initially established in 1946 as the New York State Mastitis Control Program, offers assistance to dairy producers with a range of services that help provide dairy producers with the knowledge needed for quality milk production.

In addition to the language services offered, QMPS also provides laboratory, field, consulting, and research services, including a full-service bacteriology lab with culture services and molecular diagnostic testing, research trials, milking system evaluation, herd sampling, bulk-tank monitoring, risk assessment of mastitis, and parlor efficiency analysis.

QMPS has four laboratories in New York State located in Ithaca, Cobleskill, Canton, and Geneseo.

For further information about Quality Milk Production Services, visit <http://qmps.vet.cornell.edu>.

SAFEGUARDING NATURE'S AQUARIUMS

In the spring of 2007, several thousand gizzard shad fish were fighting for their lives in Dunkirk Harbor on Lake Erie. Many of them lost the fight. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) was notified immediately by a concerned citizen, and the NYSDEC wasted no time referring the case to Dr. Paul Bowser CALS '70, professor of aquatic animal medicine, to assist in explaining the mysterious deaths. Dr. Bowser serves as the principal investigator for the Fish Pathology Laboratory Project, an effort within the Aquatic Animal Health Program in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, that is funded by the NYSDEC to investigate significant disease events in the wild fisheries resources of New York State.

After examining the fish, Dr. Bowser and his team found Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV), a significant emerging fish pathogen in the Great Lakes and neighboring waterways that, Dr. Bowser said, has reached epidemic proportions. VHSV causes hemorrhage and anemia (as well as other varied disease signs) in fish, has been identified in 28 freshwater fish species, and poses a potential threat to New York's sport-fishing industry, which has been estimated by the US Census Bureau to contribute \$1.4 billion annually to

the economy of New York State.

"People come from all over the eastern United States to fish the Great Lakes," said Dr. Bowser, noting that the virus has also been found in a few inland waters, including lakes, streams, and a family-owned earthen pond. "The economy of many of these areas ebbs and flows based on the season and the perceived value of outdoor recreational opportunities. The value of these opportunities is dependent on how successful we are at managing the health of wild fish. On a world-wide basis, VHSV is considered the most serious pathogen of fish, because it kills so many fish, is not treatable, and does not appear to be host specific."

In the above case involving VHSV, the NYSDEC called Cornell because of the sheer number of fish affected. In other cases investigated by the Fish Pathology Laboratory, the importance of a species itself will prompt a call. For example, in 2005, a 75-year-old, 200+ pound sturgeon was found in the Niagara region and transported to the College (pictured above). The United States Department of the Interior considers the lake sturgeon to be a threatened



fish species in all the states where it has been found. As such, the NYSDEC is keenly interested in monitoring the health of these fish—particularly because they are known to have life spans of up to 150 years. In this case, according to Dr. Bowser, diagnostic tests revealed a high tissue concentration of mercury.

In addition to fulfilling contractual obligations with the NYSDEC to investigate wild fish kills through the Fish Pathology Laboratory Project, the College also assists people who raise fish for commercial purposes and who use fish as a model for biomedical research.

"Knowing the significant causes of mortality in wild fish is critical for the preservation of our ecosystem and our economy," said Dr. Bowser.



TO BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU

Sometimes, dogs are not as gentle, friendly, and tolerant as we would like. Instincts, anxiety, fear, or a bold assertive temperament can cause a dog to exhibit aggressive behaviors that are not appreciated or safe in a home. Dogs are naturally territorial. Some may exhibit stranger aggression due to a lack of socialization or a past bad experience. Other dogs retain the ancestral trait called resource guarding, and thus aggressively guard items that are valuable to them. Whatever the reason—and there are others—these dogs frequently find themselves in shelters, as it is difficult and often dangerous, according to behaviorist Kelley Bollen, to have them around family and friends.

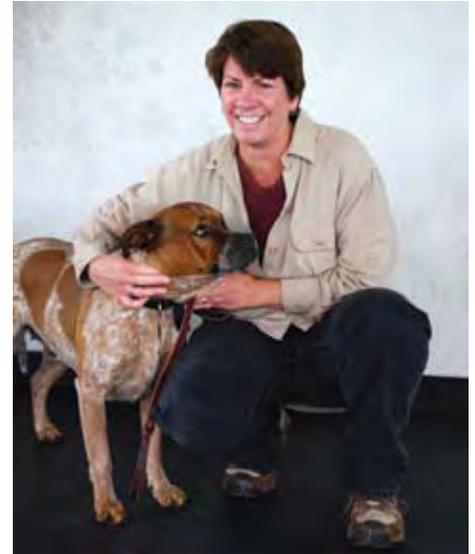
To help Tompkins County SPCA employees determine when the line separating difficult and dangerous might be crossed, Bollen implemented the use of a formal behavior evaluation procedure designed to identify a shelter dog's basic personality and temperament and his threshold level for aggression in many common situations. Bollen conducted a study involving more than 2,000 shelter dogs to determine the validity and reliability of this procedure, which was published in *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, a peer-reviewed journal. Bollen introduced staff members at the Tompkins County SPCA to the evaluation procedure in the Summer of 2007, teaching

them how to assess the dogs and how to interpret their responses. The technique, which Bollen said helps shelters keep dangerous dogs out of the community, is a multi-step process that explores the dog's level of sociability, willingness to be handled, and its propensity to guard resources.

During the evaluation, Bollen encourages the staff members to “listen to their own inner animal,” and watch the dog's body language: Does he freeze? Do his pupils dilate? Does he give sideways glances or a hard stare, raise his tail above his back (even if it's wagging), or tuck his tail and pull his ears back? These are all signs that the dog is uneasy. As part of the procedure, evaluators also watch how the dog responds to strangers, noting the dog's level of fear or aggression and how quickly he recovers from a negative response after the “pressure” is removed. Evaluators handle the dog in ways that an owner will: stroking his back, picking up his leg and looking at his foot, gently tugging his tail, looking in his ears, rubbing him with a towel as though drying him after a bath, and giving him a hug.

“As a rule, dogs don't like to be hugged,” said Bollen. “People hug as a sign of affection, but hugging is just restraint to a dog. Well-adjusted social dogs are able to tolerate it, but it may push other dogs over the line.”

When the evaluation is conducted and interpreted well, shelters can

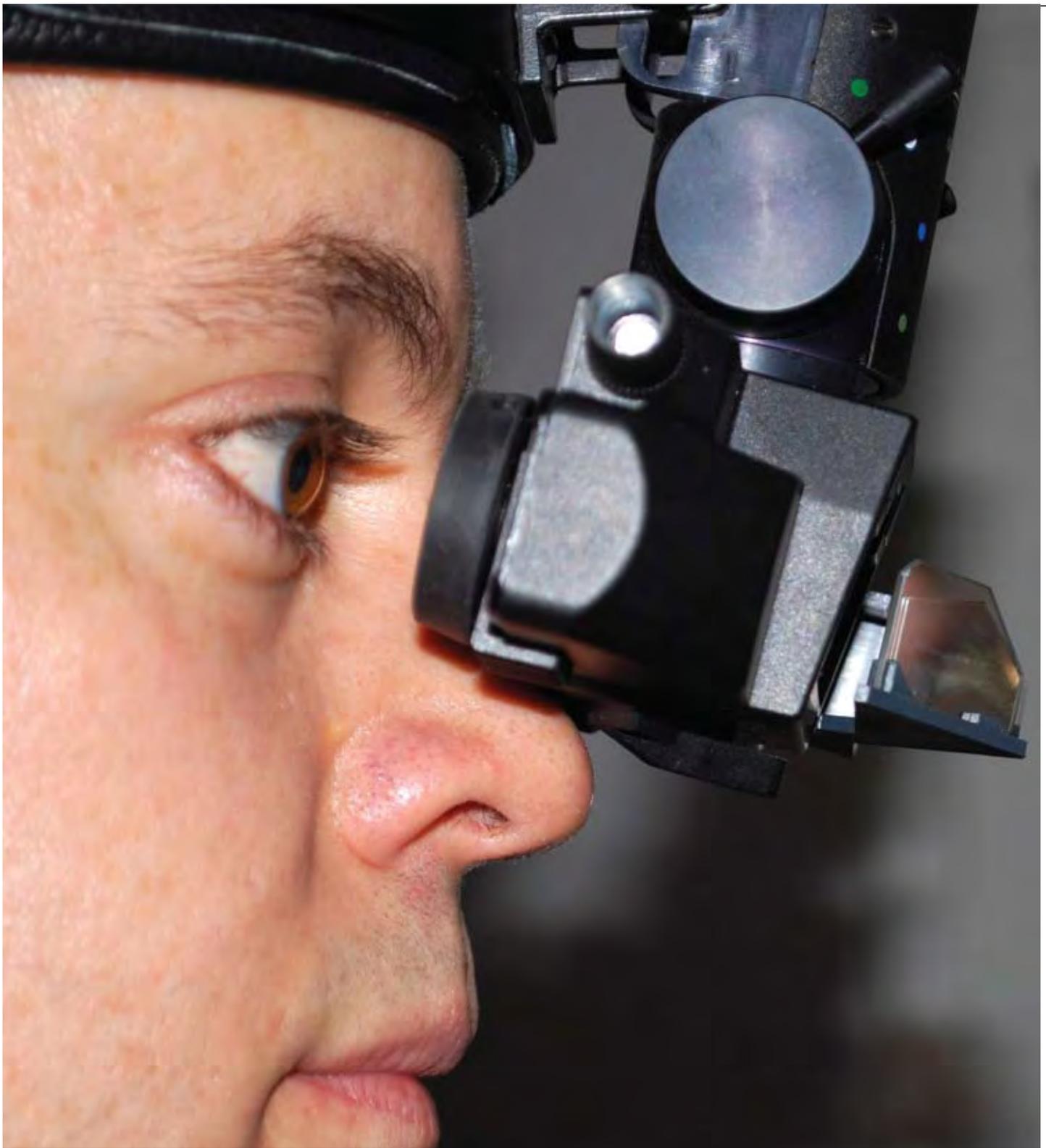


Kelley Bollen, animal behaviorist

use the information gleaned to make good matches with adopters, according to Bollen, who explained that, “The evaluation may show that some dogs are too dangerous to be adopted out into the community. It will also show that many dogs are perfectly safe for adoption, as long as shelter staff can adequately express the dog's tolerance levels and behavioral needs to the new owners.”

Bollen shares this information—and more—with shelters across central New York as part of Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program, which educates veterinary students and post-graduate veterinary residents in all aspects of shelter medicine and advances and disseminates scientific knowledge in the field.





**“THE INDIRECT OPHTHALMOSCOPE IS USED TO VIEW THE
FUNDUS. I EXAMINE MOST OF MY PATIENTS WITH IT.”
- DR. ERIC LEDBETTER**

SEEING EYE TO EYE

with Dr. Eric Ledbetter

Dr. Eric Ledbetter is no stranger to looking at the world from a different angle. As assistant professor of ophthalmology at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, he sees patients of every type—from snakes to horses—and strives to ensure that they depart from the Cornell University Hospital for Animals with improved vision.

By the time he was an undergraduate at the University of Missouri, Dr. Ledbetter had narrowed his career focus to animals, and his attraction to medicine led him to the field of veterinary medicine. Dr. Ledbetter's decision to specialize in ophthalmology was due to his fascination with the eye.

“For such a small organ, it is very complex and aesthetically beautiful,” said Dr. Ledbetter. “Many different concerns can be studied in the eye. I enjoy the variety, especially the combination of medicine and surgery. There is no such thing as a standard work week: I see everything from glaucoma and uveitis to corneal ulcers and cataracts.”

Dr. Ledbetter started working at Cornell in 2003 as a resident in ophthalmology. Always at the top of his class, he was presented with a Merck Award, nationally recognizing him for having the Best Clinical Paper at the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists

Resident's Forum in 2005. In 2006, Cornell University awarded him with First Place for Overall Scientific and Presentation Excellence at the Annual Resident Research Seminar.

Dr. Ledbetter has already made a difference in his field with his 2006 identification of ocular diseases associated with the latent canine herpesvirus-1 (CHV-1) reactivation in adult dogs. Instrumental in this discovery was his modification of an *in vivo* confocal microscope originally designed for humans, which allowed him to perform virtual biopsies of the eye. The confocal microscope is now an integral part of Dr. Ledbetter's exam equipment and aids in the diagnosis of corneal diseases in many different animal species.

While much of Dr. Ledbetter's research continues to focus on latent canine herpesvirus-1 ocular infections, he also is engaged in research to detect and explore the pathogenic role of amoeba in feline corneal disease. His work on canine ocular infections has been published in *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, *Veterinary Ophthalmology*, and *Veterinary Microbiology*.

“Dr. Ledbetter is a rising star in academic veterinary ophthalmology,” said Dr. Thomas Kern, chief, section

of ophthalmology. “His investigations of infectious diseases of the canine eye have brought him national acclaim in our specialty. In addition, he is a committed clinician and excellent instructor for students, interns, and residents.”

Dr. Ledbetter most enjoys working in an environment where he's able to be a clinician, researcher, and educator. In 2008, Dr. Ledbetter served on the Cornell University Intern Selection Committee and has acted as a Student Research Project Mentor and a Senior Seminar Advisor, in addition to being the faculty advisor for the Cornell University Veterinary Student Ophthalmology Club and helping to train residents.

“Dr. Ledbetter instills confidence in residents and students with his amazing patience and calm demeanor in any situation,” said Dr. Nathan Kice, an ophthalmology resident in his third year at the College. “He is an exceptional person and the future of academic practice.”



2009 COMMENCEMENT

The College graduated 81 DVM students in May. They will pursue a variety of paths, including post-DVM training, careers in private small animal, equine, and food supply practice around the State and nation, residencies for a range of specialties including primate medicine, and avian influenza research in Taiwan.

Dr. Stuart Bliss was chosen by the students as the 2009 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher. With this honor, he presented the class with its charge to go forward at the annual Hooding Ceremony. Dr. Bliss encouraged the class to remain forever students of veterinary medicine.





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1. Jim Olson DVM '73 stands with daughter, Jennifer Olson DVM '09; 2. (l to r) Drew Mudge and Kevin Nagel DVM '09; 3. Meg Varner DVM '09 was awarded the Gentle Doctor award; 4-6. Scenes from the Senior Week Ropes Course; 7. Graduates reciting the Veterinarian's Oath; 8. (l to r) Dean Michael Kotlikoff presented Futaba Elkins DVM '09 with the Malcolm E. Miller Award; 9. Dr. Stuart Bliss delivered the charge to the Class of 2009; 10. (l to r) Graduates Lindsey Banigan, Amy Fulton, Rose Alaimo, and Katherine (Holly) Kohler; 11. The Ultrasounds; 12. Fred Brewer DVM '09; 13. (l to r) Residents Sean Freer and Nathan Kice; 14. Latoya Schultz DVM '09 (right); 15-16. Students processing; 17. The Big Red ... dog; 18. Entering Schoelkopf Stadium; 19. (l to r) Garry Hayeck and Kari Hayeck DVM '09; 20. Faculty members Drs. Nelly Farnum and Robin Davisson.

SCHOLARSHIP PERPETUATES A COMMITMENT TO CARING, CURIOSITY, AND COMPASSION

If she had followed in the footsteps of her family, Michele Barrett DVM '09 would have been a teacher. Her mother is a teacher; her father is a teacher; even her grandfather was a teacher. However, Barrett was enthralled as a little girl watching Jane Goodall's animal behavior studies with chimpanzees in Africa. Her love of animals only continued to grow in her undergraduate years, when she decided to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

It was a very scary decision for Barrett to make, knowing that upon graduation she could be burdened with significant debt. So when Dr. Katherine Edmondson, assistant dean for learning and instruction, informed her that she'd been selected as the latest recipient of the Michele and Agnese Cestone Foundation Scholarship, Barrett was speechless.

"It's a huge gift," said Barrett. "I can't put into words what the scholarship has meant to me and my family. I have Mr. Cestone to thank for my career."

First awarded in 1998, the scholarship covers full tuition for all four years of Cornell's DVM degree. It is based upon academic merit, requiring the recipient to maintain a GPA of 3.5 with a preference for residents of the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut).

"No one coming into vet school thinks that there is a scholarship that does that [covers full tuition]," said Barrett, who graduated with distinction and earned the Horace K. White Prize. "I came out of Dr. Edmondson's office with a burden lifted. It was such a relief."



Cestone Scholar Michele Barrett DVM '09 being presented with the Horace K. White Prize by Dean Kotlikoff

Free from the worries and stress that financial debt can place upon one's shoulders, Barrett was able to focus completely on her studies instead of on defraying the expense of her education. Working at a dairy farm for one semester provided Barrett with the direction she needed to pursue large animal medicine. In 2007, she was selected to participate in the Smith-Kilborne program, spending several days at the USDA's Plum Island Animal Disease Center learning further about foreign animal diseases. Last year, Barrett realized a childhood dream when she afforded a month-long trip to Africa, volunteering to help a Tanzanian community by teaching English,

administering rabies clinics, aiding in a human medical clinic, and inspecting meat at a local slaughterhouse.

Barrett's resolution to go into veterinary medicine was as much for people as it was for animals. Long-term, she desires to help communities with their economic sustenance and public health.

"Veterinarians are very mentor-focused and show continuing generosity toward the next generation," said Barrett. "They can't help but make an impact on others. As I embark upon my new career, I hope that I can give back as much as I've gotten. Helping others learn—that's in my blood."

TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Dr. William and Jean Cadwallader

Gandhi encouraged us to be the change that we want to see in the world. While many of us strive to do just that, William Cadwallader DVM '62 has likely even exceeded Gandhi's expectations. For more than 40 years, he has leveraged his veterinary medicine degree and experience to improve public health for both animals and humans. Accomplishing his goal in a variety of ways—often with his time and talent, for instance—Dr. Cadwallader and his wife, Jean, have recently endowed a scholarship that will assist Cornell students who wish to earn a veterinary degree.

The motivation for endowing such a scholarship stems from the actions of a man who could clearly see the promise and purpose that Dr. Cadwallader would bring to bear on the world. In 1957, Dean William Hagan offered a young and persuasive Cadwallader a full scholarship to attend Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. In Fall of 2009, the cycle will continue, with the awarding of the first Jean K. and William B.P. Cadwallader, Jr. Scholarship.

"We wanted to do something that would help keep Cornell on the cutting edge—to help create tomorrow's leaders in the field of veterinary medicine for education, research, and public service,"

said Dr. Cadwallader. "The cost of an education should not be a barrier for students who have the desire."

The Cadwallader Scholarship comes at a crucial time in higher education's history. According to College data, 90 percent of the College's students require financial assistance, with need-based scholarships being given to 70 percent of those students. From 2002 to 2007, the average debt rate has increased for Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine students. Forty-three of the 81 students from the Class of 2008 had a debt greater than \$100,000 upon graduation.

The Jean K. and William B.P. Cadwallader, Jr. Scholarship will be offered to a student of outstanding character and scholarship with creative insight for the future of the veterinary profession to bring pride and recognition to medical science and Cornell University. Of utmost importance to Dr. Cadwallader, though, is that the dean be able to choose the recipient.

"I was offered a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania to earn my veterinary degree," explained Dr. Cadwallader, who graduated at the top of his undergraduate class. "But I wanted to focus my career on cattle, and Cornell was the best place to do that. I wrote to Dean Hagan and pleaded my case. He listened. We hope that this scholarship will put the current dean in a position where he can listen and support a student today."

Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine Michael I. Kotlikoff is happy to honor Dr. Cadwallader's request.

"Dr. Cadwallader is an inspiration and truly a leader in the profession," said Dr. Kotlikoff. "The opportunity to award a scholarship to a talented and deserving

student is one of the greatest honors I have as the leader of this fine College. I will do my best to choose as wisely as Dean Hagan did when he awarded a scholarship to Dr. Cadwallader."

Dr. Cadwallader's interest in bovine medicine and surgery began early, as he was raised on a 47-cow dairy farm in Southern New Jersey. After practicing veterinary medicine for more than 40 years, Dr. Cadwallader sold his Homer Animal Clinic practice four years ago and now devotes much of his efforts to volunteering. A long-time member of Rotary International, he traveled to Guatemala and Honduras in 1998 to provide relief to victims of Hurricane Mitch. When Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of the South in 2005, Dr. Cadwallader went down to D'Iberville, Mississippi, for six weeks with a church group to help provide people with food, housing, and clothing.

Dr. Cadwallader most recently spent much of April in South America, visiting Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and Venezuela to give presentations on infant mortality, maternal health, and HIV. By sharing knowledge about healthcare through voluntary counseling and testing of adolescents, Dr. Cadwallader said he hopes to help reduce the world's infant mortality rate by improving maternal health and reducing the transmission of HIV.

"I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today without that scholarship," said Dr. Cadwallader. "I hope that I've been an asset to the veterinary profession. I really appreciated it when Dean Hagan gave me the scholarship: it changed my whole life. I hope that our scholarship will do the same for others."

TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIP EVERLASTING



Dr. Joanne Bicknese

When Joanne Bicknese '76, DVM '78 met Dr. La Verne Beakman DVM '50, she knew that his friendship would be meaningful. Both graduates of the College, the two shared many interests.

"He inspired me," said Dr. Bicknese, who recently endowed a research fund in his memory. "He was a leader in the veterinary profession, active in his community, engaged in animal welfare, and a role model."

Dr. Beakman passed away in October of 2008 and is recalled fondly as a veterinarian, a horse breeder, and the owner of JB Farms in Florida. When Dr. Bicknese decided to raise Boer goats (she now has more than 50 goats on her 12-acre, New Jersey farm),

she turned to him for advice and breeding stock, knowing that he was respected as one of the top producers in the country. He was also one of the first people in Florida to raise Boer goats. Dr. Beakman's animals were direct descendants of animals produced in New Zealand, which are considered to have some of the hardiest bloodlines. Boer goats are native to South Africa, although many in the States were imported from animals born in New Zealand, conceived with frozen embryos from South African stock.

Thus, the Dr. La Verne "Buzz" Beakman Meat Goat Production Research Fund at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine capitalizes on one of the interests that Drs. Bicknese and Beakman shared: meat goats. Resources from the fund will support research projects with a clear clinical application to meat goat production medicine.

"Research to benefit goats, especially meat goats, has not been terribly prolific," said Dr. Bicknese. "Boer goats are relatively easy to raise, but like all animals, they are susceptible to diseases and infections that we need to know more about. Research will benefit the animals and the industry, which is very young in the United States, but quite advanced in other countries."

Goat meat is common among many ethnic groups, consumed for a variety of religious holidays,

according to Dr. Bicknese, who is also an avid horsewoman and works at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she coordinates all the pharmaceutical company's documentation that goes to health authorities for filing. Positioning it as one of the healthiest red meats to consume, Dr. Bicknese hopes that the research fund will help to advance our knowledge about these animals.

Dr. Bicknese is a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women, the Cornell University Council, and a former member of the Cornell Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee. She has also served on the College of Veterinary Medicine Development Committee. Dr. Bicknese has been a member of the Baker Institute's Advisory Council since 1998. She served as Chair of the Council from 2000 through 2006 and in 2005 established the Bicknese Family Prize for women trainees at the Institute.



*Dr. Bicknese's friend and mentor,
Dr. La Verne Beakman*

TO HONOR FOND MEMORIES



Dr. Leon Sanders PhD '51

Sometimes a place just means so much. According to his daughter, Dr. Christine Saunders, Dr. Leon Z. Saunders PhD '51 simply had a passion for Ithaca and Cornell, saying, "It was always part of the wallpaper in our lives."

A native of Winnipeg, Canada, Dr. Saunders was educated at Wesley College and the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, from which he graduated in 1943. In 1948, he arrived in Ithaca to pursue further studies in neuropathology with Peter Olafsen DVM '26, receiving his PhD in pathology in 1951. Other people like Frank Bloom DVM '30, Dr. Lennart Krook, emeritus dean George Poppensiek, and Dr. John King are like family members to Christine, who has fond memories of traveling to Ithaca when she was a child.

"He always kept in touch with people in Ithaca and at Cornell," said Christine. "He deeply cared about people there."

Wanting to ensure a lasting legacy for her father and his life-long dedication to the pursuit of academic knowledge, Christine (a research associate professor at the Center for Molecular Neuroscience at Vanderbilt University Medical Center) and her mother talked about establishing a scholarship here at the College to benefit post-DVM graduate students.

Dr. Leon Saunders became head of Pathology and Toxicology for SmithKline & French Laboratories until his eventual retirement in 1990 from SmithKline Beecham. His scholarly interests extended well beyond traditional academic pathology, as he was an historian and all-around scholar, too. He published more than 90 articles and six books. He nurtured a special interest in the history of veterinary pathology as well, and published two well-known books on this topic, leading to Saunders' honorary election into the American Osler Society. He co-founded *Veterinary Pathology*, the premier journal in its field, for which he served as managing editor for 25 years. He also served as President of the World Federation of Veterinary Pathologists and of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

He spoke both English and German, and was multilingual in scientific reading and writing. He was well

known for his eloquent speeches and writing. An avid equestrian, Dr. Saunders enjoyed horseback riding as well as polo. During his tenure at Cornell, he actively participated on the polo team. He also enjoyed snow skiing with his family, which he did all around the world, including such places as Canada and Switzerland.

Friends wishing to make memorial contributions to the Leon Z. Saunders PhD '51 Memorial Scholarship may contact Amy Robinson in the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development at 607-253-3742 or alr74@cornell.edu.

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Take your love of animals further: your gift might be just what the doctor ordered.

At the College of Veterinary Medicine, people who care deeply about animals are working for the health and welfare of animals and people everywhere. Each year, our veterinarians treat tens of thousands of animals—pets, farm animals, wildlife, zoo animals, and exotic species. To ensure the best health care for all of our animal patients, our medical staff must have access to the newest technologies and advanced techniques in medicine and surgery. Our work depends, in large part, on private donations from people just like you, in order to purchase and accomplish the following:

HD FARM EQUIPMENT: HIGH DEFINITION EQUIPMENT FOR ENDOSCOPE IN FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL

To bring the entire endoscopic package up to high definition standards and functioning, the following is needed: a high definition 3-meter gastroscope, custom-made in length to view the stomachs of horses, a processor (GIF 180), light source, high definition 22-inch monitor and DVD recorder, printer, and cart. **COST: \$57,000**

ONLY THE BEST: RECRUIT THE TOP-RATED FACULTY IN THE WORLD TO THE SUMMER DAIRY INSTITUTE AT CORNELL

Faculty are recruited from academia, government, private practice, progressive farms, and dairy-related industries to discuss wide-ranging topics such as reproduction, cattle welfare and behavior, and nutrition. Lectures are combined with field visits to broaden and accentuate the experience for the participants. **COST: \$30,000**

GOING DIGITAL: DIGITIZING HISTORIC PUBLICATIONS

We have a big collection of historic publications in the College of Veterinary Medicine that are not easily available for scholars and students to use in their work. Digitizing this material will make a significant contribution to the field. **COST: \$30,000**

IT'S A SMALL WORLD: HOUSE THE SUMMER DAIRY INSTITUTE'S CLASS OF 2010 ON AN IVY LEAGUE CAMPUS

Veterinarians focused on our national food security are tightly connected through professional organizations. Providing accommodations that allow students to learn from each other and to network with colleagues who will oversee the future of our food safety encourages these lasting relationships. **COST: \$10,000**

SMALL MIRACLES: OXYGEN CAGE, SMALL ANIMAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

This would replace a 10-year-old oxygen cage and is a critical need for our ICU. Patients in respiratory distress can be housed in a safe, secluded, warm, and oxygen-rich environment while undergoing diagnostic testing and treatment. This is life saving and one of our most important pieces of equipment. **COST: \$10,000**

KEEPING THE BEAT: MASSIMO RADICAL-7 PULSE OXIMETER

This pulse oximeter is a non-invasive monitoring device that utilizes revolutionary technology to provide the most accurate and reliable blood oxygen level readings in patients for whom traditional pulse oximeters fail. It helps with monitoring patients suffering from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide exposure in a non-invasive fashion. We do not currently have this capability. **COST: \$5,000**

GETTING AROUND: FARM ANIMAL TRANSPORTER

To transport cattle to various diagnostic and treatment areas. **COST: \$5,000**

FURTHER KNOWLEDGE: PURCHASE BOOKS FOR COLLECTIONS THAT ARE HOUSED IN CLINICS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COLLEGE

Students and faculty are able to refer to these reference materials that are housed at the point-of-need in the clinic or work area. Currently, the Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library is supporting 11 such satellite collections. **COST: \$5,000**

FROM FARM TO FORK: PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT LEARNING MODULE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE SUMMER DAIRY INSTITUTE AT CORNELL

A total of 14 modules are presented, including biosecurity. An increasingly important module, proper biosecurity management practices reduce the spread of infectious disease on farms, ensuring our dairy products are safe to consume and affordable to purchase. For example, through this module, students may develop and implement an effective vaccination program for a dairy operation as part of the coverage of infectious diseases. **COST: \$5,000**

FUNDING OUR FUTURE: SPONSOR ONE STUDENT TO ATTEND THE SUMMER DAIRY INSTITUTE AT CORNELL

A one-of-a-kind premier dairy training experience for the next generation of veterinarians focused on our national food security. Help train future veterinarians to understand herd health, including diagnosing signs of a cow infected by *E. coli* or *salmonella*. These diseases affect the cow, cause loss of milk production, and have public health implications as well. **COST: \$5,000**

TESTING, TESTING: ACCUPULSE NIBP SIMULATOR

This piece of test equipment is used for calibrating, troubleshooting, and repairing non-invasive blood pressure monitors. The hospital currently has approximately 40 of this type of monitor and needs to keep them calibrated appropriately. **COST: \$4,045**

WRAP IT UP: INTENSIVE CARE INCUBATOR

This will provide a heated, humidified, and oxygen-enriched environment for neonate, infant, and pediatric patients that require special care in the Cornell University Companion Animal Hospital Intensive Care Unit. By housing our most vulnerable pets in this way, our veterinarians and staff can create ideal conditions for survival and protect these defenseless babies from exposure to other patients and their illnesses. **COST: \$2,500**

HEART SMART: NELLCOR END-TIDAL CO2 MONITOR

Important in anesthesia and monitoring cardiac arrests. **COST: \$2,000**

For more information on gift opportunities, please contact Amy Robinson in the Office of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications: 607-253-3742, alr74@cornell.edu.

INTERESTED IN KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FELLOW ALUMS? JOIN CORNELL VETS ON FACEBOOK.COM OR CORNELL ON VETSU.COM!

Class of 1931

Larry Waitz, Cutchogue, NY, says that he's still here!

Class of 1939

Mark R. Crandall, Gloversville, NY, wants to let fellow alumni know that he is alive and well and that he gives best wishes to all from The Holy Beaver.

Class of 1940

Jerome Payton, Morris, NY, is happy to say that he's still vertical and ventilating!!

Class of 1951

Cleon W. Easton, Delevan, NY, says, "I'm still alive and kicking, and I wish the same to all of you!"

Kent Roberts, Williamsburg, VA, ran his own private veterinary practice in Purcellville, VA, for nearly three decades after earning his DVM. In addition, he served on many committees, including Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, Virginia State Board of Veterinary Examiners, and Virginia Veterinary Medicine Study Commission. In 1974, he was recognized by Virginia Veterinary Medical Association by being named Virginia Veterinarian of the Year. He was recently awarded the John N. Dalton Award by Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine for his lifetime achievements and contributions, leadership, and philanthropy.

Class of 1952

N. Bruce Haynes, Skowhegan, ME, wants to let his classmates know, "I'm still alive!"

J.T. Wilson (Red), Little Falls, NJ, says that he "finally threw in the towel" after 55 years of full-time practice and he misses it a lot.

Class of 1953

Lewis A. Goldfinger, Woodbury, NY, is looking forward to an earlier Class of '53 reunion (or two or three, if possible). He's still on Long Island, so if anyone is in the area, he'd be glad to hear from you and to visit.

Class of 1955

Joseph (Bud) Stuart, Santa Barbara, CA, is having a delightful retirement in California, his Sunshine State. He's been writing a lot of poetry, memoirs, and a book on pet nutrition. Bud constantly thanks his lucky stars that he was fortunate enough to be a veterinarian—and a Cornellian, as well.

Class of 1956

M.H. Gilman, Chester, NY, is still able to walk, talk, and play the violin. He has three horses, a dog, and a cat. He's still mourning the passing of Charlie Deed.

Class of 1957

James O. Marshall, Fayetteville, NY, started Jim Marshall Farms Foundation, Inc. in 2002, to help victims of depressive illness, saying, "Depression is a secret illness, but very prevalent, especially in our workaholic profession." His foundation features animal therapy, professional counseling,

plus Mother Nature's magic on their horse farm. More information is available at www.jmffinc.org. His autobiography, *Where Animals Help People*, is available by calling 1-800-288-4677 x5024. The Foundation's first building, dedicated to Dr. De Lahunta, is completely paid for by donations from 109 of his former students. Call him at 315-447-6182 for a visit if you are in the area.

Al Fritz, Wiscasset, ME, and **Bev** are downsizing their household in preparation for a move to Connecticut to live near their daughter. If you have been through downsizing, you will know what a challenge this can be. Good luck!

Class of 1958

Theodore Hoch, Port St. Lucie, FL, is happily retired. He works with Creature Safe Place, an organization that rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned Florida wildlife. He is also active with the Medical Reserve Corps, a federal organization that trains people to care for the population in the event of mass casualties and disasters that overwhelm local medical facilities.

Class of 1959

Albert M. Beck, Williamsburg, VA, has retired, living on three acres of woods and very little grass. His wife of 53+ years, Patricia, manages the flower jungle, and he cares for the trees. They both fish and Dr. Beck shoots sporting clays twice weekly with a bunch of like-minded, mostly retired conservative constitutionalists. He says, "If only our politicians would listen to us!"

Stanley P. Duberman, Pittsboro, NC, worked at several animal hospitals in New York, then at Bide-A-Wee in Long Island, before starting his own hospital in Armonk, NY, for 41 years. He retired in Spring 2002 and moved to North Carolina (Chapel Hill area). He's now playing a lot of tennis and going for a Private Pilot Certificate.

W. Duane Kennedy, Orwigsburg, PA, enjoys traveling, playing bridge, reading, trying to remember stuff, and going to the doctor's. He vividly remembers the formaldehyde olfactory destruction and wrinkled hands in freshman anatomy and abandoning poultry classes to go on ambulatory with Dr. Fox. He notes that he loved his work and regrets many of the essential changes that have so altered the practice of bovine medicine as well as altered and diminished the humanity of society in general.

Arthur Kronfeld, Manhasset, NY, has been working in Port Washington since 1963. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, tournament bridge, and travel.

Paul C. Layer, Clermont, FL, is retired and now spends his winters in Florida and summers at Copake Lake, NY. He enjoys boating and fishing on Copake Lake and playing golf in Florida with his wife, Joan. They both enjoy traveling in this country and abroad. Paul also does woodworking, making furniture from lumber that he cuts from the trees on his land.

Jack Lowe, Dryden, NY, retired from Cornell in 1991 at 55 years of age. He still practices (not as much) and enjoys horse shoes and horses and people involved in horse performance events. The horse has been good to him. Jack enjoys deer hunting in three states each year and loves to cook venison. His son, Bill, built him a cooker/smoker on a trailer. Jack can cook four different roasts at once, which is helpful with a crowd of 70, plus or minus.

James G. Mancuso, Inwood, NY, has his own practice, Animal Hospital of the 5 Towns in Nassau County. He is getting thoughts of retirement, but is having difficulties formulating an exit plan! He remembers having many good times living in the pole barn for room and board during his vet college years and getting married and having his first daughter before graduation.

Richard McCarthy, Chelmsford, MA, is doing well. He's still working part-time and liking it.

Fred Murphy, Galveston, TX, notes that he has had a great life, all because he met Irene when he was in the Army Veterinary Corps in San Antonio in 1960. He has four sons, five grandchildren, and lots of friends all over the world: "It just doesn't get any better than this." Chapters in his life include San Antonio, Davis, Atlanta, Ft. Collins, Galveston... the only black cloud was the death of his wife, Irene, in 2000. Fred says, "I am still propped up by her memory and the love of my family. Vet school and the Class of '59 mean a lot to me in all this."

Carl D. Nelson, Keene, NH, worked at the Hinsdale Greyhound Park until December 1, 2008. Today he enjoys crossword puzzles and keeping his home in good condition.

Keith Orts, Wernersville, PA, retired in 2002 and is doing very limited relief work in the area. He and his wife, Carol, raised their four children on five acres of orchard and open space in Colerain, Ohio, living in the same house for 37 years. All four of their children are college graduates and married. Dr. Orts has done a lot of traveling over the years, visiting most of the European countries (including Russia), as well as China, Korea, Costa Rica, and Canada. He enjoys gardening (lots of vegetables!), camping, hiking, cooking, attending theater, reading, visiting family, and volunteering at Phoebe Berks Village (his retirement community).

John Rapp, Clermont, FL, retired in 2004 and moved to Florida. He enjoys airplane flying, including gliders, aerobatics, and instrument rating. He owned a Beechcraft Bonanza for about 10 years and flew coast to coast and from Canada to Florida, often going to scientific meetings or giving lectures at universities. Starting at age 60, John took up triathlon racing (swimming, biking, and running). He also reads classics in German to keep his mind active.

Rudy Schuster, Oneonta, NY, established the Oneonta Veterinary Associates in 1984 and became semi-retired at the age of 60, at which time he sold the practice. He and his wife, Gwen, have a passion for classical music and extensive world travel. They have taken 47 cruises and 14 motor coach tours—visiting approximately 60 countries and all seven continents. When not traveling, they care for 65 acres (five of which is lawn) with two ¾-acre ponds and a tax liability that they call home. They have also spent the caudal 1/4 of the past 12 winters in Maui, Hawaii—Aloha!

George C. Shurtleff, Cordova, TN, retired in 1998 and enjoys gardening, woodworking, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Andrew J. Williamson, St. Thomas, VI, has owned a private practice since 1964. Within the past five years, he purchased property and is in the process of building a log home. He enjoys scuba diving and sailing his 1973 30-ft. ketch "Aeolus."

Rornell Reunion

2009

During Reunion Weekend (June 4-6, 2009), nearly 400 College of Veterinary Medicine alumni and guests returned to celebrate reunions, ranging from their fifth to their seventy-fifth! Amidst greeting old friends, alumni and their guests took part in tours of the Companion Animal and Equine hospitals, reminisced about their school days at the veterinary alumni barbeque and their class dinners, and listened to the Dean's State of the College address. They also had the opportunity to tour the Baker Institute for Animal Health and Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center, visit the College's Equine Park, and participate in university events.



CLASS OF 1934 (l to r) Joe Merenda celebrated his 75th Reunion with guest, Ray Lazare, and Dean Kotlikoff



CLASS OF 1954 (l to r) **First Row:** Jack Hyde, Helen Coates Smith, John Matochik, Irving Wiswall **Second Row:** Edward Stewart, Robert Patterson, Bob Kahrs, M.G. Deeley, C.M. Sutherland, Bob Messersmith



CLASS OF 1964 (l to r) **First Row:** Alan Baum, Rev Munson, Ed Eisner, Milton Robison **Second Row:** Neil MacKenzie, Peter Morey, Leo Dube, Wayne Evans, Dan Johns, Tom Pettit, Ben Turner, Charles Nydam



CLASS OF 1939 (l to r) Robert Ferber, John Murray, John Ayres



CLASS OF 1944 (l to r) Carlisle VanDeusen, Jeanne Logue, David Lawrence, Richard Basom



CLASS OF 1959 (l to r) **First Row:** Carl Nelson, Dean Michael Kotlikoff, James Mancuso, Jack Lowe **Second Row:** John Rapp, Peter Ebertz, Alan Marston, Rudy Schuster **Third Row:** Ray Long, John Meyer, Richard McCarthy, Paul Layer **Fourth Row:** Arthur Kronfeld, Charles Gould, A.J. Williamson, Frederick Murphy, Bill Zitek, Keith Orts



CLASS OF 1949
(r to l)
Stanley Glick with wife, Grete



CLASS OF 1969 (l to r) **First Row:** John Roemmelt, Leslie DeGroff, William “Sandy” Allen, Joe Haddad, David Jefferson, Jim Tompsett **Second Row:** Arthur Cutter, Bob Schmitt, Jerry Bilinski, Ted Sprinkle **Third Row:** Carl Eisenhard, Tim Dennis, Don Powell, Robert Brofee



CLASS OF 1974
(l to r) **First Row:** Don Schlafer, Ned Dykes, Tim Kneen
Second Row: Doug Evans, Malcolm Kram



CLASS OF 1979 (l to r) **First Row:** Roger Kuntz, Denise Charpentier, Kay Lin, Kit Blackmore, Martha Gearhart
Second Row: Martha Demson, Lois Roth-Johnson, Carol Cookingham
Third Row: Edward von der Schmidt, Peg Burgess, Barbara LeClair, Eric Davis, George Palmer, Marcia Levine, Lorraine Peterson, Elaine Felton, Richard Stein
Fourth Row: Mike Sozanski, Mike Keem, Jim Ehrlich, Bob Binder, Tom Munschauer, Crager Boardman



CLASS OF 1984 (l to r) **First Row:** Michael McTigue, Thomas Gill, Joan Graulich Kolb, Lynne O’Neil, Shawn O’Neil, Pete Ostrum
Second Row: Karen Smith, Diane Blackmore Forsythe, Dan Keenan, Gail Ordun, Nina Shoulberg, Kathy Hall, Lisa Edwards
Third Row: Sylvester Price, Jerry Kolb, Giovanna Multala, Anne Fessler, Jan Freeman
Fourth Row: Warren Liddell, Barbara Scheffler, Donald Thompson, Josh Atz, Lenka Babuska, Mark Butt



CLASS OF 1999 (l to r) **First Row:** Sara Childs-Sanford, Joy Bennett, Nicole Paccione-Gerbe, Michelle Egli, Rebecca Price, Antonia Jameson Jordan
Second Row: Jennifer Hess, Sara Robinson, Katrina Taylor, Rebecca Scelba, Meg Falcone, Tara Haley, Karin Wilson, Rebecca Seacord, Anne Del Borgo, Karen DeMoy
Third Row: Amy Schein, Nina Deibel, Shana Silverstein, Melissa Murray, Mark Kramer, Dawn Tornusciolo, Virginia Bayer, Lillian Good, Heather O’Leary, Karin Wagner, Moria Norris
Fourth Row: Chris Cangelieri, Greg Voronin, Dave Rockwell, Chris Reetz, Eric Christensen, Ryan Storey, Mark Huber, George Teague



CLASS OF 1989 (l to r) **First Row:** Bruce Hoskins, Dave VanMetre, Keith Clement, Barbara Ulrich, Nancy Erickson Dreschel, Mary Battista, Linda Meier, Michael Brodsky, Frank Capella, Marye Byrd, Maria Castiglione, Kenneth Byman
Second Row: Steven Neth, Eric Parente, Kathy Murnan, Gwendolyn Wollney, Cheryl Yasuda-Rieve, Claudia Casavecchia, Andi Looney, Laura Leigh Frazier, Trish Daly, Terri Haing-Byman



CLASS OF 1994 (l to r)
First Row: Brian Collins, Beth Schwartz Levine, Amy Willsey, Julia Smith
Second Row: John Pacy, Jane Cho, Amy Rath Leibeck, Holly Kalba



CLASS OF 2004 (l to r) **First Row:** Stephanie Nobrega, Kelly Santangelo, Lauren Schnabel, Lisa Oswald
Second Row: Ashley Shelton, Kristen Grau, Melissa Walker, Valerie Giallella, Lisa Osier, Leigh Anne Reed, Carol Mauriello, Karen Groff
Third Row: Jessica Plant, Megan Campbell, Erin Klene, Edward MacKillop
Fourth Row: Amy Snyder, Hamlin Lucena Jr., Brett Tillou, Anna Hochstedler

Bill E. Zitek, Shelter Island Heights, NY, retired in January 2006. He enjoys watching birds, particularly bluebirds, wildlife photography, boating, and conservation.

Class of 1962

If you question whether or not practicing veterinary medicine is gratifying, **Robert A. Mavian**, Ossining, NY, would like to let you know why he still loves being a veterinarian after 47 years in practice. "Due to progressive chronic interstitial nephritis, I recently had a kidney transplant from my wife of 47 years, Barbara. Prior to the transplant, I wrote a letter of intent to each of my clients. Not only was I inundated with cards and letters, gifts, flowers, home-baked goods, and soups, but four clients even offered to donate a kidney to me. No wonder I can't wait to get back to work!"

Class of 1965

Jim and Linda Reve Peddie, Ventura, CA, want to let their fellow alumni know that they appreciate your support in opposing legislation banning the use of guides and tethers as elephant husbandry tools, saying, "Guides and tethers are essential to the work we have done with elephants encompassing diagnostics, treatment, artificial insemination, birthing, and research."

Class of 1968

Bernard "Buzz" Brody, Hudson, NH, sold his practice in 2001 and started a relief practice where he works a few days a week. He enjoys woodworking, metal working, and trap shooting.

Class of 1969

Les DeTholl, Perry, NY, is still enjoying dairy practice, but has slowed down. He spends about 10 days each winter in California with his son, Douglas CALS '96, a dairy nutritionist, then he spends about 4 to 5 weeks in Florida.

Class of 1977

Edward B. Chapman, Fayetteville, NY, has owned Fayetteville Veterinary Hospital since 1990. The practice treats mostly small animals, such as dogs and cats, and horses.

Class of 1978

Steven Schultz, East Amherst, NY, had a great time at his 30th Reunion with Roger Thompson, Peter King, Marty Siegel, and others reminiscing about old times. The cottage at the lake was great.

Class of 1980

Alan M. Coren, Dix Hills, NY, has deeply enjoyed being on the board of the Alumni Association. He recommends that all of his fellow alums actively support their great college, which has "helped us to achieve the wonderful careers we now are so proud of."

Class of 1981

Florence Higgins, Rush, NY, is continuing to do relief work in the Rochester area. She trains and shows her dogs (two Border collies and a Belgian sheepdog) in obedience and agility. Her husband, John Lebens, is still at Kodak. Florence's older son, Greg, is finishing his freshman year at Nazareth and her younger son, Zack, is making high honor roll during his sophomore year in high school.

Class of 1982

Nancy Kay, Sebastopol, CA, is a staff internist at VCA Animal Care Center, a 24-hour emergency/specialty care center in Rohnert Park, CA. Nancy's book,

Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life, was named a finalist in the Animals/Pets category of the 2009 Indie Excellence Book Awards.

Class of 1985

Julie B. Morris, Brooklyn, NY, is thriving in her own small animal practice (which she never thought she'd do!) in brownstone Brooklyn, mixing conventional medicine along with some acupuncture. She's happy with her Brooklyn guy, Vince, and their two cats, Nija and Head. She says, "Hi everyone...I've been out of touch for way too long!"

Class of 1986

Susan Ackermann, Hellertown, PA, wants to let her fellow classmates know that it's never too early to be thinking about our 25th reunion in 2011, so be sure to let her know your thoughts and suggestions. She hopes that all is well with her classmates and their families.

Liz (Dibs) Dole, Syracuse, NY, is looking forward to seeing a lot of classmates at her 25th Reunion in 2011! She's still practicing in Syracuse, NY.

Class of 1988

Jess Spatz Shelgren, Te Awamutu, New Zealand, wants her classmates to know that for anyone wanting to visit New Zealand, it is the best place to live in the whole world. She encourages her fellow alumni to make a business trip, see a few practices, and then have a holiday. She is in a mixed practice, doing 99% large animal-dairy work with a focus on mastitis control, disease prevention (herd health), and reproduction.

Class of 1990

Margaret Ohlinger, Bloomfield, NY, has been working for eight years as the senior examining veterinarian at Finger Lakes Racetrack in Farmington, NY. She's a member of the NYS Task Force on Retired Racehorses. She's also the founder and executive director (2004-2008) of the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program and was presented with the 2007 AAEP Lavin Cup Award.

Class of 1992

Karen Purcell, Londonderry, NH, is in her fifth year as a professional relief veterinarian covering New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York. She's still active in small mammal work, especially with her beloved ferrets. She urges her classmates to catch up with her on Facebook.

Class of 1993

Michelle (Knaggs) Ferrera, Riverview, FL, and her husband, Frank, just celebrated their eighth anniversary. Their daughters, Natalie (age 7) and Julie (age 5 ½) attend Providence Christian School and are excellent students. They have a dog, four cats, a parrot (same one since vet school), a gecko (who is 12 years old), a guinea pig, and a tank of goldfish. Michelle has been working for Boyette Animal Hospital for 5 ½ years and still enjoys taking care of dogs, cats, and a variety of exotic pets.

Class of 1994

Jane Cho, Ossining, NY, married James Gaarder (it's pronounced "Gorder") in February 2009 in New York City, with various NYSVVM alums, resident mates, and faculty attending to help them celebrate.

Class of 1995

Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello, Ogun State, Nigeria, completed a post-doctoral fellowship in 1996 at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She went on to

become a Statistical Consultant at Triangle Institute of North Carolina. Iyabo now represents the Ogun Central Senatorial District as a senator and is a working mother.

Jorge L. Colón, Lexington, KY, daughter Sydney (7), and fiancée, Maggie, are doing well. They're planning for an October 2009 wedding. His reproductive practice has expanded past the Thoroughbreds, and he has opened an Equine Embryo Transfer facility in Lexington to serve his Warmblood, Standardbred, and Quarter Horse clients.

Joanne Zahorsky, Woodland Hills, CA, wants to let her fellow alumni know that if all goes well, she and her husband will be welcoming into the world their first child (a daughter to be named Emily Rose) near the end of July.

Class of 1998

Krista Wiley, Holley, NY, is currently living with her husband, Kerri Neale, and two daughters, Kayla Ann and Koryn Ava. Her solo practice recently celebrated its sixth year. Her animals—Kolbi, Zeke, Zoey, and Zack—have all passed, but Zebby lives on. Krista recently traveled to Egypt with the CPC tour of veterinarians and has many tales to tell.

Class of 2000

Ashley Boyle, Landenberg, PA, has been working for the competition (uh oh!) since 2004. She is a faculty member at New Bolton Center at University of Pennsylvania in Equine Field Service. She and her husband, Christopher Nelson, have two wonderful boys, Tennyson (2 yrs) and Wyatt (a year in August). She tries to spend as much time with them when she's not "fixin' the sick horses" as Tennyson says. If you ever get to the Philadelphia area, let Ashley know!

Class of 2003

Robert Nichols, Skaneateles, NY, is back at Cornell working on an MBA and loving Ithaca.

James M. Smoliga, Bloomsburg, PA, married Dr. Andrea J. Franklin on May 31, 2008 at St. John's Catholic Church in Heidelberg, Australia. James earned a PhD in exercise science at the University of Pittsburgh after receiving his DVM and is now an assistant professor of exercise physiology at Marywood University in Scranton, PA.

Class of 2005

Sarah (Cooley) Dunleavy, Owings Mills, MD, will become certified in veterinary physical rehabilitation this year.

Class of 2006

Jennifer Stachnik, North Tonawanda, NY, got a new house and a new job for Christmas last year and is enjoying both.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Harlow J. Cameron '59, CALS '52, Jan. 19, 2009
Dr. Roger E. Gillett '56, Jan. 31, 2009
Dr. Christian J. Haller '42, Jan. 20, 2009
Dr. Deborah E. Light '83, '80 MS, CALS '77, Jan. 1, 2009
Dr. Floyd A. Lockwood '44, Jan. 2, 2009
Dr. Donald E. Pelloth '55, Feb. 23, 2009
Dr. Charles F. Reid '56, CALS MS '60, Feb. 12, 2009
Dr. Leon Z. Saunders PhD '51, Mar. 4, 2009
Dr. Arthur E. Scheld '63, Apr. 20, 2009
Dr. Victor Van Wagenen '37, Apr. 18, 2009
Dr. John D. Wheat '45, Mar. 4, 2009
Dr. John J. Wright '73, Jan. 30, 2009

The next **'Scopes Magazine** will be published in January 2010. Please let us know what you'd like to share with your classmates in our Class Notes section by November 30, 2009, for inclusion in our January issue.

Name _____ (Maiden if appropriate) _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please tell my classmates that... _____

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

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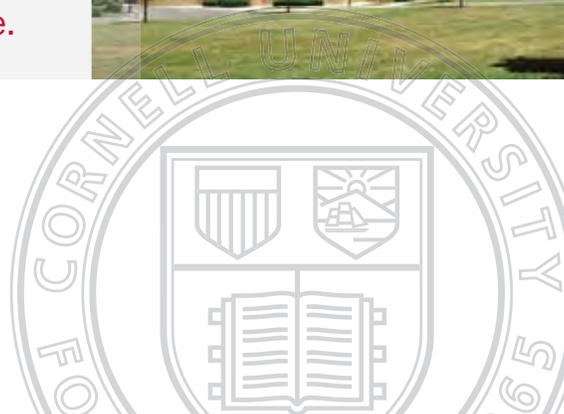


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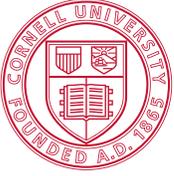
My father was a Cornell veterinary graduate from the Class of 1922. I wanted to honor his memory and career as well as help the College and University that I am so proud of. The gift annuity was the perfect answer.

~ Kent Roberts '51 and Shirley Roberts



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Members of the BETA Chapter of Alpha Psi presented the College with a gift of \$450,000 during Reunion 2009 to establish the Alpha Psi Clinical Fellowship Fund.

