The Annual Fund helps to fast-track new faculty, providing funds for new labs and critical equipment. These faculty are the College’s Future Legends, like Dr. Ursula Krotscheck.

Dr. Ursula Krotscheck, assistant professor of small animal surgery, uses advanced technology to evaluate bones and the best way to surgically repair them before the first cut is ever made. In collaboration with the College of Engineering, three-dimensional models of bones are created from CT scans done in the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Time spent evaluating models is time saved in surgery.

Thank you for your support of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Annual Fund.
ON THE COVER: Dr. Richard Goldstein balances clinical work with research, spending equal time at the bedside and bench.

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ON THE COVER: Dr. Richard Goldstein balances clinical work with research, spending equal time at the bedside and bench.
Shortly after Cornell University was founded in 1865, Ezra Cornell insisted that a chair of veterinary medicine be named. Following the instruction to seek the best-qualified person to teach courses in veterinary medicine and surgery, Andrew Dixon White recruited Dr. James Law, a distinguished veterinarian and teacher and graduate of the Edinburgh Veterinary College in Scotland, to lead this effort. Dr. Law hand-picked the College’s first faculty members, recruiting professors who represented the finest scholarship in their fields and quickly establishing Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine as one of the best in the world.

Since James Law’s deanship, the College’s deans and chairs have each endeavored to do exactly the same thing—to hire the best faculty in the world. As the well-publicized wave of faculty retirements begins to empty the senior ranks of faculty at top-tier institutions across the nation, remaining true to this legacy is becoming increasingly difficult. In fact, some experts have suggested that the aging of higher education’s professoriate may be the most important trend in higher education today.

Our College’s faculty is a community of dedicated scholars and professors whose research changes the paradigms that structure our lives and whose teaching has inspired generations of students to advance the health and well-being of animals and people. Our faculty includes scientists and scholars, educators and clinicians. All are distinguished experts in their respective fields, and all critical to our reputation as a leading institution. Together, they have all played a pivotal role in advancing our profession, through discovery, education, patient care, and community service. Our College’s ranking, which reflects the collective assessment of our peers, is the result of the accomplishments of our past and present faculty. It follows that to assure our future, we must renew the excellence of our faculty.

As explained in the article on page 20, the College is committed to this process: aware of the daunting demographics, and actively planning strategies to renew our faculty ranks despite difficult financial conditions. Recent hires in the departments of Clinical Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Molecular Medicine, and Microbiology and Immunology reflect the beginning of this strategy. And new chairs of Clinical Sciences and Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences will be critical to our success.

No college can be great without a first-class faculty; our strength and the quality of our students’ education depends upon our ability to attract the most promising professors—the individuals who will make the discoveries and provide the models for future generations. In this issue of ‘Scopes, we celebrate both the iconic faculty who have defined Cornell’s past and some of the rising stars who are shaping its future.

Cordially,

Michael I. Kotlikoff, VMD, PhD
Austin O. Hooey
Dean of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Mark Roberson, professor of physiology and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, hosted kindergarten through second-grade students from the Dryden Central Cas savant Elementary School at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Students spent time with Dr. Linda Mizer, who conducted a show and tell with models of animal skeletons, and also with three veterinary students who shared why they chose the veterinary profession and their career aspirations within the field. Emily Bold, of Honesdale, PA; Ellen Haynes, of Batavia, IL; and Kevin Render, of Buffalo, NY, also shared their favorite animals: a raccoon for Ellen, a horse for Emily, and a tiger for Kevin.

Alumni Drs. Jim and Linda Peddie, both from the Class of 1965, helped producers bring one of this spring’s most anticipated films, Water for Elephants, to the screen, serving as the onsite veterinarians ensuring the health and safety of the elephants. Released this spring, the film chronicles the life of a Cornell veterinary student who’s about to sit for his final exams when his parents are killed, prompting him to drop out and join the circus. The alumni are featured in the May/June issue of the Cornell Alumni Magazine. Find the link here: www.vet.cornell.edu/news/elephant_blog.cfm.

In one way or another, Dr. Brian Collins ’94 has been teaching Cornell veterinary students for years. This spring, he made it official: he is the College’s newest lecturer and will be working side-by-side with one of his long-time mentors, Dr. William Hornbuckle. Dr. Collins comes to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals from a local veterinary hospital, where he worked with many Cornell veterinary students who were veterinary assistants at the facility. As the president of the board for Ithaca’s Shelter Outreach Services, he also worked with Cornell students. In his free time, he is a volunteer and part-time employee with the Tompkins County SPCA, where he had the opportunity to help Cornell DVM candidates learn about shelter medicine.

Veterinary Clinical Pathology resident Dr. Nora Springer received a $2,500 research award from the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) this spring. For the past three years, ASVCP has given one “Share the Future” research award per year, based on the quality of the candidate’s written proposal and the potential of the project to expand the knowledge base in veterinary clinical pathology. The grants are used to support new research by clinical pathology residents and graduate students. Dr. Springer will use her award to investigate how tiny particles shed from platelets in the blood can lead to blood clots and thrombotic diseases in horses.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Alfonso Torres has been a teacher and mentor, an investigator and pioneer, and a staunch public servant. He is a compassionate, inspiring, and talented leader who has dedicated his career to understanding, controlling, and combating infectious diseases. Dr. Torres’ contributions to veterinary medicine were recognized recently with two awards: the Karl F. Meyer-James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award presented by the Veterinary Epidemiological Society and the APHIS Administrator Award.
Editor's Note: On January 19, 2011, Dr. Robert Kirk passed away at Kendal of Ithaca. He was a member of the College's faculty from 1952 to 1985 and served as director of Cornell University Hospital for Animals in the late 1970s and 1980s. Here, Dr. Danny W. Scott reflects on his relationship with Dr. Kirk.

I was in the Companion Animal Hospital—between dermatology patients—when my secretary, Sue Branch, arrived to tell me that Dr. Kirk had died. All I could do was sit down, put my face in my hands, and cry. I had lost my first boss, my mentor, one of my best friends, and my veterinary hero, all at the same time.

When I arrived as an intern in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery in 1971, Bob was my boss. In the years that followed—whether he was Service Chief, Hospital Director, or Department Chair—Bob was always in the clinic: observing the practice, talking with the students, visiting with all the “little people.” He always had, or made, the time to listen and to talk. With Bob, you always knew where you and he stood on any given issue. You got the straight scoop as he saw it. You knew the story would not change from day-to-day, or to fit the moment. You always got exactly what he believed.

As a resident in Small Animal Medicine, and for the years of tenure-tracking that followed, Bob was my mentor. Imagine! I had the ear of the most knowledgeable small animal clinical veterinarian on the planet! All the experience, all the wisdom, all the books, all the continuing education, all the practice: there will never be another who had it all across the entirety of small animal veterinary medicine. Bob was my staunch advocate, even in the worst of times.

Although Bob and I differed greatly in appearance and personality, we were very close where it matters: people, family, non-veterinary life, spirituality. He was one of my very best friends. People who witnessed some of our almost weekly rituals might not have understood just how close we were, and how much respect we had for each other. For instance, Bob and I would pass somewhere in the clinic and he would look me over and say: “If you’ll get the haircut, I’ll pay.”

Bob was, and is, my veterinary hero. He possessed the highest standards of scientific investigation, teaching, clinical research, and philosophy of practice, family, and community. It was always my aspiration to emulate Bob in these areas, but I never succeeded.

Bob Kirk will be called a “legend.” In my experience, the legends are often much larger than the individuals. That will not be the case here. The legend of Bob Kirk can never be as tall or as wide or as deep as the man.
If a butterfly’s wings can stir a hurricane thousands of miles away, just imagine what a cow’s tail can do.

Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho has based his career on an approach that enables him to simultaneously embrace and exploit the concept of interdependence. Shining a spotlight squarely on all things bovine, his research and clinical portfolios investigate issues that range from post-partum challenges to digital dermatitis and bridge the worlds of teaching and discovery. This means that whether the newly minted professor is collecting a sample in the field, cruising along pasture-lined roads in an ambulatory truck with a couple of veterinary students alongside him, or diagnosing a sick cow, Dr. Bicalho is happiest—and most effective—when he is putting the pieces together.

“Nothing happens in isolation,” said Dr. Bicalho, who earned his veterinary degree in Brazil before completing a residency in 2005 and his PhD in 2008 at Cornell. “To effectively solve problems, we must know how systems work, as a single operation and in combination with other mechanisms. Nutrition, disease, physiology, biological processes all have affects at the local and systemic levels. My work looks at the animal—and the issues it faces—as a whole.”

At the top of his research list is a project exploring new technology that will empower producers to better meet the nutritional needs of bovine, although the results will likely be of interest to moms, too.

“The most common approach for preparing milk for consumption is heat pasteurization,” said Dr. Bicalho. “No question it kills bacteria and the milk won’t hurt us. I’m not sure the milk is providing as many health benefits as it could, though, as the process of heating raw milk decreases the overall nutritional value.”

In a paradigm-shifting study, he is testing the ability of ultraviolet light to kill bacteria by comparing the biochemical and nutritional qualities of heat-pasteurized milk to that of UV-pasteurized milk. The study also involves careful analysis of the effects of milk pasteurized with both techniques on the health of the more than 1,000 calves enrolled in his study.

Dr. Bicalho is also developing a vaccine to prevent metritis (an inflammation of the uterus), investigating multiple causes for lameness in cows, studying the microbial diversity in the post-partum bovine uterus, and conducting a field trial to evaluate the effectiveness of four trace minerals (selenium, zinc, copper, and manganese) in a cow’s overall health. A collaborator at heart, Dr. Bicalho frequently shares both the challenges and results of his work at international conferences. Before year’s end, he will have offered keynote addresses at conferences in Spain, China, Argentina, Mexico, and across America. All of this, while publishing nearly a dozen new papers this year and preparing tomorrow’s crop of large animal veterinarians for their own fruitful careers.

Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho’s career pays tribute to one undisputable fact:
He's been called a pioneer, and he stands as a founding diplomat for the neurology specialty within the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. The most satisfying description, though, for Alexander de Lahunta DVM '58, PhD '63 is simply teacher, which sprang from “the joy that I discovered as a teaching assistant during my PhD studies.”

After earning his veterinary degree, Dr. D. worked for two years in mixed animal private practice, where he experienced what every student has wondered at least once: why should I learn what I will never use in real life? From personal experience, Dr. D. reasoned that veterinary coursework should be intimately linked with activity in clinical practice.

"Basic neuroanatomy can be tedious, focused on many little-used facts," said Dr. D. "I wanted my students to learn the entire process. Thus my course was vertically integrated in that it provided sufficient neuroanatomy to understand normal neurologic function; what happens when it is damaged by disease processes to result in clinical signs; enough knowledge about these disease processes to establish a differential diagnosis; and an introduction to the ancillary procedures to establish a presumptive clinical diagnosis."

His A to Z approach required precedent-setting collaboration, a thorough understanding of every aspect of neurology, and a willingness to share his discoveries. Dr. D. found partners at the College, working with the clinicians and pathologists who saw neurologic cases every day. He learned neuropathology and became involved in teaching this subject.

"All the veterinary colleges teach the basic neuroanatomy course in the first year and wait until the third year to teach clinical neurology," said Dr. D. "By the third year, students have forgotten much of what they need to know for the clinical course. I knew the material had to be integrated to facilitate true learning. We did this at Cornell."

His approach to helping students learn earned him a variety of awards, including the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, which he won four times. With every award, Dr. D's patience and his commitment to making sure students truly understood the necessary material were recognized.

"It is not enough to just present the material," said Dr. D. "As a professor, it was my job to make sure students learned what I was presenting. To make sure that they understood what they would need as a veterinarian. Fate brought me to teaching, and I couldn't have asked for a better teaching opportunity. I had the best students, and I could do applied research to feed my teaching. I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to help develop the neurology specialty along with a vertically integrated course. It was an exciting experience for me as well as for many of my students."


Dr. Alexander de Lahunta is renowned as an exceptional educator.
What do sink scum, dental plaque, and streambed slime have in common? They are all biofilms, billions of bacteria banded together into a resilient community. Beyond clogging your drain, these colonies can turn equipment such as catheters, implants, and heart valves into biomedical hazards. When growing inside the body, biofilms can cause infectious diseases affecting urinary tract infections, gingivitis, listeriosis in dairy cattle, and the infections associated with the deadly incurable lung disease cystic fibrosis.

But moving from solo life to social life requires communication. Dr. Holger Sondermann, structural biologist and student of cellular communication pathways, was determined to find out how bacteria organize.

"Biofilms cause the majority of all chronic infectious diseases," said Dr. Sondermann. "Once formed, they are extremely difficult to disperse. Knowing how these bacteria aggregate will help us find ways to stop them, but there was a void of information with regard to their signaling mechanisms."

What happens when a lone bacterium decides it’s had enough of the single’s scene? Like any good Facebook user, it sends out friend requests. Discovering a social networking tool much like those we use online, Dr. Sondermann found how bacteria form biofilms by sending invitations to their neighbors. A receptor protein called VpsT accepts the request and prepares the individual for community life.

"The next step is learning to modulate this pathway," said Dr. Sondermann. "This could inform hospital instrument design, guiding the creation of materials that repel biofilm formation. Understanding how they grow will be crucial in developing future therapies to disperse biofilms and treat chronic infectious diseases. In the case of bovine Listeria infections, understanding these mechanisms could help improve food safety."

Unveiling such molecular machinery requires probing proteins at the most basic level to uncover their structure. In his second line of research, Dr. Sondermann seeks the biophysical blueprints of cell-signaling proteins in the brain.

"When they work right, these proteins help by telling nerves what to do," said Dr. Sondermann. "When they don’t, they are associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as paraplegias, neuropathies, schizophrenia, and Huntington’s," said Dr. Sondermann. "Our goal is to find how they are normally built in order to see what physically changes when their mutations lead to neurological diseases. Seeing these differences shows us what is physically going wrong and may lead to better diagnostic tools for neurological disorders."

"I hope to continue our lab’s work while expanding our collaborations," said Dr. Sondermann, a 2008 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences and Robert N. Noyes Assistant Professor in Life Science and Technology. "We have partnered with faculty at the Dartmouth Medical School and University of California, Santa Cruz, on the biofilm project, using complementary approaches and exchanging new knowledge. I also hope to intensify my interactions with colleagues in the College of Veterinary Medicine who are interested in infectious diseases, to explore how our research program can fit into the broader mission of the College to improve health across species."
In her first few years at Cornell, Dr. Margaret Bynoe rocked the world of immunology with major advances that are already changing how diseases are treated. Some were so unconventional that it took time to convince her peers they could work. “I’ve been told things couldn’t be done,” said Dr. Bynoe, “and that I was only ‘challenging dogma.’ But that’s how science builds knowledge.”

Dr. Bynoe knew she was on to something when she developed a novel treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS) in mice, an auto-immune disease that affects the nervous system.

“The immune system is like a child,” she said. “It learns as it matures. If it learns improperly it starts attacking the body. In MS it targets myelin, the protective coating insulating nerves. To stop this we need a way to re-educate an adult immune system.”

Dr. Bynoe created patches soaked in myelin, applying them to the skin of mice genetically predisposed to MS. “Their immune systems learned to recognize myelin as friend, not foe. We successfully abolished the disease.”

When she submitted a grant to develop this technique into a human treatment, reviewers said it would never work. Several years later, Dr. Bynoe’s work inspired a group of Polish researchers to use her technique on humans, significantly reducing symptoms in 80 percent of MS patients in their trial.

The ability to re-imagine paradigms helped Dr. Bynoe discover another new technique with the potential to shape the course of treatments for MS and other major neurological ailments.

“While investigating Adenosine, a crucial compound in many bodily processes, we discovered that it regulates the blood-brain barrier, which prevents most immune cells and foreign substances from entering the brain,” she said.

On the bloodstream highway, the brain is a restricted exit, but sometimes pathogenic particles sneak through its molecular gate.

“Diseases that infiltrate the brain become difficult to treat,” Dr. Bynoe said. “If we could regulate the barrier safely we could put a damper on diseases like Alzheimer’s, cancer, and HIV-AIDS, by delivering drugs directly to afflicted cells. We could also potentially close the gate to stop rogue immune responses like those that cause MS. Adenosine seems to be the gatekeeper. We think we have the key.”

Using caffeine to block Adenosine from opening the gate to immune cells, Dr. Bynoe stopped MS-like symptoms in mice. Her lab’s next goal is to use Adenosine to get treatments past the barrier in mice with Alzheimer’s. Using various models in collaboration with other scientists, they plan to investigate barrier-breaching treatments that could one day tackle HIV-AIDS.

“It took over a year of rigorous experimentation to confirm it works,” said Dr. Bynoe. “Now we hope to expand to treating larger animals.”

Partnering with entrepreneurs and investors, Dr. Bynoe helped found a growing company driven by her research. They are currently working to develop tools that will treat a wide array of human neurologic diseases.
What comes to mind when you think of Francis H. Fox DVM ’45? If you were one of the legions he trained, you might remember lively lectures offset by mischievous humor, or rolling up farm roads for firsthand lessons in large animal medicine. Perhaps you’ve only heard his name in the College’s legends: rumors of preternatural diagnostic powers or elaborate pranks exchanged with students. If you’ve ever driven down Route 366 near the College, you may think of his name in white paint, emblazoned on the side of an old bridge over the road and accompanied by a public birthday counter.

This symbol has become a lasting tribute to the strong bonds between one of the College’s most well-known professors and the generations of veterinary students he trained, challenged, inspired, and befriended. That close camaraderie roused a large group of Dr. Fox’s former students and fast friends to unite and establish a scholarship in his honor, gathering supporters happy to give their mentor a legacy that would continue his passion for helping veterinary students for years to come.

“When I was a student I spent a lot of extra time with Dr. Fox,” said Dr. Pete Malnati ’51, who spearheaded the project. “He would call up interested students to go out on special cases with him. He was an exceptionally committed teacher, happy to share his knowledge and experience and sense of humor. I appreciated what he did for me, and for my fellow students, and we wanted to give back.”

The friends of Francis Fox had no trouble getting support from enthusiastic peers. More than 200 people contributed over $22,000 in the first year alone. When Dr. Fox entered the Centennial New York State Veterinary Medical Society meeting in Rochester, NY, in the fall of 1990, he was surprised with a formal announcement establishing the endowment in his name.

“We are honoring Dr. Fox for his contributions to veterinary medicine in the field of large animal medicine and ophthalmology, especially as a teacher, clinician, and advocate of the art of physical diagnosis,” said Dr. Malnati. “He has given many of us this basic foundation in veterinary medicine. Thus we owe him this measure of gratitude as a friend, teacher, and fellow veterinarian.”

The selection criteria reflect Dr. Fox’s interests and ideals, seeking students highly motivated to serve the large animal sector and those showing a gift that mirrors Dr. Fox’s famous talent for physical diagnosis.

“It was all done behind my back,” said Dr. Fox. “I never expected such a thing and felt very humbled. I hope it will help students who love the profession and feel a calling to medicine because of their love of animals and satisfaction in working with them.”

The Francis H. Fox Scholarship Fund has grown substantially since its inception in 1990, with continual support from hundreds of contributors. It aids two to four students in need a year and has supported a total of 29 to date. Should you have interest in contributing to the Francis H. Fox Scholarship, please contact Amy Robinson in the Alumni Affairs and Development Office at amy.robinson@cornell.edu or 607.253-3742.
If Noah’s ark sails again it could make a fruitful boarding stop in the office of Howard Evans, BS ’44, PhD ’50.

A microcosm of biodiversity, this miniature museum is decked floor to ceiling with animal specimens from across the globe. Yet it models only a brief sample of the expansive zoological knowledge Dr. Evans holds. This professor emeritus is a proficient anatomist whose life is rich with stories of worldwide adventures, a tireless fascination for how life is built across kingdoms, and an equal delight in sharing this beauty with others.

“Everyone should know some anatomy because it’s the basis of how animals act and what they do,” said Dr. Evans. Since joining the College’s Department of Anatomy in 1950, he has taught thousands of veterinarians the inside story of how animals work.

With a joy in teaching as indiscriminate as his joy in nature, he advised Cornell’s undergraduate zoology club, served on 37 graduate committees, and spent 20 summers teaching the AQUAVET program. This generous collaborative spirit extended to his colleagues at the College, where he served as Secretary of the Faculty for 12 years and chaired the Department of Anatomy for 10.

He has served the profession’s future as the author of more than 160 publications, including his seminal text, Miller’s Anatomy of the Dog, which he and Sandy de Lahunta are currently updating to a new full-color edition. He has edited several anatomy journals and served as consultant for anatomy programs in universities including Tufts, University of Georgia, UC Davis, and international universities in Grenada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, and Japan.

For Dr. Evans, retirement means more time for teaching. “Leading trips for Cornell Adult University (CAU) has been good fun and gave me the chance to collect more specimens for Cornell’s Museum of Vertebrates,” said Dr. Evans. Since retiring in 1986 he has led scores of Cornell alumni across the world in over a dozen educational expeditions through CAU. His recent Antarctic expedition introduced him to the Gentoo penguin skeleton now adorning his desk.

With bins brimming full of tangible treasures including stuffed animals, bones, fossils, and more, Dr. Evans now takes his show on tour. The energetic 88-year-old regularly presents on natural history topics across Cornell, including at Alice Cook House, where he is a Faculty Fellow and frequently dines with undergraduate residents. He and his wife, Erica, continue yearly pilgrimages to teach fish structure at Cornell’s Shoals Marine Lab, and he still gives anatomy lectures at the College.

His natural treasures and world of experience fascinate children at local elementary schools, where his visits are in high demand. Twice a week in the fall he gives classrooms a taste of nature’s spectacular show and tell.

“Teachers try to encourage kids to ask questions,” said Dr. Evans. “But when they get excited about nature they just love to tell stories.” As a storytelling scientist, Dr. Evans is gifted at both asking questions and relating experiences.
Elizabeth Berliner DVM ’03 wasn’t the stereotypical child who dreamed of being a veterinarian. In fact, besides the stray neighborhood cats that she fed when she could, her childhood was pretty much pet-free. But every event in her life—even caring for the stray cats—prepared her for her current position at the College, where she is the Janet L. Swanson director of clinical programs for Maddies’® Shelter Medicine Program.

One of the early steps in her journey to Cornell began in Washington, DC, where she was an English teacher. Working with at-risk and emotionally challenged students, Dr. Berliner found herself taking them to animal shelters, encouraging her students to work through their own difficulties by helping homeless animals.

“As I watched how the students benefited from their interactions with the animals and came to understand the satisfaction the experience was giving me, I realized that I wanted to focus on veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Berliner. After graduating veterinary school, she combined her professional aspirations and her commitment to community outreach by volunteering with RAVS (www.ruralareavet.org). “Every decision I’ve made has moved me closer to finding an opportunity to embrace a community that embraces homeless and needy pets. I didn’t expect to be teaching again, but the benefits of exposing all veterinary students to shelter medicine are so vast. In addition to clinical training, the experience helps them to develop empathy, a skill that benefits all companion animals and their owners.”

Today, Dr. Berliner’s time is all about hands-on, blending individual patient care with population health management, preventive medicine, and behavioral health. Working with Dr. Janet Scarlett, director of Cornell’s Maddies’® Shelter Medicine Program, Dr. Berliner developed a two-week shelter medicine clinical experience for veterinary students; strengthened the collaboration with the Tompkins County SPCA; and launched a shelter medicine internship, one of only a handful in the country.

Dr. Berliner’s first two internship recruits, Drs. Michael Greenberg and Kathleen Riley, are completing rotations in Cornell’s teaching hospital as well as in shelters with veterinary programs. Dr. Berliner designed the internship experience with opportunities for the graduate veterinarians to provide high-quality, high-volume spays and neuters; manage the spread of infectious disease in shelters; provide preventive care in shelters; and discuss opportunities to redesign shelter facilities.

Her work, though, has just begun. She hopes to follow Dr. Scarlett’s lead and engage more proactively in the national conversation around shelter medicine and to expand the reach of Cornell’s program by placing additional veterinary students in more shelters along the eastern seaboard.

“The need is there,” said Dr. Berliner, referring to the more than 8 million animals residing in more than 4,500 shelters across the country. “The best way I can help these animals is to introduce veterinary students to shelter medicine and to prepare a new generation of professionals with an understanding of its challenges.”
“I like identifying problems in the clinic and trying to solve them in the lab,” said Dr. Richard Goldstein. “Speaking to veterinarians on a daily basis exposes many of the practical questions veterinarians face. When should we vaccinate? Do we treat a patient that tests positive for a condition but has no symptoms? What genes cause disease and how can we stop them from passing on? These questions guide treatment and breeding decisions regularly affecting our colleagues and patients.”

Though he started at Cornell on a purely clinical track, Dr. Goldstein began pursuing his interest in applied research, balancing clinical work with an expanding research program. He now spends equal time in both arenas, mainly addressing kidney problems in dogs and cats.

“Kidney disease is one of the most common issues we see in small animal practice,” said Dr. Goldstein. “This hospital regularly sees kidney disease cases, often caused by genetic disorders, and patients with infectious diseases like leptospirosis and Lyme disease. My research reflects my cases. I investigate infectious diseases and search for the genetic sources of chronic kidney disorders.”

Dr. Goldstein's genetic investigations have saved nearly an entire breed of dogs from a key cause of increased blood calcium that can cause kidney problems. In primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT), a tumor in the parathyroid gland causes a pathological increase in the body's calcium levels, leading to lethargy, shaking, weight loss, bladder and kidney stones, and in some cases organ damage, renal failure, or death.

“The disease doesn't typically surface until a dog is around 10,” said Dr. Goldstein. “Unfortunately, many well known champion dogs carried the disease and were bred many times before their owners could know. It became a particularly big problem in the population of the Keeshond breed.”

Using connections built through working with Keeshonden in the clinics, Dr. Goldstein turned this building tragedy into a breed-saving solution. Running a genome-wide scan to compare a large population of infected dogs to healthy dogs, he found the responsible genes and developed a new genetic test to stop PHPT in its tracks.

“Our lab has tested thousands of dogs since we started,” he said. “All the major North American breeders have now tested their dogs, and many from Europe and Australia as well. A few years after developing the test, we are close to eliminating PHPT from the American and European show dog population.”

Dr. Goldstein also became the first in North America to document primary hyperoxaluria, a rare kidney disease in cats, and to find its genetic source.

“We went from seeing two kittens in our pathology service to actually going back and finding the genetic cause,” said Dr. Goldstein. “It can help to have a foot in both worlds, and it goes both ways. I think that, in the area in which you specialize, you're a better clinician for the research you do as well.”

THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS

Some faculty get their fix in the clinics, some love learning in the lab, but Dr. Richard Goldstein enjoys the best of both.
Occasionally, 'Scopes invites guest speakers to share their perspective on the issue's theme. In this issue, Dr. Shana Silverstein '99 addresses the impact faculty have on students in an open letter to the College's faculty.
Dear Cornell Faculty,

Hi. You may not remember me. I was in the Class of ’99. I was the one who “almost” fell asleep once in awhile, despite my best efforts. Oh, and I was one of the crazy souls who attempted to act in the Veterinary Players musicals. My veterinary academic career was not earth-shattering, nor anything of which to be ashamed. But during the four years that I spent training to be a veterinarian, I had the honor of being your student. When I was asked to reflect on how faculty impacted my life, I wanted to make sure that you are all reminded of something: you affect a lot of people in many big and little ways.

Considering that Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded the top ranking by U.S. News & World Report four times since 2000, it goes without saying that I received a good education. I don’t know if I fully appreciated the difference in my education (compared to other programs) when I was there, but as I began to work with colleagues from other universities, it became more apparent. To be fair, a big part of that was the student body. My classmates were an amazing group. If not as individuals, you may remember us as a whole. We were the third class to have Case Based Learning, and it bonded us together like any group of people enduring a major...trauma. But we worked through the scariness of it all with some core people leading us. And then you began to shape us.

Dr. de Lahunta, the impact of your contributions to the field of neurology goes without saying. But it was your teaching that was a gift to thousands of students over your career. Despite my struggles to be coherent at 8am for class, the lifetime collection of cases you shared with us was a treasure trove of your experience. Every time I perform a cranial nerve exam, I can hear you growling out the sensory/motor pathway, “FIVE – SEVEN, FIVE – SEVEN” (apply heavy New Hampshire accent). I also must admit that I still aspire to hop a dog as well as you did, regardless of its size. I’m still struggling not to perform some mutation of a lateral moonwalk. BUT I still hop those dogs with a commitment to perform a comprehensive neuro exam. Thank you for teaching me the skills that I have used to help countless pets and their families.

Dr. Saidla, though no longer a member of the current faculty, you complemented our academic program with a perfect balance of practical skills and comfort. I shudder to think of how many hours you spent counseling students, since your door was always open. You were committed to reminding us of the other facets of medicine we needed to uphold—the history, the ethics, and the communication skills to work with future clients. Thank you for validating that medicine is more than just a science—it’s the whole picture.

Dr. Mary Smith, this NJ suburb girl was a bit worried about her ambulatory rotation, to say the least. Besides setting such a strong example as a leading female veterinarian in a male-dominated world, you were passionate about your message: offer realistic options. I watched as you worked to make the treatment options something the farmers could financially consider. I learned to splint a lamb’s leg with a tongue depressor, not a $50 cast. And, to be honest, my last feline patient was very grateful for that option, because she hated the clunky splint that preceded her popsicle stick!

Dr. Hornbuckle, I took your rotation twice because I was so terrified of jumping out into the “real world” and not being ready. By the end of my second rotation, I felt like I had developed some level of confidence. And your message was clear—perform a complete exam, educate your client, and follow up. I still pride myself on that level of follow-up. I’d venture to say some clients hear from me more than they’d like. Thank you for helping me recognize what my style was going to be with my future clients. You encouraged me to pursue it, and it has served my patients well.

Dr. Center, as with Dr. de Lahunta, you don’t need to be told the impact your work has had upon the veterinary community. Since I graduated you were influential in making SAMe a part of every small animal practitioner’s treatment option list, and identified the aflatoxin responsible for tainted dog-food deaths. Your passion for your field has committed me to getting the right kind of tissue sampling to get accurate diagnoses, and I’m a better doctor for it. In just the past year, your accessibility to discuss a case (and a biopsy I sent to your lab) was amazing. I discuss my patient’s case with her owner with the confidence that I have one of the brightest minds giving me her time and opinion. I’m grateful, and so is Polly’s family. And it makes me proud to be a Cornellian when I can offer that.

Twelve years after I left Ithaca, I am proud to report that I am a small animal practitioner who is dedicated to practicing high-quality compassionate medicine. I want you all to know that the time you spent training me and thousands like me was well spent. I’m proud that some of my classmates have pursued specialty board certification and others are forging ahead in research. But I wanted to remind you that for those of us who are in the trenches of general practice, we are better doctors for having spent those four years with you. We do not publish, so you don’t hear about us after we leave. But we touch many lives every day, and you have therefore indirectly affected more patients and families than you may ever realize. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Shana Silverstein, DVM
Class of 1999
“I started at James Baker’s lab under a challenge,” said Leland (Skip) Carmichael, PhD ’56. “I came in his office looking for graduate work. He told me I had six months to figure out how a dog’s immune system responds to canine hepatitis, or I was out.”

Fortunately for dogs across the world, Dr. Carmichael passed the test. Over the 40 years he spent at Baker Institute he became one of the world’s best-known international authorities on canine infectious diseases. He has characterized, developed tests and treatment plans for, and invented vaccines against most major canine infectious and reproductive diseases, including distemper, hepatitis, canine parvovirus-2, canine herpesvirus, and canine brucellosis.

“We were at a time when diseases were being recognized and their causes clarified,” said Dr. Carmichael. “We focused on research that could directly benefit animals, and always saw our problems in the field.”

From the field to the lab, Dr. Carmichael exercised an aptitude for innovation in eradicating disease. “Baker Institute was one of the first labs to use tissue culture methods to isolate viruses, look for vaccines, develop serological tests, and measure immune responses,” said Dr. Carmichael. “When a mysterious disease began causing widespread abortions in dogs across the nation, I was charged with figuring out why. By air delivery at midnight I received a paint can that contained aborted fetuses and placental tissue. I went straight to the lab and inoculated plates with tissue samples. The next morning the plates had bloomed with bacteria I’d never seen before.”

Dr. Carmichael had found a new species of Brucella, bacteria causing a devastating venereal disease best known for killing farm animals and harming humans who consume infected raw milk.

“Brucellosis is one of the most important veterinary diseases,” said Dr. Carmichael. “We were the first to recognize the canine strain and establish control. We offered a free testing service, and fielded over 10,000 phone calls in the first year. Now Cornell’s Animal Health Diagnostic Center runs the most reliably accurate Brucellosis test I know. The disease has all but disappeared in dogs.”

Today, canine infectious diseases are much rarer than when Dr. Carmichael first stepped into Baker’s office, in part because of the work he and his colleagues at Baker Institute have done. Meanwhile, his educational legacy continues. Dr. Carmichael’s former graduate student Colin Parrish now directs Baker Institute for Animal Health and the Feline Health Center.

“Dogs are part of the human experience,” said Dr. Carmichael, “but we’ve seen a nation-wide diminution of canine research in recent years. Most funding comes from institutions that favor research modeling human disease. Baker believed that veterinary research should focus on diseases of animals; I was fortunate to work in a time when that goal garnered strong support. I hope this Institute will continue conducting research that can help dogs in the future.”
For Dr. George C. Poppensiek, his time at Cornell was all about people: learning from them, tackling issues with them, spending as much time as possible listening to their hopes and goals, and making a difference together. Long before collaboration and teamwork were the way of the workplace, Dr. Poppensiek was orchestrating strategic alliances for the benefit of students, patients, and the profession.

“I spent five years in industry,” recalled Dean Emeritus Poppensiek. “Research in the corporate environment was carried out by teams. I saw the advantage of sharing thoughts with people who had different academic backgrounds. As the dean, I did whatever I could to facilitate this type of exchange at the College.”

Many of the collaborations he spawned were research-oriented. Widely known for its pre-eminant professors, the College also gained status as one of the leading veterinary research centers during Dr. Poppensiek’s tenure because of the resident “brain power” that, he said, attracted men—and now women—of reputation to Cornell. Recalling giants like Drs. William Arthur Hagan, Hugh Dukes, Myron Fincher, Gordon Danks, Ellis Leonard, Phillip Levine, Malcolm Miller, Dorsey Bruner, Peter Olafson, and many others, Dr. Poppensiek mused that the keys to intellectual prowess may lie in enthusiasm, curiosity, and astute observation.

“Cornell’s veterinary college has always been at the growing edge simply because of the quality of those here,” said Dr. Poppensiek, who was himself an active virology researcher, professor, and member of multi-nation committees. “The College’s pioneers were responsible for many of the techniques and treatments that farm animal and pet owners still find in veterinary clinics today.”

Serving the needs of animals, Dr. Poppensiek said, was one of his foremost concerns as the dean. When his term as dean ended in 1974, he resumed his faculty position as the James Law Professor of Comparative Medicine and was also named an adjunct professor at the State University of New York Medical College in Syracuse. In this position, he became an early proponent of the “one health” initiative.

“My time at the medical college made me realize how helpful it is to rub shoulders with people in human medicine,” said Dr. Poppensiek. “The opportunity to work with people in the same discipline but who have different patients was the foundation for a type of synergy that benefited everyone.”

Looking forward, Dr. Poppensiek hopes that collaborations and commitments designed to improve animal health continue to be top objectives at the College.

“We are plagued by many idiopathic diseases,” said Dr. Poppensiek. “Because there are still so many that we don’t know the causes for, we must not let our focus wander. If the nation’s leading veterinary college strays from this goal, than who will tackle the issues? We need to remain committed to identifying the root causes of diseases, and we must never lose sight of the value of physical diagnosis. The cardinal senses—feeling, seeing, hearing, smelling—will never become obsolete.”

Neither will the passion and humility that a gentleman like Dr. Poppensiek exudes.
but no one knew which genes were responsible. "Looking through windows she made in chicken eggs to study developing embryos, Dr. Kurpios discovered the key gene regulating intestine looping: PITX2. "This gene sets off a cascade of signals telling other genes how to build organs," said Dr. Kurpios. "All species have this gene on the left side of the body. If it ends up on the wrong side, the organ map shifts and the intestines loop improperly." This discovery shed light on how gut malformations can develop. "We are looking into the potential role of PITX2 in this and other bowel obstruction issues, such as gastric dilatation and volvulus, that commonly afflict dogs and horses as well as humans," said Dr. Kurpios.

Actively engaged with peers in the Vertebrate Genomics Group and the Cornell Stem Cell Program, Dr. Kurpios also collaborates with computational biologists and bioengineers across campus to model developmental changes and analyze the mechanical properties of tissue matrices influencing organ growth.

"These are fundamental biological questions with enormous applicability to stem cell biology and cancer studies," said Dr. Collins. "Dr. Kurpios' hiring reflects the goals of the New Life Science initiative in strengthening key research areas and recruiting faculty to work across disciplinary boundaries."
From eager student to wise professor, Dr. Robert Hillman spends his days doing what he loves: serving.

When Dr. Robert Hillman ’55 was a student at Cornell’s veterinary college, a honking horn brought him running. It might be milk fever. It might be a calving case. It was always an opportunity to learn.

“The interns knew I was interested in large animal medicine,” said Dr. Hillman, who put himself through veterinary school by helping local practitioners with odd jobs. “They’d blow the horn. I’d jump in the truck, and away we’d go.”

Today, he’s driving and the “truck” is a 2005 blue Ford Crown Victoria. With students by his side, he has become the patient professor, sharing a half a century of experience with a few key words, illustrative demonstrations, and a range of facial expressions that captures everything from “that’s not quite right” to “I couldn’t have done better myself.”

“It’s important to let students do as much as they can,” said Dr. Hillman, who teaches every day, despite retiring in 1995. “To challenge them with problems and let their minds work, that’s the key. I take students on calls, diagnose and treat the animals letting students do all that they can, and then move on.”

This is not to say that his days are routine. In fact, no two days are the same. In addition to his farm calls in and around Ithaca, Dr. Hillman served as the official veterinarian at the New York State Fair for 25 years, again with students by his side.

“We were able to treat some of the finest livestock in the country,” said Dr. Hillman. “Over the years, we also treated dancing bears, white tigers, and sick camels. It was always something different, always a challenge.”

Watching students solve the challenges is one of the highlights of Dr. Hillman’s career.

“You can see their excitement when they finally ‘feel’ something,” said Dr. Hillman. “They exhibit enthusiasm, and you can watch their self-confidence grow as they become more comfortable diagnosing and recommending treatments. It makes me proud when my students—current and former—do good work.”

It can’t be all work, though. When assisting in teaching the poisonous plants course, Dr. Hillman invites the students to his home to see approximately 70 potentially toxic plants as they are found growing in the wild. The annual fall event is known equally for its access to live specimens and for the donuts, cider, and good times.

Dr. Hillman’s passion for the profession grew from childhood experiences on a dairy farm. His proclivity for teaching was inspired, he said, by his own mentors: “I was fortunate to have been able to work with and be mentored by so many exceptional veterinarians over the years. Being able to incorporate their teachings into my everyday interactions with students, patients, and clients has enabled me to have a most enjoyable and rewarding career at Cornell. Thank you to them all—mentors and students—for making my experience such a pleasant journey.”
The tide is rising in our faculty pool as the average age of our professors continues to climb. This demographic shift suggests an oncoming wave of retirement that targets the foundation upon which the College finds its strength: our faculty. Finding new talent to fill the impending gap will shape the future course of the College and the profession.

“The faculty body is healthy when it has a balanced distribution of faculty members of different ranks,” said Judy Appleton, associate dean of academic affairs, in charge of academic appointments at the College. “To maintain a healthy dynamic we need continual intake. During my first year as associate dean in 2007 only one person retired. This year four will retire. It’s the beginning of a wave.”

Colleges across the Cornell campus are experiencing the same phenomenon. A demographic swell has been building since a brief hiring boom in the late 1980s. Since then the proportion of Cornell University professors aged 55 and above has doubled from 25 percent in 1982 to 50 percent in 2010. Numbers at the College climbed even more sharply, from 21 percent then to today’s unprecedented 57 percent. For the University and especially for the College, hiring new faculty has become more crucial than ever before.

“This is the right time to strengthen our faculty base, but that opportunity comes with challenges,” said Dr. Appleton. “Universities haven’t been hiring, so there’s a large number of talented individuals searching for positions, which creates an extremely qualified pool. At the same time, we are competing with other universities in the same situation, all vying for the cream of the crop.”

This year the College embarked on four new faculty searches for positions in three different departments, with most searches attracting over 150 applications each. According to Dr. Appleton, the applications were extraordinary, and competition with other universities grew heated as we bid for the best.

“Recruitment in the sciences is expensive,” said Dr. Appleton. “A new faculty member may need significant startup funds to establish a lab or clinical service, buy equipment to support their activities, and hire students and technical assistants. Finding startup funds is our most significant challenge.”

This summer, department chairs across the College will convene to form a “five-year faculty needs forecast.” They will use this forecast to monitor and coordinate hiring needs and optimize efforts to recruit new members to the College’s faculty body.

“This will be one of the most important accomplishments we achieve,” said Dr. Appleton. “Finding promising new faculty members to continue the work of the accomplished clinicians, teachers, and researchers among the senior ranks is crucial to our continued success. It is a great responsibility and very challenging in the current financial climate. It is also a fantastic opportunity that will set the course of the veterinary college for the next century.”

To help the College invest in faculty, please contact Kevin Mahaney in the development office at 607.253.3779 or km70@cornell.edu.
After speaking with Dr. Doug Dedrick ’61, it is easy to see that he is driven by an intense desire to improve the world. Where others may see the current situation as something that must be adjusted to or even accepted, he has spent a lifetime changing the status quo, bettering the lives of countless animals and people in the process.

After working in a mixed animal practice in Massachusetts right after graduation, completing a tour with the Air Force in 1964, and working at a small animal practice in his hometown of East Aurora, NY, Dr. Dedrick bought his first practice in 1967. In a first for the state, he incorporated Hinckley Veterinary Hospital (now the Buffalo Small Animal Hospital) as a non-professional veterinary practice.

“This allowed me to consider selling the practice to a non-veterinarian someday in the future,” said Dr. Dedrick, whose broad-based interests eventually led him to retire from the veterinary profession and return to school for a master’s degree in pastoral ministry. “Veterinary medicine was an incredibly rewarding and challenging career. Life must be balanced, though, and there’s a time for everything.”

Before retiring, he started the first emergency clinic in the Buffalo area in 1977. Only the second such clinic in the state, the Greater Buffalo Small Animal Clinic coalesced more than 30 veterinarians who took shifts helping animals in life-threatening situations. As the founder, Dr. Dedrick wrote the constitution and organized the operation that was conceived to help people care for their beloved pets in some of the most critical situations.

In 2001, Dr. Dedrick decided to do something about pet overpopulation. He launched a mobile spay and neuter clinic that served five counties in western New York, sterilizing approximately 12,000 animals. To accomplish the task on a logistical level, he partnered with area nonprofits who promoted his service and scheduled animals for procedures. Dr. Dedrick worked two or three days a week for six years, providing this service to help reduce the number of unwanted animals and improve the health of family pets.

Earlier this year, Dr. Dedrick saw another opportunity to influence the care and well-being of animals. He recently established a charitable gift annuity at the College of Veterinary Medicine in support of the Class of 1961 Scholarship.

“My gift will be used to help people afford a quality education at Cornell,” said Dr. Dedrick, whose father, brother, and uncle are all Cornell graduates as well. “I am grateful for the ‘doors opened’ and opportunities availed to me because of my DVM degree from Cornell. The multiple blessings have been unending and unexpected even though I was the fourth member of my family to attend Cornell. My classmates continue to be some of the many great treasures in my life. I am truly honored to be able to acknowledge my education and experiences accrued during and following my time spent at Cornell.”

For more information on charitable gift annuities, please contact Kevin Mahaney, Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications at 607.253.3779 or km70@cornell.edu.
Veterinarians work at the intersection of animal and human health. The intricate connections between people, animals, and our environment create a set of challenges that link the health and well-being of each group to the other. This dynamic—and the need for more people who are qualified to address the burgeoning challenges associated with it—are at the root of a gift from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation to Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Created for the purpose of protecting and improving the welfare of animals of all kinds with a focus on cats and dogs, the promotion of veterinary programs, and the protection of wildlife, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation has awarded the College of Veterinary Medicine a $300,000 grant to be distributed evenly over three years. The resources will be used to support experiential learning as well as research in the areas of shelter and conservation medicines.

“John and Jane shared their lives with a number of animals and enjoyed nature very much,” said Marsha Sterling, Chair of the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation. “Jane established the Foundation to honor her husband. In doing so, she has given us a rare and wonderful opportunity to consider the entire spectrum of animal care. When we learned from fellow Trustee Dr. Marnie FitzMaurice of the potential opportunities to fund work in the areas of shelter medicine and conservation medicine, we realized that we could honor the Wiederholds’ wishes by inspiring students to pursue these avenues of the profession—as practitioners and as researchers.”

Each year, College faculty will be invited to submit proposals for programs and research investigations that will provide additional and innovative opportunities for veterinary and post-veterinary students to engage in hands-on work or conduct basic or applied research that fosters a greater awareness of issues related to animal welfare and environmental conservation. Programs may be conducted during the academic year or over the summer and may address some of society’s most critical needs: pet overpopulation, wildlife preservation and conservation, and animal cruelty, to name a few.

“I continue to be grateful to the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation for their ongoing interest in supporting conservation and shelter medicine programs at Cornell,” said Michael I. Kotlikoff, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. “The Foundation’s support has a significant impact on the College’s work to train students and to advance knowledge in areas that serve the world’s most vulnerable animals. Together, we are preparing a new generation of professionals who will explore the interdependent relationships that exist between all species and our habitat. Through these initiatives, our students will learn first-hand how these relationships affect the health of animals wild and domestic, and sustain a well balanced environment.”
Class of 1939
Robert Ferber, DVM, Syosset, NY
After more than six decades at its office on Northern Boulevard in Bayside, NY, North Shore Animal Hospital is bidding adieu to the place that was once the only animal hospital for miles around. Opened by Dr. Robert Ferber in 1939, the practice was one of the few locations that treated small animals. Since then, it has expanded into a family business extending three generations by Dr. Ferber’s late brother, Leonard Ferber DVM ’43, his son, Alan Ferber DVM ’70, and his grandson, Michael Ferber DVM ’96. The new office, located at 215th Street and 42nd Avenue in Bayside, will feature an underwater animal treadmill, indoor exercise arena, and a service that will allow owners to see their pets on webcams while they are away on vacations.

Class of 1955
Joseph “Bud” Stuart, DVM, Santa Barbara, CA; docky2@cox.net
Tomorrow is St Patrick’s Day, and we are living the ‘Life of Reilly’ here in Santa Barbara—a great place to visit also. Looking forward to seeing some familiar faces at the 2015 reunion. Cheers! Having a heavenly retirement here in California. Just completed my first book. Feeding Fido and Fluffy Too. Watch for it! BTW, have observed that both cats and horses seem to have longer life spans here on west coast. The climate? I am quite excited to let all of you know that my book will finally be published in the next few months. The title will be Feeding Fido and Fluffy Too. It will deal with pet nutrition from a preventive and therapeutic aspect. Plus will there be a lot of Herrlitt-like stories to tell. It has been a lot of fun (and work) to write, gives credit to Cornell for my excellent education, and should be fun for all to read. Look for a 6x9 paperback with a very cute cover.

Class of 1961
Bob Lynk, DVM, Delmar, NY; thelynks@midnet.net
Nancy Radick Lynk, HumEc ’52 and Bob Lynk CALS ’54, DVM ’61 were honored in September 2010, along with six other alumni recipients with the Frank H.T. Rhodes Award for Exemplary Alumni Service. Nancy and Bob felt they represented the blue collar alumni who have proudly supported their university year in and out as a thank you for the education received from Cornell!!

LeRoy S. Roemer, DVM, Tryon, NC
Dr. LeRoy S. Roemer and Eleanor Roemer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Lee and Ellie were married on April 1, 1961, in Montclair, NJ while Lee was a senior in College. The Roemers have two daughters, one son and five grandchildren. A special family celebration is scheduled for the summer.

Class of 1974
Bruce C. Campbell, DVM, Canandaigua, NY
The article, “A different kind of doctor,” in the Tuesday, April 19, 2011, edition of the Daily Messenger (Canandaigua, NY) highlighted Dr. Bruce Campbell and his veterinary practice at the Finger Lakes Animal Hospital in Canandaigua. Dr. Campbell, regarded highly by his patients, commented on both the challenging and exciting aspects of the ever-changing veterinary field. “The satisfaction of being there for sick or broken animals—it’s just constant warm and fuzzies from helping these critters. The other satisfying part is how veterinary medicine has grown in the scope of diagnostic abilities in the 40 years I’ve been doing this to the degree where I still feel like I’m fresh out of school.”

Class of 1975
Linda (King) Parrish, DVM, Reedsburg, WI; lparrish@matc-madison.edu
An instructor with the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at Madison Area Technical College Reedsburg Campus in Madison, WI, Dr. Parrish is mentioned in the President’s Message (‘College Marvels’ - January 2011) as one of the favorite instructors noted by students.

Robin Truelove Stronk, DVM, DVM, Westmoreland, NH; windsong2@myfairpoint.net
In February, I took part in a low cost spay/neuter clinic in Esterillos Oeste, Costa Rica. Along with a colleague, Rich Righter, who is not a Cornellian but still a Good Guy, we neutered 40 animals in one day. These animals are all owned by poor families and the stray/unwanted animal situation is heartbreaking. We worked in an open school building on the beach on folding tables from the local church with only the light coming through the windows. We moved our surgery tables following the sun! Owners sat in little school chairs and quietly watched the surgery. It was probably one of the most challenging, rewarding days of my career.

Class of 1980
Alan M. Coren, DVM, Dix Hills, NY; acoren@whaihzoo.com
Karen and I and our entire family are so proud to be coming up to school this May to celebrate our son, Jared’s, graduation from the vet school’s class of 2011. It is a dream come true for all of us and a testament to what an extraordinary profession we have the privilege of being a part of. Jared will be going to the Animal Medical Center in New York for his internship. And who knows, after that, maybe his Dad will work for him!!

Class of 1997
Justine Lee, DVM, Bloomington, MN
Associate Director of Veterinary Services at Pet Poison Helpline, Dr. Lee was honored with the North American Veterinary Conference Small Animal Speaker of the Year for 2011. She will receive the award at NAVC 2012.

Class of 2002
Jennifer Durenberger, DVM, Sarto- topa Springs, NY; jdt3@cornell.edu
I received my Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, CA, in December 2010.

Class of 2003
Dr. Isabel M. Coffey, DVM, Madison, WI
Summer 2010, Dr. Coffey was named hospital director at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Louisiana State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine.

Class of 2007
Vanessa (Kirsipuu) Schumacher, DVM, Switzerland; vls347@gmail.com
Since graduation, I have been very busy! I was married to Dr. Daniel Schumacher in 2007 and then started a joint anatomic pathology residency and Master of Science program at the University of Connecticut. In 2008 (during the residency!) we welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Eve Maria. In 2010, I passed the ACPV Board Examination and then, two days after defending my master’s thesis, I moved with my family to Switzerland. I am now working at the University of Bern as an instructor of anatomic pathology with a focus on zoo animal pathology. We are enjoying life in Switzerland and looking forward to exploring Estonia, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Germany this summer and fall!!

Class of 2008
Carolyn Deshaies, DVM, Afghanistan; carolyn.deshaies@hus.army.mil
Greetings from FOB Shank! I deployed to Afghanistan with the 64th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) in February 2011 for a year. At FOB Shank, I provide medical and surgical care to the military working dogs of Task Force Patriot, lead a team of food inspectors that ensure the food supply is safe for the deployed troops, and provide public health support throughout Logar, Wardak, and Bamyan Provinces.

IN MEMORIAM
SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF ‘SCOPES, THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE PASSINGS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Dr. Theodore J. Beyer ’45, January 21, 2011
Dr. Alfred A. Buerger Jr. PhD ’67, AB A&S ’52, April 1, 2011
Dr. Clark K. Bushey ’69, BS CALS ’65, December 29, 2010
Dr. Stephen P. Dey II ’60, February 28, 2011
Dr. Harry Fallon ’38, March 11, 2011
Dr. Francis G. Fielder MS ’57, February 3, 2011
Dr. James H. Gillespie, Emeritus professor, January 10, 2011
Dr. Robert W. Kirk ’46, Emeritus professor, January 19, 2011
Dr. Thomas Lawrence ’38, January 30, 2011
Dr. John R. Leahy ’47, MS CALS ’49, January 19, 2011
Dr. John D. Murray ’39, February 25, 2011
Dr. Roger E. Olson ’60, January 8, 2011
Dr. Yvonne Bopp Oppenheim ’90, BS CALS ’84, January 21, 2011
Dr. Calvin E. Rife ’61, May 11, 2011
Dr. Thomas Sanford ’56, March 27, 2011
Dr. Edward L. “Mother” Savage ’65, January 28, 2011
Dr. John S. Sickles ’51, July 20, 2010
Dr. Daniel Skelton ’39, February 5, 2011
Dr. Alan D. Stevens ’47, February 26, 2011
Dr. Gerald L. “Jerry” Thornton ’52, BS CALS ’49, February 2, 2011
Dr. Lawrence T. Waitz ’31, February 27, 2011
Dr. Abram J. Zehr ’60, March 14, 2011
We will include Class Notes in the February 2012 issue of 'Scopes Magazine. Please let us know what you’d like to share with your classmates in our Class Notes section by December 15, 2011, for inclusion.

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ADDRESS

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Please tell my classmates that...


PLEASE RETURN TO: Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 39, Ithaca, NY 14853. Alternatively, share your information with us via email (vetfriends@cornell.edu) or complete the online form at www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/ClassNotes.
In early June 2011, almost 400 alumni and their guests came to Cornell to celebrate reunions from their fifth to their 65th. Alumni, family, and friends attended a variety of University-wide activities and specific College-related programs. A few highlights of the College of Veterinary Medicine reunion included tours of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center, which opened in the fall of 2010, the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center, the Baker Institute for Animal Health and Feline Health Center, and the Companion Animal, Equine, and Farm Animal hospitals. Dean Michael I. Kotlikoff’s State of the College address was once again ranked as one of top events of all programs and activities offered by the College.

Alumni and friends had the opportunity to reconnect and share those special memories made during their time at the College at the Friday evening BBQ and class receptions and dinners.

With a participation rate of 80 percent, the Class of 1961 captured the Dean’s Cup once again, which is awarded to the class with the highest percentage of its alumni making a gift to the College in a reunion year. The Class of 1961 has won the cup in every one of its reunion years since the award’s inception. Classes out of school 50 years or fewer are eligible, making this the last Reunion year the Class of 1961 can win. Reunion giving Class of 1961 chair Bob Lynk noted how grateful he is to all of his classmates for showing such steadfast loyalty and great willingness to support the school over the years. Bob and his class are happy to pass the torch and challenge to the next generation of alumni to assume the mantle of “Dean’s Cup Winners” by supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine in their reunion years and every year.

The Class of 1946 raised the highest total of the classes celebrating reunion, with $1,245,600. This was due in large part to a bequest by class member William Kaplan.
Dr. Kaplan died in 2008, but this year the College received a portion of his $2 million bequest, with the request that the gift be used to endow a professorship in infection biology. We expect to name an incumbent in the fall of this year. Dr. Kaplan had a distinguished career as a medical mycologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and was an expert in fungal histopathology. We are most grateful to Dr. Kaplan for his generosity and are proud to have his name associated with this new professorship.

Although things change quickly and time passes, alumni who return to Cornell realize firsthand that their alma mater is as special a place today as it was when they graduated.

We hope that getting back to Cornell is in your plans for the near future.

Cordially,

Lyn LaBar
Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs and Development

Sheila Reakes
Director of the Annual Fund

Pictures from Reunion 2011 can be viewed at http://www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/reunion/
reunion 2011

Class Giving
(totals as of Reunion)

Class of 1946
$1,245,600
64% participation

Class of 1951
$35,605
48% participation

Class of 1956
$7,570
48% participation

Class of 1961
$28,131
80% participation

Class of 1966
$5,530
21% participation

Class of 1971
$8,870
28% participation

Class of 1976
$7,259
27% participation

Class of 1981
$18,286
44% participation

Class of 1986
$22,110
53% participation

Class of 1991
$4,500
13% participation

Class of 1996
$6,550
28% participation

Class of 2001
$12,860
22% participation

Class of 2006
$1,848
21% participation
June 7-10. Check our website and your mailbox for more information.
In Dean Michael I. Kotlikoff’s address to the Class of 2011, he reminded them that they hold the power to create the future they want. “I’ve had the privilege of watching you challenge yourselves and grow personally and professionally. In that process we have played a big part, but you have played a bigger one. Although much of life is uncertain, we can take comfort in what is certain—what has always been certain—the ability to shape our own destiny. This is what has defined your time at Cornell and will shape your future professional lives. Your successes can be mainly attributed to your positive attitude, your energy, your core values, and your hard work. These attributes define your character, and as the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, said, “Character is destiny.” As veterinarians, your clients will benefit from your knowledge and technical skills, but they will benefit perhaps more from your character—your ability to guide them and support them in the often difficult choices that surround animal health care. Treating animals and humans with compassion and respect and exhibiting modesty and humility in the face of this complex relationship are professional attributes that define the veterinarian and are what account for the public confidence in our profession.”

They hold the power to create the future they want.
SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 2, 2011
www.vet.cornell.edu/education/Conferences/NYSVetConf/index.cfm

MULTI-SPECIES
WET LABS
LECTURES
EXHIBITS
NETWORKING