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From the Dean



Dear faculty, staff, and students,

In the next few issues of *Making Rounds*, I will provide updates on progress that the College has made in various areas of the strategic plan, beginning with our goal to address the workforce needs of the state and nation.

With only 28 colleges of veterinary medicine in the nation and a growing need in many areas of the profession, including food supply veterinary medicine and public health advocacy, experts have documented a shortage of qualified professionals. As you know, the Class of 2013 is 92 members strong, which represents an increase of six students from previous classes and a step in the right direction.

To further grow our student ranks, we currently have a proposal before the state that will allow the College to expand its class size to 120 students per year. Half of this growth will be earmarked for students who have expressed an interest in food supply veterinary medicine, which will essentially double the number of Cornell graduates prepared to serve this area of the profession. The University has submitted this financial request to the State University of New York as Cornell's number one strategic priority, requesting funding in excess of \$30 million, to address the required capital expansion needed to support an increased student body.

We recognize that the expansion will require additional teaching, laboratory, and service facilities and have organized a committee to investigate the College's physical plant and explore sensible solutions given our activities and current configuration. The committee has retained the services of Ballinger Inc., an architectural, engineering, planning, and interior design firm based in Philadelphia, to assess the opportunities for re-envisioning the College's footprint and developing a capital master plan that will meet the needs of larger class sizes, including student teaching needs in the hospital, and enhance the College's physical

facilities.

In addition, as part of this strategic initiative, the College is exploring the option of adding multiple mini-interviews (MMI) to the current admissions process. Medical schools have employed this strategy for several years, which may have the potential for providing additional information that will help predict

clinical performance. The admissions committee is exploring this idea and will report back to the faculty in the next calendar year.

As always, please let me know if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Mike Kotlikoff

College of Veterinary Medicine - Ithaca, New York 14853-6401
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Researchers / Alumnus inducted into Equine Hall of Fame

by Jenny Blandford



Four scientists were inducted into the University of Kentucky Equine Research Hall of Fame on October 25 at Keeneland Race Course by the Gluck Equine Research Foundation. Two of the inductees are professors at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and a third is an alumnus.

Douglas F. Antczak (left) and Alan J. Nixon (right) of Cornell University, along with alumnus I.G. Joe Mayhew of

Massey University, and Peter J. Timoney of UK's Gluck Equine Research Center, were selected for their contributions to equine science and research. Nominated by their peers and colleagues, the four individuals were selected by past Hall of Fame inductees.

"On behalf of the Gluck Equine Research Foundation board, I would like to congratulate this year's inductees," said Walter Zent, chairman of the foundation's board of directors. "We were fortunate to have many excellent nominees who have dedicated their lives to equine research."

Connecticut native Antczak, the Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Professor of Equine Medicine at the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, joined the staff in 1979. In 1994, he became the director of the Baker Institute for Animal Health, a post he held for 15 years. For the past 30 years, Antczak has conducted research in equine immunology, genetics and reproduction. For more than 15 years, Antczak was also a major participant in the Horse Genome Project.

"It is a tremendous honor to be inducted into the University of Kentucky's Equine Research Hall of Fame," Antczak said. "I feel very privileged to be associated in this way with so many outstanding scientists who have devoted their careers to advancing the health and well-being of the horse."

Nixon is Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Director of the Comparative Orthopaedics Laboratory and the

JD&ML Wheat Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Laboratory at Cornell University. His clinical work and teaching at Cornell focus on musculoskeletal injury and repair, with a specific interest in regenerative medicine. He also has an adjunct appointment as professor at Colorado State University.

Nixon has authored more than 280 papers and book chapters, two texts on equine orthopedics and is a member of numerous veterinary organizations. He currently has a five-year \$1.8 million National Institutes of Health grant. He also serves as a consultant to the Food and Drug Administration panel on Cell and Gene Therapy.

"What an extraordinary honor to be recognized among such giants in equine research," Nixon said. "I doubt I measure up to many in the University of Kentucky Equine Research Hall of Fame, but I am humbled by this prestigious nomination, and thank the many driven people in my research career who have asked the questions and helped me seek the answers."

Mayhew, who earned a PhD in 1978 at the College, focuses on studying neurological disorders in horses in New Zealand and worldwide, is a founding graduate of Massey Veterinary School and currently assists in training future veterinarians at Massey. Mayhew has an interest in equine medicine and comparative neurology and has spoken on these subjects in a variety of countries.

Equine Research Hall of Fame nominees can be living or deceased, active or retired in the field of equine research. Established in 1990, the Equine Research Hall of Fame honors international scientific community members biennially who have made equine research a key part of their careers, recognizing their work, dedication and achievements in equine research.

The Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, on the University of Kentucky campus, is home to the Equine Research Hall of Fame. For more information, visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gluck>.



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Concert for -- and with -- the Animals



Faculty, staff and students are invited to two performances by artists Timothy Fain and Robert Koenig to benefit CUHA. Concert for the Animals will be presented on November 15, at 4 p.m., in the James Law Auditorium. It is open to the public.

Concert with the animals will be presented on November 14, at 4 p.m., and you are invited to bring your animals. The concert on November 14 is open only to faculty, staff, and students of the College.

Admission is complimentary for this performance only.

Both performances are sponsored by Clement and Karen Arrison in memory of DeeDee and are presented by the Stradivari Society of Chicago.

Featuring
Violinist TIM FAIN &
Pianist ROBERT KOENIG
in works by Saint-Saens, Ravel, Zhurbin, and Massenet

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 4 P.M.
James Law Auditorium
Schurman Hall
College of Veterinary Medicine

Saturday, November 14, 4 P.M.
Veterinary Education Center Atrium
(Open to Faculty, Staff, and Students of the CVM only;
Complimentary Admission)

TICKET INFORMATION

General Admission: \$27 [in advance; \$30 at the door]

CU Students: \$7 [online; \$10 at the door]

CU CVM Students: Free for the first 50 tickets [2 tickets per student]

Patron's Evening: \$100 premier reserved concert seating, includes a private multi-course dinner and wine with the artists

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

ONLINE: BaileyTickets.com

IN PERSON*: Ticket Center Ithaca, 171 The Commons - Center Ithaca

BY PHONE*: (607) 273-4497 or (800) 284-8422

* additional service fee will apply

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Student earns prestigious fellowship



Kylius M. Wilkins '12 has been awarded the prestigious Claudia Cartwright Fellowship by the International Services (IS) division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Wilkins will receive \$25,000 in scholarship funds for each remaining year of his veterinary studies, and opportunities for paid employment with APHIS-IS over summers and other school breaks. Following graduation, he may have the opportunity to join the ranks of APHIS-IS with an initial three-year international deployment. Graduate students in agriculture and veterinary students with U.S. Citizenship were eligible to

apply for the award.

Over 300 IS employees stationed in 34 foreign countries work to reduce the risk posed to U.S. agriculture by foreign pests and diseases, such as screwworm and the Mediterranean fruit fly. In addition to strengthening national animal and plant health infrastructures in those nations, IS personnel also work with government agriculture personnel to expand export opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers, opening up new markets for everything from meat to asparagus.

Despite the highly competitive selection process for the Fellowship (due to funding constraints, there was only one recipient in 2009), it is not altogether surprising that Wilkins was the student selected for this honor. While Wilkins credits Cornell's reputation and the mentorship of Dr. Alfonso Torres, Associate Dean for Public Policy, with his being chosen, he entered the application process with an already impressive background in the areas of veterinary public health and international service.

Following graduation from The Ohio State University in 2000 with a degree in Biology and a minor in Physical Anthropology, Wilkins spent two years in Guinea, West Africa, with the Peace Corps, working with veterinary, health, and agricultural officials to create environmental education classes for village schools. One of his colleagues in this program was a Guinean veterinarian, and Wilkins was struck by the critical role of the veterinarian in developing societies. "Seeing the interdependence, the way people rely on their animals for survival and realizing the opportunity for zoonotic diseases to spread when people and animals live in such close quarters, you also realize how much people depend on the vet's expertise," said Wilkins.

From 2003-2006, Wilkins taught English in Japan. "While I was living in Japan, they cut beef imports from the U.S," said Wilkins. "I became aware of the importance of international markets to U.S. agriculture and the importance of the veterinarian in shaping international law and policy in this area." Wilkins is now married to a Japanese woman named Eriko. They have a two-year-old son named Kai and are expecting a second child in January.

Prior to enrolling in Cornell's veterinary program, Wilkins received his Masters of Public Health degree from The Ohio State University, a member of only the second class to go through OSU's curriculum in Veterinary Public Health. He also spent time riding along with USDA veterinarians in Ohio who were testing sheep for susceptibility to Scrapie.

Long-term, Wilkins can see himself living in Japan and working for either the USDA or U.S. exporters in crafting agricultural trade policy and testing standards. Alternately, he could envision providing technical training, inspection services, and disease surveillance in developing nations. "To me, technical exchange and the training of foreign veterinarians are among some of the most important and interesting work that IS does," said Wilkins. He looks forward to living abroad again and encourages other veterinary students to explore careers in public health. "It's a good field for people who don't need lots of hands-on time with animals, and who have an ability to transmit their scientific expertise to laypeople."

This year, the IS Fellowship Program was renamed for Claudia Cartwright, DVM, one of the award's first recipients. According to the USDA, "After being assigned to her first foreign post in the Caribbean, she was diagnosed with cancer. Following an aggressive surgery and treatment plan she volunteered to go on a temporary assignment to Italy, intent on beating the disease and becoming a Foreign Service Officer." Tragically, Dr. Cartwright succumbed to her illness in September 2008, leaving behind a husband and daughter.

"I am very pleased that the USDA has re-instituted this fellowship," said Torres. "Having known Claudia Cartwright, a superb young veterinarian, on a personal basis, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction that her name and legacy will be carried on by one of our remarkable Cornell students."



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10-part video series for pet owners in the works

For the third consecutive year, Nestlé Purina PetCare has made a donation to Partners in Animal Health to help support the ongoing development of educational videos for cat owners. Their \$71,000 gift will underwrite a 10-part video series used to teach pet owners about a variety of gastrointestinal (GI) diseases. A number of veterinary faculty and the Feline Health Center are participating in this project, with Dr. Joseph J. Wakshlag, assistant professor of clinical nutrition, serving as the main collaborator on nutritional aspects of GI disease management. The videos will be available to the public at no charge on the Partners in Animal Health website and 2,000 DVDs will also be produced and made available to veterinarians for use as a client education tool.

"Our pet owner education series is extremely popular with cat owners and veterinarians," said Dr. Jodi Korich, director of Partners in Animal Health. "GI diseases are very common in cats, and we receive a large number of viewer requests for information on this topic."

The video series will be released in Fall 2009. A variety of other videos are currently available through Partners in Animal Health. Please visit <http://partnersah.vet.cornell.edu/> for more information.



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Staff Profile : Marica Mikavica

What do you do here at the College, and what does a typical day look like for you?

I am the building care custodian for the second floor of Schurman Hall. I start my day at 5am by cleaning the floors in the hallways. It can be hard in winter time when there is so much salt on the floors, but now we have new machines that make it easier. I like to see nice shiny floors. Then I clean the restrooms, and I finish with garbage and carpets. I make sure to finish the Dean's suite before the staff arrives. In the afternoons I work as a Sales Associate at Kohl's.

What is your favorite part of your job?

The people here are very nice. I've worked at the College over eight years now, and my sister Milkica joined the building care staff just a few months after I did. We've gotten to know many people here. Cornell really takes care of their employees.

Where are you from originally? If not from Ithaca, what brought you here?

I am originally from Bosnia and lived through the war from 1992-1995. Often we couldn't sleep or eat because of anxiety - villages very close to us were being bombed. To this day, when I hear a loud noise it can take me back there. Those were difficult years. In 1995 I left for Serbia with my husband and daughters to escape the war. Once we were in Serbia, I worked in my uncle's restaurant from 6am to 12 midnight every day for several years – making food, washing dishes, cleaning the kitchen. So now my 14-hour day seems light by comparison. My sister had come to Ithaca in 1997, and we were finally able to come over as refugees in 1999.

Please tell us a little bit more about your personal background.

I have two daughters. The older one graduated from Cornell with a degree in Government. She is now in graduate school for International Affairs at The New School in New York. My younger daughter will be graduating this year from SUNY-Geneseo with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology. I am very proud of both of them. My husband works in building care at the Statler. In Serbia he had been a banker. He has a degree in hospitality management, and while my

daughters were growing up I mostly stayed home with them. My parents and younger brother are also now in Ithaca. Ithaca reminds me of my home city in Bosnia – a small city with a similar climate. I think we will stay here for the rest of our lives; we are people who don't like to move around.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share with our readers?

More than anything else, people need inner peace and health – those are the most important things in life.

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BCERF: A note from Dr. Suzanne Snedeker

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, earlier this summer BCERF had hopeful news that we had been added back to the New York State budget to support 2009-10 activities on the cancer risk of environmental chemicals.

But, as the summer progressed we learned that unanticipated funding difficulties had arisen. We became aware that the funds to support our work were not being released by the New York State Department of Budget. Without the release of these funds, it has not been possible for the Department Health to write a contract with BCERF to support our 2009-10 workplan. Based on this information, a decision was made to develop a plan for closing down this part of the BCERF Program.

This is a very difficult letter for me to write, as I have very much enjoyed my years in DCS and being a part of the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research. We have been proud of our ability to help fulfill the Land-Grant mission of the College of Veterinary Medicine. I appreciate the direction and guidance Dr. Rod Page has given us during his years as the Director of BCERF, and the administrative guidance and support Carol Merkur has given us during a very difficult year. And I value and will very much miss my close association and many years of collaboration with our Assistant Director, Carmi Orenstein, and the other members of our Program.

Mary Maley and Dr. Barbour Warren will be continuing with their BCERF research and outreach projects on obesity prevention in humans and companion animals, which are funded through grants from the US Dept. of Agriculture. While Lyn Parks effort will be reduced, she will continue half-time as an Administrative Assistant in DCS. Both my and Carmi Orensteins position will be ending because of our state-funding situation. Carmi and I are devoting our remaining time to wrapping up our outreach and research projects, informing our stakeholders of our situation, and completing activities that are necessary to properly close down this part of the BCERF program.

This November marks the 14th anniversary of the founding of BCERF. It has been our sincere pleasure to serve the residents of New York State and provide them with high quality translational research and public health education tailored for many different stakeholder groups on environmental chemicals that affect the risk of breast and other cancers. It is with regret that I inform you of our situation, but we close this part

of our program knowing we have been true to our original mission to bring the best science forward to explain linkages between environmental chemicals and cancer risk, as well as keeping our stakeholders informed and engaged through our website, The Ribbon newsletter, workshops, and the Regional Cancer and Environment Forums.

Thank you for the opportunity of being part of DCS.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Snedeker, Ph.D.

Associate Director of Translational Research

Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Factors (BCERF)

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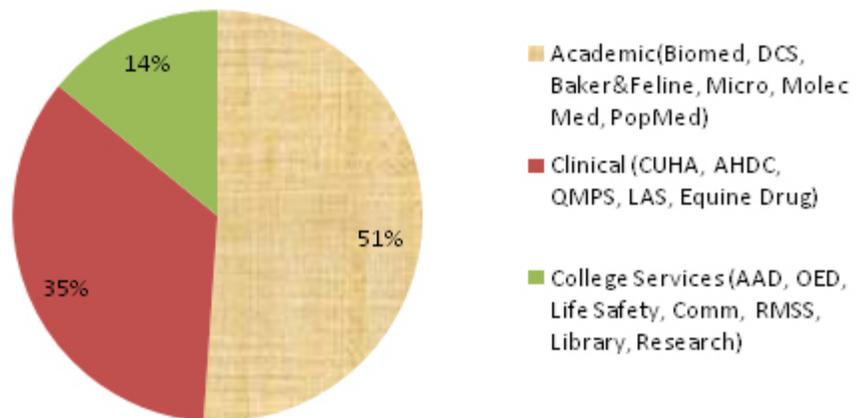
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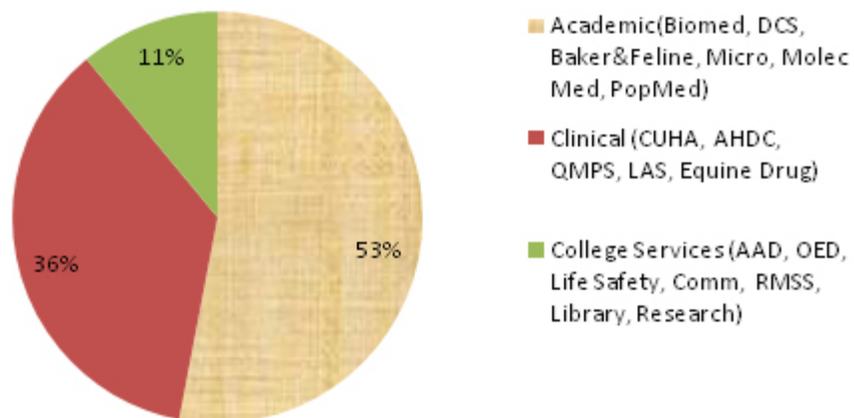
Results of survey regarding VMIT services

Thank you to all who participated in the VMIT (Veterinary Medicine Information Technology) Services Survey. The survey was extended to 1045 CVM staff and faculty. Approximately 50% of the community, 527 people, responded. The responses to the survey questions are graphed below. We are currently reviewing the written comments and suggestions. We are categorizing the comments to identify issues on which we can take immediate internal action to remedy, as well as those issues that need to be brought to the attention of the IT strategic planning group. We will share survey comment information, as well as internal action items, in an upcoming issue of *Making Rounds*.

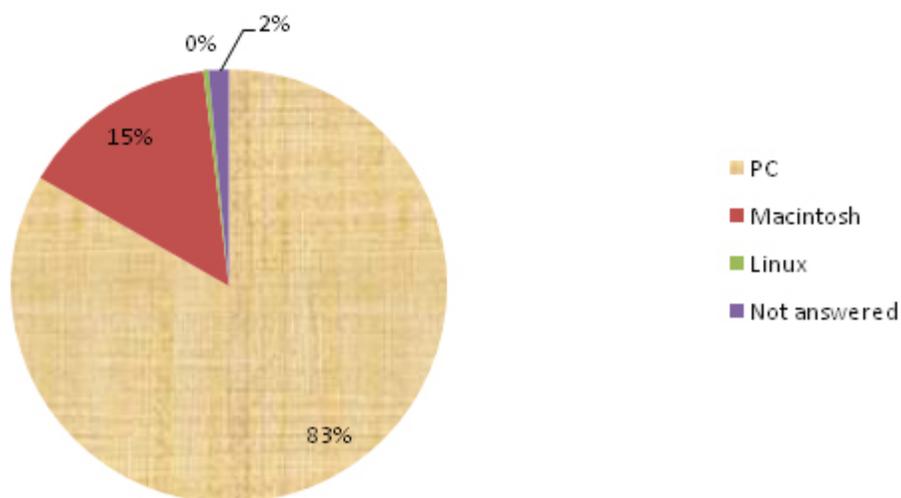
Unit affiliation of respondents provided by Survey Research Institute



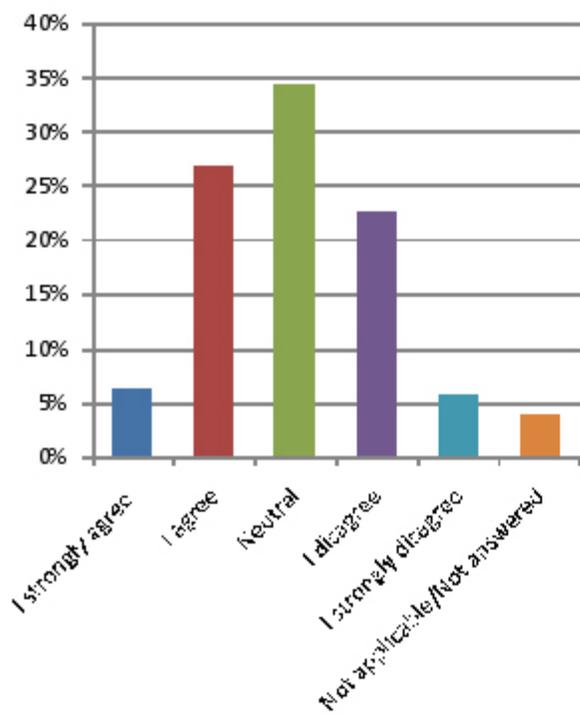
CVM Population Representation



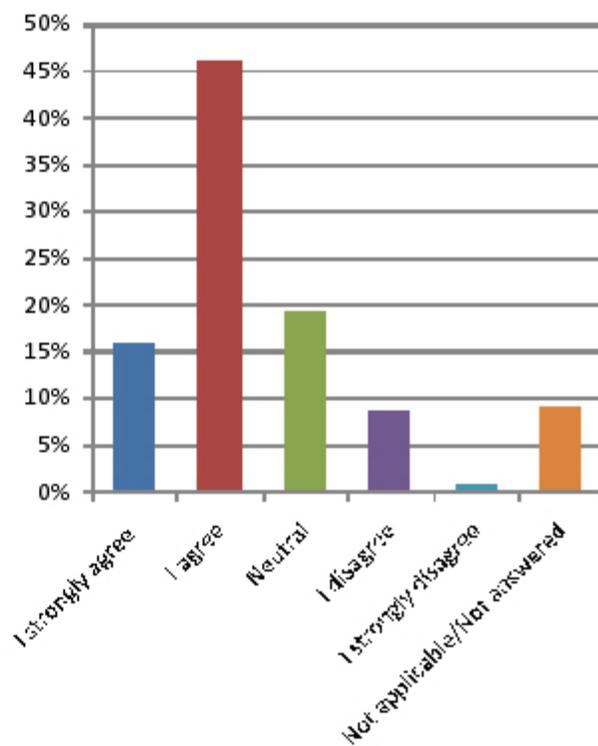
What is your principal computer platform?



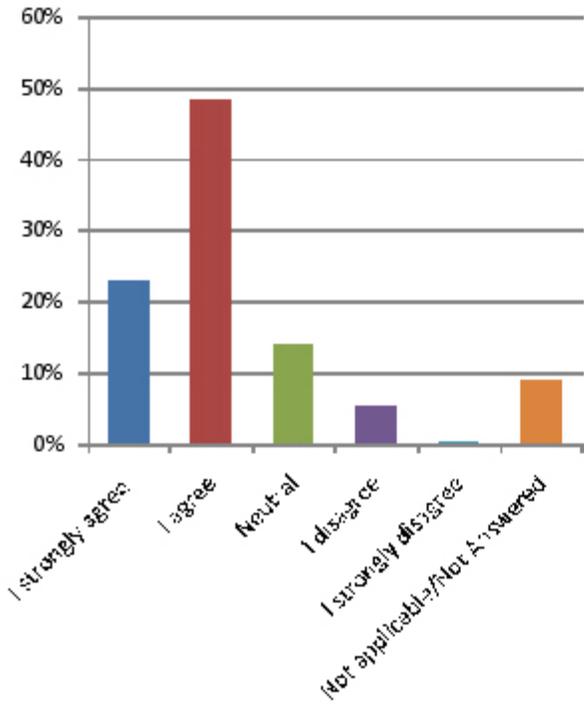
I feel well informed about what services are provided by VMIT.



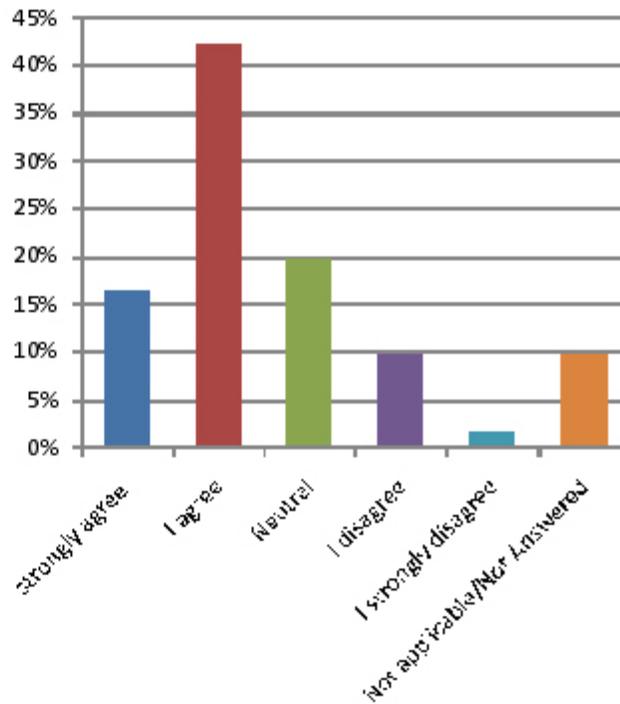
When I need help from VMIT, it's easy to obtain.



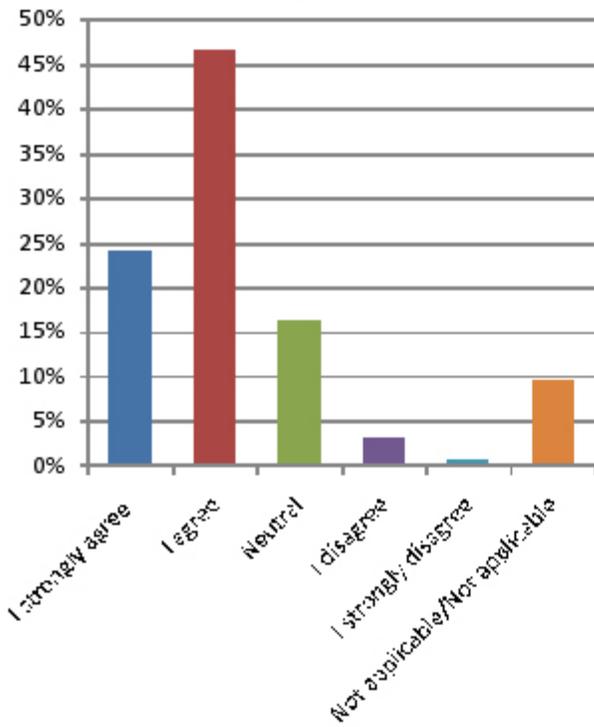
VMIT staff members are usually responsive and customer-oriented.



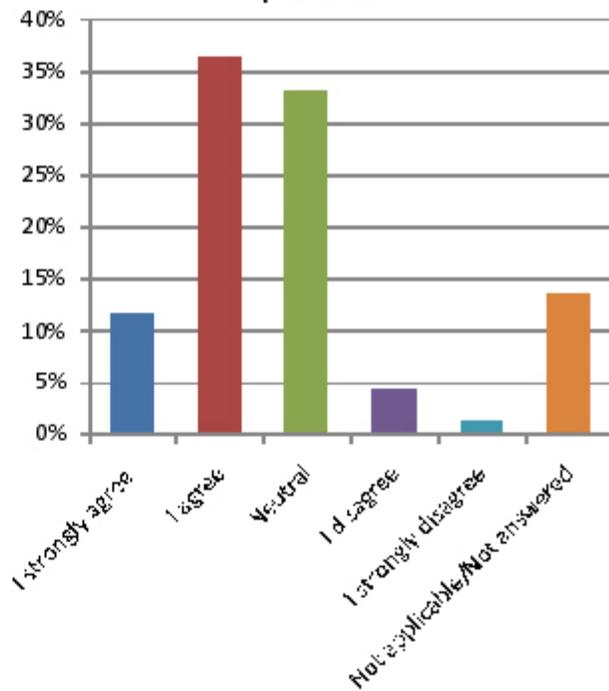
I am satisfied with the speed and convenience of VMIT services.



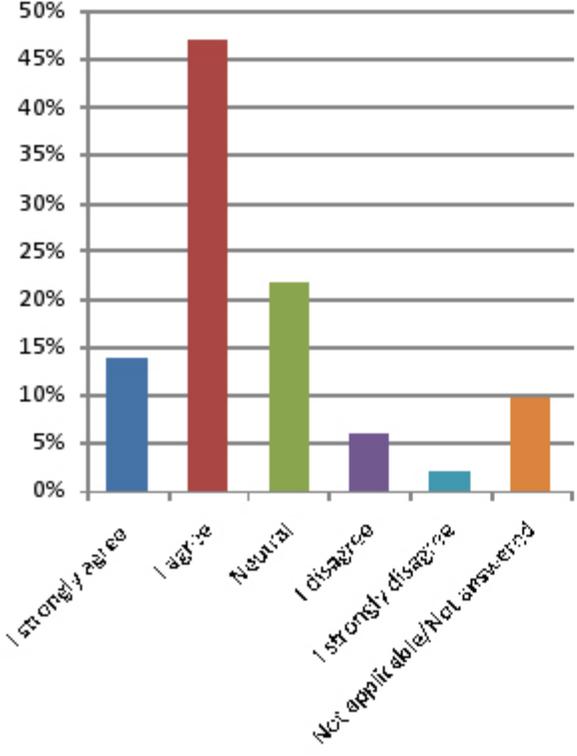
VMIT staff members seem technically competent.



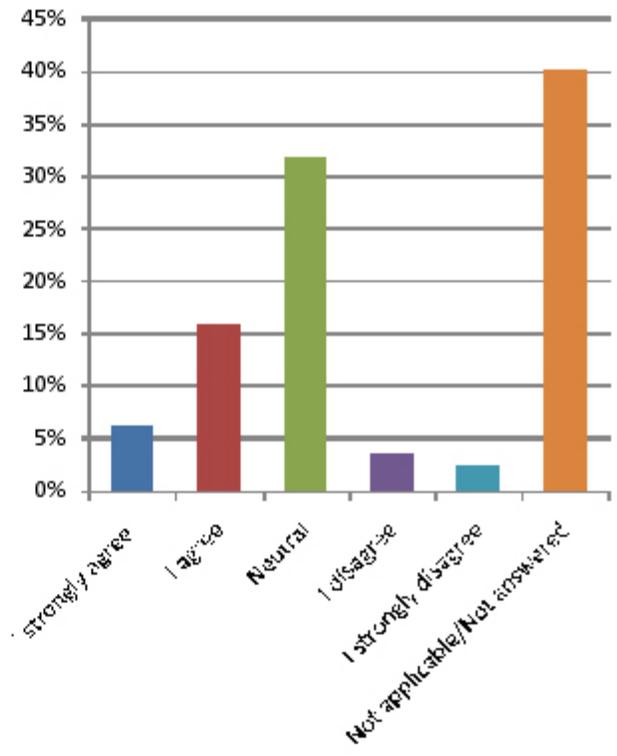
Overall I am satisfied with the variety of services and facilities VMIT provides.



Overall I am satisfied with the quality of services and facilities VMIT provides.



When there is a fee for services, VMIT provides fair value for the price.





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Faculty featured on NPR's Science Friday



Dr. Lisa Fortier and Dr. Alfonso Torres were guests on NPR's national radio show Science Friday earlier this month. The show offered listener's an inside view of the veterinary profession. [A transcript can be obtained here.](#)



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The Elf Program



Who Are The Elves?

Caring people from across the Cornell campus and the communities beyond who participate in a program that helps truly needy children during the winter holidays. Anyone can participate! Visit the Elf web site at <http://www.elves.cornell.edu/faq.html>

How Does The Program Work?

Nurses and social workers at area elementary schools identify the children who are in greatest need. Using a "profile sheet" supplied by The Elves, they provide information on each boy and girl - first name, age, sizes, and toy preferences. Elf leaders distribute the profiles to individuals, families, or office groups who want to sponsor a child. Sponsors (Elves) then purchase and wrap the gifts, making sure that each child receives every item on a special checklist: socks, underwear, a new outfit, pajamas, a hat & gloves, and a toy (all gifts are new). Elves deliver the bags of gifts to the school where they are picked up by parents or delivered to the homes. The anonymity of the children and their parents is protected.

How Did It Start?

The program began in the late 1980's when members of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Office of Academic Programs decided that they had enough of the office party gift exchange. As one staff person put it, "We were spending \$5 on each other for nonsense. It just seemed a waste of money. So we said; "This is silly. Let's pool that money and do something useful with it!"

That year the money the thirty people pooled from not buying each other gifts was enough to buy five needy children new clothing and toys. From there the program blossomed. Today, hundreds of "Elves" help more than 500 children from twenty-four area schools each holiday season.

Is The Program Associated with A Particular Holiday?

No. While most of the children we help seem to celebrate Christmas, we sponsor kids regardless of the winter holiday observed in their homes.

How Can you Become An Elf?

By participating in the program in any one of several ways, typically by sponsoring a child, but there are other ways to help also.

What Are the Other Ways to Help?

You can become a Shopper Elf, Delivery Elf, or Wrapper Elf. You can also help by contributing money. Every penny that is donated is used to purchase gifts for a needy child – there are no overhead costs; not one penny. Contact your Elf Leader or Bill Alberta if you want to make a donation or help in a way other than sponsoring a child.

What Does it Cost to Sponsor A Child?

Approximately \$100 -125. We try to buy quality clothing since these kids have so little and wear their new outfits frequently.

To obtain a Profile of a child to purchase gifts for, or ask questions, please contact Jennifer Mailey, jam333@cornell.edu, 253-3702 or Elena Welch, ew68@cornell.edu, 253-3703