Dear Alumnus:

The foliage around Ithaca has never been more beautiful than this fall. As I write this, Indian summer already has lasted far into November. The brown stripe on the woolly-bear caterpillars is broad this fall, indicating, I am told, that we are to have a mild winter. Whether mild or severe it will not be a long one if it doesn’t turn cold shortly. But the shortened days and lengthened nights prove that nature is still on the job and it will not be long before we must start on the second half of the twentieth century.

There have been important and interesting happenings around the campus during the past year. Edmund E. Day, President of the University for the last twelve years, in June asked to be relieved of his duties out of consideration for his health. The Trustees accepted the resignation with great regret but prevailed upon him to accept a more limited assignment, that of Chancellor, in order that his talents might continue to be available to the University. The former Provost, Dr. Cornelis de Kiewiet, was appointed Acting-President to serve while a search is being made for one to fill the position more permanently.

Those of us whose duties have brought us in close contact with Dr. Day appreciate his contributions to Cornell more than those who have known him less intimately. I appreciate the keen interest he has always taken in the Veterinary College, and the unfailing support he has always given me. Except for the founders, Dr. Day has done more to clarify and cement the relationships of Cornell to the State of New York than any other president. We, in the State Colleges, are especially happy about the fact that one of the duties of the new Chancellor is to continue to supervise and foster the University-State relationship. He will be of much help to us in making adjustments required by the establishment of our new governing agency, the State University of New York.

During the last year the Greater Cornell fund raising drive has been on. Cornell, like all other institutions dependent upon endowments for their financial support, has felt the pinch of the diminishing value of the dollar. Unlike business firms, Universities in the face of increasing costs are unable to mark up the prices of their products to keep themselves solvent. Like other endowed institutions, Cornell must have additional endowment if it is to keep its position among the foremost educational institutions of the country. I am told that the drive is going well—that about three fourths of the way to the goal has been reached and there is hope for the remainder.

The appearance of the campus is rapidly changing and new buildings that are in the immediate offing will change it a great deal more during the next
few years. The new building for nuclear physics, the Newman Laboratory, was dedicated early this fall. Statler Hall, the new home of the School of Hotel Administration, is nearing completion on East Avenue, directly in front of Barton Hall. Ground has just been broken for the new library for the Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics at the east end of the quadrangle which lies directly back of Roberts Hall. The State is committed to a considerable building program during the next few years (more about this later), and funds are in hand for the construction of a new gymnasium on Alumni Field across from Schoellkopf, for a new home for the campus religious activities on Central Avenue south of Willard Straight, and for another unit of the new Engineering plant which is being built on the south end of the campus.

There are changes in the faces on the campus too. Time takes its toll. Deaths and retirements are constantly removing well-known and well-loved figures, and new ones take their places. Two members of the Veterinary faculty completed their terms of services during the last year—Ray Birch by retirement in June, and Jay (or Jack) Frost by death in October.

Jay Frost’s death came as a shock to his colleagues and many friends. His death was sudden, as a result of a heart ailment from which he had suffered for several years. An attack hospitalized him in late August. Apparently much improved he had returned home in late October. He was feeling and looking well on October 28th when again stricken. He died within a few minutes. He was buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Ithaca near the final resting places of his two great teachers, James Law and Walter L. Williams. A quiet, unassuming man, Jay Frost was loved and respected by a great host of friends who appreciated his fund of practical knowledge and particularly his constant willingness to make it available to others. He was 64 years old on October 5th. He had served the College for 42 years—longer than any other employee.

All of our emeritus-professors are still going strong. The Birches have joined the Hopkines, the Udalls, the Milkses, and the Sundervilles in deciding to continue to live in Ithaca. This is true also of Miss Julia Law, Mrs. P. A. Fish, Mrs. C. E. Hayden, Mrs. Henry Asmus, and members of the Moore, Fish, and Asmus families. Miss Helena Haight, for many years the financial clerk of the College, also resides in Ithaca and retains an active interest in everything that relates to the Veterinary College. In point of service, the oldest present employee of the College is Archie Wilson, well-known to most of the alumni. Archie still tinkers with the plumbing and does odd carpenter jobs for everyone around the College, besides being our expert motion picture machine operator.

Bill Evans, long in charge of our Diagnostic Laboratory, resigned last summer to accept a position as director of a privately supported laboratory at Ripley, New York. We were sorry to lose Bill but do not blame him for deciding to accept a very attractive offer. Dr. George Poppenseick, a graduate of Penn. in 1942 has been employed in Bill’s place. Dorsey W. Bruner, ’37, who has worked at the University of Kentucky since graduation, except for a hitch in the army, was appointed Professor of Bacteriology at the beginning of the college year. Dorsey will have charge of all of the teaching work in bacteriology, and will carry on research work in that field. He has had a lot of practical experience and will do a good job in his new place. Kenneth McEntee, ’44, remains in the Department of Pathology but at the beginning of the new fiscal year his work was changed. He now is spending full time on a research project relating to the pathology of bovine sterility. John Bentinck-Smith, ’44, has taken the place formerly occupied by McEntee.

We have a new type of personnel problem to deal with now—the matter
of names. We have two Doughertys, Bob in physiology and Ellsworth in poultry diseases. This isn’t so bad especially since the former pronounces his name “daw” and the latter “doc.” The real trouble comes with the Bakers of which we now have three, J. A. (Fish), D. W. (Don), and D. T. (DeWitt). The last named, of the Class of 1944, has just been employed as a Field Veterinarian on our mastitis program.

The active faculty members are busy as bees on a summer day. Mac Miller and his crew of anatomists are working on dissecting outlines and a new textbook besides doing their teaching stints. Mac also serves as Secretary of the Faculty. Hugh Dukes, and his outfit in physiology, must be up to something in the basement laboratory, if one can judge by the wonderful and characteristic odors which come from that area now and then. Don Baker is the busiest of all. With an enthusiasm that stimulates us all, he tracks all kinds of parasites to their lairs with an efficiency that the F.B.I. can hardly match. Absorbed in affairs parasitic, Don doesn’t have much time to think of personal matters. If any of you find any hats, brief cases, class books, or miscellaneous articles of clothing anywhere in the northeastern states with D.W.B. initialed on them, please return them to Ithaca. Postage guaranteed.

Pete Olafson continues to crack down on the students and they continue to like it—or, maybe, half like it anyway. Phil Levine is gradually losing his Portuguese accent. Pop Mills and his junior surgeons have manfully carried on the work of the Surgery Department while Jack Frost was sick and since his death, and are doing a good job of it. Mike Fincher has been running a three ring circus—keeping his department going, running the mastitis program, and trying to help out on numerous veterinary programs at the same time. Steph. Roberts after “ambulating” all day has been coaching the polo team at night, and playing a little himself, now and then. Steph. Stephenson is our athletic authority. Ask him if you want the dope on the basketball prospects this year, or football next fall. Ellis Leonard hasn’t any hobbies so far as I can learn. Or maybe, like some of the rest of us, he has had to put them aside for the time being.

For two years we have been in the process of developing a laboratory and staff for research on virus and related diseases of animals under the direction of J. A. (Fish) Baker. The old serum laboratory on the Snyder Hill farm has been converted into a laboratory, the old “guinea pig” building has been converted into an isolation building for rearing disease-free stock, and the State has supplied a rather large building for holding larger animals in strict isolation from each other. A new road has been constructed this summer and landscaping has been begun to make the area more attractive. Through the interest of Mr. Asa Knowles, Vice President for University Development, and some influential alumni and friends who are interested in dogs, an effort is being made to raise a quarter million dollars to provide facilities and financial support for a research program on virus diseases of dogs and other pet animals. The results to date are very encouraging. A substantial portion of the total already has been secured, and work is under way on portions of the program. This is a significant development. It marks the first time that substantial funds have been sought from private sources for any work in this college. Since “The Field” research program on canine distemper in Great Britain, twenty-five years ago, this will be the first comprehensive program directed toward unravelling the complicated etiologies of the distemper-like diseases of dogs.

As this is written, it appears more than probable that the College will soon be provided with an entirely new plant located at the east end of Tower Road on the site now occupied by the Veterans’ Housing village. It is a long story
that I will not repeat here. The College long has needed more room for housing animals and for outdoor runs and paddocks for them. We are now overcrowded and there is no room for expansion on the present site, except skyward. Plans for development of this sort have been ready for several years and the legislature had committed the State to a plan for replacing James Law Hall and the surgery building at a total cost of about $2-1/2 million.

The opportunity comes for an entirely new plant from the fact that the State also has to provide a new plant for the new School of Industrial and Labor Relations. This school can be well accommodated on the present veterinary site, and the Moore Laboratory can be adapted for its use. It appears that enough savings can be made on the I. & L. R. school by such a plan to permit building a new veterinary school. The faculty is enthusiastic about the idea, the Trustees of Cornell University have approved it, and very recently it has received the approval of the Trustees of the State University. Final decision on the matter should be made before the winter is out. In the meantime, the entire faculty is working on plans in order to be ready to deal with architects which probably will be appointed soon. We hope, of course, to plan for a plant which will be modern and adequate in every respect.

Plans for the Forty-Second Annual Conference for Veterinarians, to be held on January 4, 5, and 6, are well advanced and those of you who are on the mailing list will receive programs shortly. It is our intention to send them to all alumni who live in the northeastern part of the United States and to any others who want them. Any who have not been receiving them will be placed on the mailing list upon request.

Mike Fincher has served as chairman of the program committee this year. One feature will be the presentation of the alumni portrait of Dr. Frost to the University. This portrait was completed and approved by Dr. Frost shortly before his death.

It is my sad duty to report the deaths of twelve alumni and one 4th year student this year. Of these, four occurred more than a year ago. We heard of them too late to include them in last year’s letter. Those who have answered the final call are: Philip V. Weaver, ’05, January 31, 1947; Joseph P. Benson, ’19, July 31, 1948; Nathan M. Neate, ’17, August 22, 1948; Fred D. Walmsley, 04, October 20, 1948; Herman R. Ryder, ’97, October 28, 1948; Garry T. Stone, ’00, December 20, 1948; Treford Miller, ’24, December 28, 1948; George R. Bonn, ’49, February 7, 1949; William M. Long, ’16, February 22, 1949; Andre R. De Mott, ’26, February 26, 1949; Frederick C. Clark, ’16, October 16, 1949; James N. Frost, ’07, October 28, 1949; and Watson F. Lewis, ’07, November 13, 1949.

Our sincere sympathy is offered the loved ones who are left behind to mourn their passing.

"Leaf after leaf drops off, flower after flower,
Some in the chill, some in the warmer hour:
Alive they flourish, and alive they fall,
And Earth who nourished them receives them all.
Should we, her wiser sons, be less content
To sink into her lap when life is spent?"

On behalf of the Veterinary Faculty may I wish each and everyone of you a happy holiday season and a new year of happiness and prosperity.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]