



# Cornell University

## College of Veterinary Medicine

### Pre-Veterinary Newsletter

### Spring 2010

#### Student Profile

#### *Standout Student Stresses Value of Service and Persistence*

**Leslie Diaz, DVM Class of 2010**

*Written by Dan Gurvich*

Leslie Diaz DVM '10 didn't get in to Cornell on her first try. But after gaining experience in a lab animal facility and improving her GRE scores, she was offered admission by seven leading veterinary colleges, including Cornell. This story also exemplifies the not-so-secret ingredients in Diaz's recipe for success in life.

After attending Manhattan's prestigious Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts to study visual art (she is still an avid photographer), she went on to major in zoology at Connecticut College. As an undergraduate, Diaz was exposed to scientific research, including a summer internship with the United States Geological Survey studying genetic divergence and variation in Sockeye Salmon in Alaska's Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

When she visited Cornell, it immediately felt like home. She was struck by the helpful attitude of students and administrators, the faculty's accessibility to students, and the positive climate for minorities at Cornell.

"Cornell does a very good job in terms of diversity," said Diaz, whose family is originally from Puerto Rico.

She came to Ithaca with a strong interest in lab animal medicine, however, after meeting Dr. Alfonso Torres, Associate Dean for Public Policy at the College, Diaz' career orientation turned toward public health. She is currently looking into either a Master's or a PhD in Public Health, with a particular interest in studying infectious disease outbreaks and foreign animal diseases. "Dr. Torres was essential in developing my interest in public health," said Diaz. "He has an outstanding network, and he has always been more than willing to guide me throughout my academic career, and I am very grateful for that."



Diaz, who also spent the summer of 2008 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, through the College's Expanding Horizons program, recently assisted Torres with the 9<sup>th</sup> annual International Course on Transboundary Animal Diseases, conducted in Spanish at the Department of Homeland Security's Plum Island Animal Disease Center to train foreign veterinarians in the recognition and diagnosis of livestock and poultry diseases. "We are very proud to have students like Leslie among us," said Torres. "She is a great student ambassador for Cornell, and I am confident that she will have a very distinguished career upon graduation, providing needed contributions to the health and wellbeing of people around the world."

Diaz also helped organize the College's first symposium on zoonotic diseases, led the Cornell chapter of the American Society of Lab Animal Practitioners (ASLAP), edited the 2010 yearbook, served on the board of SCAVMA, represented the College on the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA), and promoted diversity as secretary of VOICE.

Diaz says that taking on these numerous responsibilities outside of class has actually helped her stay organized and focused in her studies. In addition, she feels that these extracurricular activities have been tremendously important in building her knowledge and her character. "Everyone's busy at vet school," said Diaz, "but when you find time to dedicate to community service, you can grow exponentially." "It's the things you do outside of the classroom that people will remember about you, not your grades."



### Early Acceptance Program

The Early Acceptance Program was set up for exceptionally well qualified students to apply for after completion of their sophomore year. This would allow a successful applicant to pursue an area of personal interest during their junior year, and then matriculate into the DVM degree program.

The application for the Early Acceptance Program will be available the first week in March. Admission into this program is rigorous and, as opposed to the regular admission application process includes the following minimum criteria. Candidates who are applying to this program should have a minimum grade point average of 3.7 or better and GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Applicants must have also completed at least one semester of organic chemistry and one semester of an upper level biology, biochemistry, or physics course. All prerequisite courses must have a minimum grade of B or better under the Early Acceptance Program.

Another very important part of the Early Acceptance Application is a written plan describing how the time between acceptance and matriculation will spent. More information about the program can be found on our web site at

[www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions).

## On the Road

- **AAVMC (Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges) Career Fair**, Sunday, March 14 from 2:00-5:00; Westin Alexandria (Alexandria, VA)  
<http://www.aavmc.org/2010AAVMCVeterinaryMedicalCareerFair>  
*You can register for the fair at this link. Please stop by to meet Jennifer Mailey, Director of Admissions at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine booth*
- **MANRRS Conference (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) Career Fair**, Friday March 26, 2010 from 10:00am – 4:30pm; Disney's Coronado Springs Resort | Orlando, FL  
<http://www.manrrs.org>  
*Students can register for the conference at the above website. Stop by to meet Dr. Sweet, Director of Student Services & Multicultural Affairs at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine booth*

## Presentations & Tours

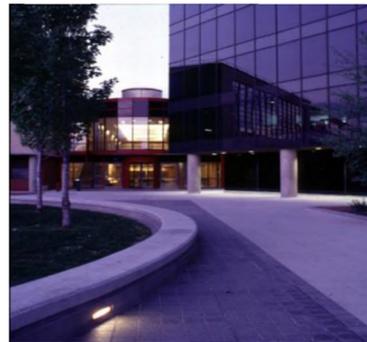
The **Spring 2010 Admissions Presentation and Tour** schedule is set. Visit our web site to register for an upcoming date~  
[www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions)

- *March 19th, 3:00-5:00;*
- *April 10<sup>th</sup> (Open House) 10:30, 12:30, and 2:30;*
- *May 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00*



## Open House

The **44<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House** is April 10, 2010. The program runs from 10:00-4:00 and includes demonstrations, lectures, and exhibits to name just a few of the activities. There will also be three different opportunities to attend an admissions presentation that will include veterinary career information and a student panel.



## Pre-Vet Clubs

In the past we have had Pre-Vet Clubs visit during the Open House. It is a wonderful day to not only see the Vet College and learn more about admissions, but also attend some different exhibits, lectures, and labs as well as meet many vet students along the way! Drop us at email at [www.vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:www.vet_admissions@cornell.edu) and let us know your group is coming. We'd love to meet your club and talk after one of the admissions presentations and student panels.

