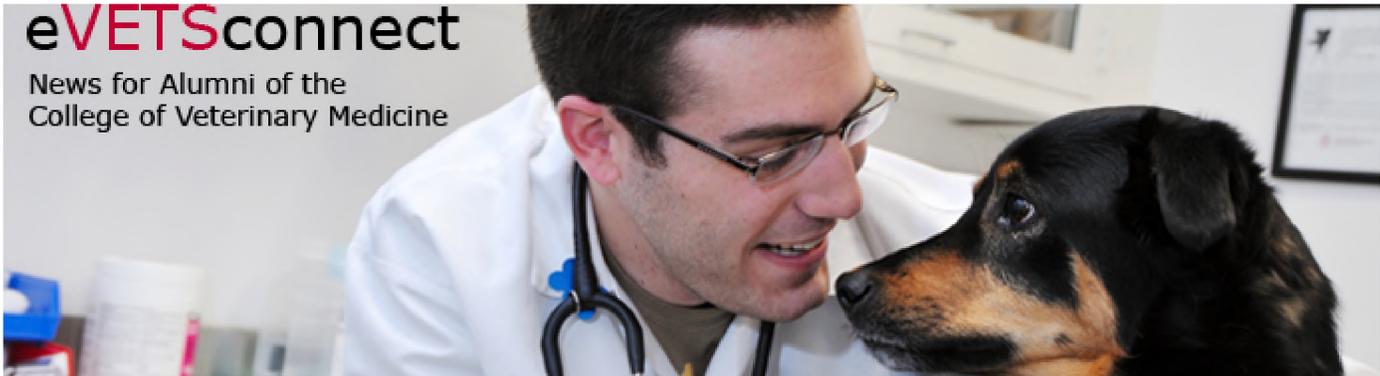


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Alumni Association Annual Meeting

September 29, 2011 at 2:00 pm
ILR Conference Center, Room 225
Ithaca, New York

Open to all alumni



From the Office of Alumni Affairs

The Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to share the following information:

This meeting will take place just prior to the New York State Veterinary Conference being held at Cornell University, September 29 through October 2, 2011. Click [here](#) for more information about the Conference.

Vote for at-large members to the Alumni Association Executive Board.

Visit our website at www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni for a listing of our board members and our meeting dates. Each fall, we welcome nominations to the board. We invite you to watch our web site and your mailbox for forthcoming information about Reunion 2012, which will be held June 7 through June 10, 2012. Please mark your calendars; all are welcome!

To reach the Office of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications, call 607.253.3716 or [email](#) – subject line “Alumni Association.”

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June 16, 2011

Kotlikoff reappointed Vet College dean for five-year term

By Lauren Gold and Anne Ju

At the request of Provost Kent Fuchs and President David Skorton, the Executive Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees voted unanimously June 16 to approve the appointment of Michael Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine in Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, to a second five-year term beginning July 1, 2012.



Kotlikoff

"I am privileged to work with Mike. He has provided strong and creative leadership to the College of Veterinary Medicine, and he has earned the respect of his colleagues both in the college and among the senior leadership of the university," Fuchs said. "In the face of difficult financial challenges, he has taken care to diversify and expand program offerings and his vision will ensure the college's pre-eminence long into the future."

Kotlikoff, previously chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, first became dean in 2007.

"It's a great honor to be dean of the Vet College, and I feel like we have started some things that I'd like to see through," Kotlikoff said.

In his first four years, Kotlikoff has overseen the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, recruitment of six new department chairs and directors, the expansion of clinical training opportunities for veterinary students, reorganization of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, and the opening of a veterinary specialty and emergency critical-care facility in Stamford, Conn. This fall the first round of students will rotate through the facility, which provides referral medical and surgical procedures for referring veterinarians, as well as continuing education opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary technicians and pet owners.

The past three years have been tough ones financially, Kotlikoff said. For the college to maintain its top-ranking programs, it will be necessary to invest in the college's strategic objectives and to renew the internationally recognized faculty.

To this end, a high priority in his next phase as dean will be the college's capital plan, which officially begins in 2012 and for which Cornell's prioritization of New York state's capital funds will be critical, Kotlikoff said, adding that very little capital investment in the college from SUNY capital funds has occurred since the new hospital was built in the 1990s. The college needs to enlarge and enhance its classrooms, labs and study spaces, which will strengthen teaching and clinical experience for students and enable a modest expansion of the DVM class size. This will provide more opportunities for New York state residents to receive Cornell veterinary degrees, and replace funding lost by state cutbacks.

Kotlikoff also seeks to expand groundbreaking translational programs in comparative genomics/stem cell research, infection biology, reproductive and developmental biology, and cancer biology. In 2010 the college received an anonymous \$10 million gift to establish the world's first canine genomics program, for which Kotlikoff will lead efforts to find resources for further investment. This program has critical links to the computational biology group in Ithaca and genetic scientists in Weill Cornell Medical College, he said.

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In addition to strengthening the college's leading educational and clinical programs, Kotlikoff wants to ensure that the college's tradition of excellence as a top-ranked biomedical discovery institution continues. The college has deep links with the medical college in areas of cancer biology, reproductive biology, vascular biology, inflammatory bowel disease and genetic medicine. The veterinary college is consistently ranked best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, most recently in the magazine's March 15 edition.

As dean, Kotlikoff oversees the college's administrative operations and programs in teaching, outreach and research, including the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

Kotlikoff joined the Cornell faculty in 2000. He has chaired the provost's Local Advisory Committee and the Mammalian Genomics Initiative, and has served on the Cornell Genomics and Life Sciences Task Force, Cornell Institute for Biotechnology and Life Science Technologies Scientific Administrative Board and Cornell Neurosciences Steering Committee. He currently chairs the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health and is a senior editor of the Journal of Physiology. His laboratory is internationally recognized in the area of cardiovascular biology and continues to be funded by the NIH.

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McEntee named department chair

Dr. Margaret (Margy) McEntee was appointed the Alexander de Lahunta Chair of Clinical Sciences for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2011. Dr. McEntee has been serving as interim chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences since February 1, 2010. Margy succeeds Dr. Rodney Page who led the department from 2005 until February 2010 and then returned to his native Colorado where he is serving as director of the Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University.



Dr. McEntee received her DVM from Cornell in 1986 and then went to North Carolina State University where she completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery (1986-1987), a residency in medical oncology (1987-1989), a radiation oncology residency (1991-1993), and was a clinical instructor of the oncology service (1989-1993). After working at the Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital, the Animal Medical Center, and the University of California at Davis, Dr. McEntee returned to Cornell in 2000 where she was appointed Associate Professor of Oncology and Co-Director of the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research. Dr. McEntee is board-certified in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Radiology. She has been Professor with indefinite tenure at Cornell since 2008.

The Department of Clinical Sciences is the largest of the five academic departments at the College with more than 60 faculty, six interns, 45 residents, and 11 graduate students who have extensive clinical responsibilities and participate in a significant number of foundation and distribution courses. As department chair, Dr. McEntee will provide academic and strategic leadership for the education, research, and clinical service programs of the department and will work closely with the other department chairs and the director of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

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New method defibrillates heart with less electricity and pain

Cornell scientists, in collaboration with physicists and physician-scientists in Germany, France and Rochester, N.Y., have developed a new -- and much less painful and potentially damaging -- method to end life-threatening heart fibrillations.

The new technique, which is reported in the July 14 issue of the journal *Nature*, cuts the energy required for defibrillation by 84

percent, compared with conventional methods.

In healthy hearts, electrical pulses propagate across the heart muscle in an orderly fashion to control the heart's contraction and relaxation cycle at regular intervals. However, when the electrical pulses propagate throughout the heart chaotically, it disables the regular heartbeat and prevents the body from getting fresh supplies of blood.



Fenton

Gilmour

One of these rhythm disturbances, called atrial fibrillation, is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia worldwide, affecting about 1 percent of the population, mostly people older than 50 years.

Patients who suffer repeatedly from atrial fibrillation are typically treated with a large electrical pulse (defibrillation), which forces the heart back into its regular beating but is painful and can damage the surrounding tissue. The new method, LEAP (Low-Energy Anti-fibrillation Pacing), developed by a team co-led by Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine researcher Flavio Fenton, uses a heart catheter to create a sequence of five weak electrical signals in the heart.

"Only a few seconds later, the heart beats regularly again," said the team's other co-leader, Stefan Luther of the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization (MPI DS) and a Cornell adjunct professor in biomedical sciences.

"The energy applied to the heart per pulse is on average 84 percent less than in conventional methods," added Fenton.

Even though both methods seem to function similarly at first sight, they stimulate completely different processes within the heart, explains co-author Robert Gilmour, professor of physiology at Cornell. "The classical defibrillator excites all cells of the organ at the same time. For a short moment they can no longer transmit any electrical signals; the life-threatening chaotic activity is terminated. Afterward, the heart resumes its normal, regular beating. The situation can be compared to turning a malfunctioning computer off and on again," said Gilmour.

The new method terminates the turbulent electrical activity within the heart step by step. In experiments and computer simulations, the researchers showed that natural heterogeneities within the heart, particularly blood vessels, can act as the origins for synchronizing waves. "The weak electrical signals are enough to create 'virtual electrodes' that stimulate the cells in these regions," said Eberhard Bodenschatz, director at MPI DS and Cornell adjunct professor of physics and mechanical and aerospace engineering.

With every additional pulse, more heterogeneities in the heart are activated and gradually suppress the chaotic activity and "reprogram" the heart.

Because the researchers consider LEAP groundbreaking, they are working to get it to patients as quickly as possible.

Other collaborators include researchers at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France), University Medicine Göttingen (Germany), Rochester Institute of Technology and the Laboratoire Non-Linéaire de Nice (France) collaborated on the work.

The research was conducted under the umbrella of the MPI/Cornell collaboration on Complex Systems and supported by the Max Planck Society, National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the

University of California-Santa Barbara, and the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme.

CORNELL CHRONIC

May 10, 2017

The requested page "/stories/July11/fibrillation.mov" could not be found.

This video depicts an arrhythmia (spiral waves) during fibrillation, showing very complex spatiotemporal dynamics. Around frame 1700, the low energy pulses are introduced and little by little one can see the synchronization and eventual termination of the arrhythmia.

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Grad student wins veterinary training grant to model economics of epidemics

Where economics and epidemiology collide, graduate student Rebecca Smith, DVM '05 builds the tools to chart their course. In March 2011 Smith won a specialized veterinary training grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), making her the first student in eight years to win at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Smith will use the \$350,000 five-year fellowship to model key cattle diseases and find cost-effective ways of limiting their spread.



As animal models grow increasingly valuable to biomedical research, so do veterinary investigators with animal expertise. The Special Emphasis Research Career Award (K01 Award) in Pathology and Comparative Medicine is the sole NIH grant available to researchers with DVM degrees. Its funds train veterinarians in advanced research techniques while aggressively moving them toward roles as independent investigators. Smith won through a combination of prior publications, a multidisciplinary mentorship committee, and a research proposal relevant to both animal and human health.

“While many researchers use mouse gene lines to study how human diseases develop in individuals, animal herds can model how diseases spread across human populations,” said Smith. “I study mycobacterial diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis, and Johne’s Disease, which can devastate animals and humans alike. They’re hard to manage and diagnose because symptoms usually arise long after infection begins. But if we can successfully diagnose some cases, we can look back and say when infection probably began, how infectious individuals are likely to be now, and how much a herd is at risk.”

With data from dairy herds across the world that suffered outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis and Johne’s disease, Smith will apply advanced statistical techniques in new ways to develop a mathematical model. This framework will estimate transmission rates, measure infection pressure, and evaluate control efforts. It will then generate cost-benefit analyses that will help health organizations decide how to most cost-effectively manage disease.

“A third of the world’s population is infected with tuberculosis, according to estimates from the World Health Organization,” said Smith. “Meanwhile, leprosy is almost gone. In an ideal world we might eradicate all diseases entirely, but when economics come into play that’s not always the best option. We must live with a certain level of disease. This model will help us determine how much.”

Smith will work under the mentorship of Dr. Yrjo Grohn, chair of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, and Dr. Ynte Schukken, director of the Quality Milk Production Service and Professor in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences. A committee from across Cornell will provide further mentorship, including Dr. Robert Strawderman, professor of Biological Statistics and Computational Biology; Dr. Loren Tauer, chair of the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management; and Dr. David Russell, chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Smith teaches the graduate-level course “Introduction to Epidemiology” while pursuing her current research and outreach work.

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[eVETS connect](#) > Joya

More than skin deep

Nothing about Joya Griffin's DVM '06 life is merely skin deep. Her love of veterinary medicine is almost as old as she is. Her patients are just as likely to present with allergic reactions as they are with systemic conditions. And, her affinity for Cornell and the Ithaca area seems bottomless.

Griffin was just a kindergartener when she began caring for her neighborhood's stray animals, offering them food, water, and friendship. Combining the personal satisfaction that this labor of love brought with her aptitude for science and math, Griffin made the decision to become a veterinarian early in her high school career.

"Watching Dr. Doolittle talk to animals was pretty enticing when I was younger," said Griffin, who also credits a local veterinarian's support with helping to guide her to the profession.



Today, Griffin is an associate at one of the largest dermatology practices in the country, with offices in southern California, Georgia, Indiana and Kentucky. Based in Louisville, Griffin is focused on building her caseload right now, treating dogs, cats, and horses, and has aspirations to become a partner down the road.

“Dermatology is very interesting,” said Griffin. “It’s more than just allergies, although I practice in one of the most allergenic areas in the country. My patients come to me with conditions that range from skin cancer to autoimmune diseases and everything in between.”

One of Griffin’s earliest patients was her own pup, [Gizmo], who was successfully treated at Cornell while Griffin was a veterinary student. The Lhasa Apso was born with chronic Atopic skin disease that defied treatment for most of her first four years. With help from Griffin’s mentors, Drs. Danny Scott and William Miller, [Gizmo] is now a comfortable, 13-year-old pup who has followed Griffin to her internship at the VCA in Chicago, back to Cornell for her residency program and lecturer position while Scott completed a sabbatical, and now to Kentucky.

“My time at Cornell and in Ithaca was a blessing,” said Griffin, who married a fellow veterinarian (although a graduate of Tuskegee University). “I felt fortunate to be able to return for the residency and the opportunity to fill in for Danny was amazing. I sat in the same lecture hall as the students I was teaching and was just as overwhelmed with Block V as they were. I tried to make the lectures fun and understandable and I tried to be as approachable as possible. I hope that someday I might return to academia. Students keep things fresh and fun.”

Given that the last good berry patch Griffin found was in the Finger Lakes, returning to Ithaca, she says, “wouldn’t be a bad idea either. I just have to convince my husband!”



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Douglas Aspros '75 first AVMA president from NYS in over 30 years

Congratulations to Dr. Douglas G. Aspros '75 of White Plains, New York, president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The announcement was made on Friday, July 15, 2011 at the AVMA's annual meeting in St. Louis. Aspros will be the first veterinarian from New York State to serve as AVMA president since 1981, and the first Cornell alum since 1986.

Read the full story at Dr. Donald Smith's [Veterinary Legacy blog](#)





Veterinary Legacy

If you enjoyed James Herriot's tales, you will cherish these stories about veterinarians and their passion for serving animals and people in an ever-changing veterinary profession.

289,508

Friday, July 15, 2011

Douglas G. Aspros to become first AVMA President from New York State in over 30 years.

Posted July 15, 2011
Donald F. Smith, Cornell University

This historical blog is in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the American Veterinary Medical Association (1863-2013).

Earlier today, Dr. Douglas G. Aspros of White Plains, New York, was selected as the president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association at the AVMA's annual meeting in St. Louis. He will ascend to the presidency in August 2012 which will mark the beginning of the year celebrating the 150th anniversary of the AVMA.



Dr. Douglas G. Aspros and Dee Aspros at AVMA meeting, July 15, 2011
Photo by the author

A veterinary practitioner with over 35 years of clinical experience in companion animal medicine, Dr. Aspros is owner-manager of two general practices and one emergency practice in the metro NYC area.

Dr. Aspros has been active in association governance at all levels in veterinary medicine, and has expertise in veterinary educational programs.

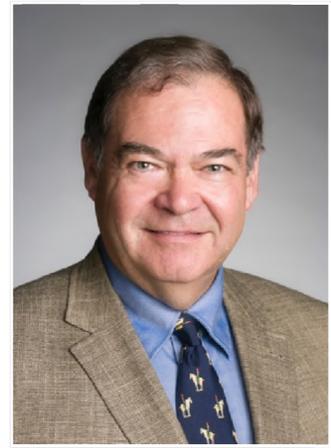
Having served on the Westchester County Board of Health for more than 25 years (and president since 1994), he understands the critical role that public health plays in safeguarding human, animal and environmental health.

Dr. Aspros will be the first New York State veterinarian to serve as AVMA president

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Donald F. Smith D.V.M.



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CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

By Donald F. Smith, DVM, DACVS
Posted January 18, 2015 Author's Comment: Centennial-Year tributes to the College of Veter...



Tuskegee's Dean Ruby Perry on Leadership

In honor of African-American History Month By Donald F. Smith, Cornell University Ruby Perry DVM, MS, DACVR is Interim Dean of Tusk...

since Dr. Stanley Aldrich in 1980-81, and the first Cornell graduate since Dr. D.L. Proctor of Lexington, KY in 1985-86.

A member of Cornell's veterinary class of 1975, Dr. Aspros is an intelligent and insightful veterinarian who believes it is critical that the AVMA become a modern, strategic, and effective organization, and one that leads rather than reacts to the problems and opportunities that confront veterinary medicine.

Dr. Smith invites comments at dfs6@cornell.edu.

Posted by Donald F. Smith at 11:33 PM



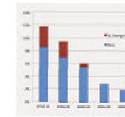
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Proportion of Ross and St. George's DVM Graduates in the US during the Last 30 Years

By Donald F.

Smith, Cornell University (1) In a story posted here on February 27 th , I reported that alumni of Ross University School of...

VETERINARY DEANS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (1916-2009)

By Donald F. Smith, DVM, DACVS Posted January 14, 2016 Author's Note: This is the second of six contiguous articles on veterinary ...

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By Donald F. Smith, Cornell University Posted January 5, 2015 It took Walter Williams 40 years to get a steady job. In the years...

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Scheduled:

ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL COLLEGES annual meeting (Washington, DC), March 5, 2016. Co-presenter, Julie Kumble

Louisiana State University, leadership workshop. Co-presenter Julie Kumble, April 1, 2016

Auburn University, leadership workshop, Co-presenter, Julie Kumble, Fall 2016

Lincoln Memorial University, leadership workshop, Co-presenter, Julie Kumble, November 2016

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Animal activist Gabby Wild joins veterinary class of 2015 while planning awareness campaign

She has ridden horses across Ireland, studied baboons in Kenya, befriended elephants in Thailand, and followed sled dogs through Alaska. Her commitment to service and her passion for helping animals have impacted Cornell and places around the world. Now animal activist Gabby Wild, BS '11, DVM '15 will embark on a new adventure as a first-year veterinary student at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Fall 2011.

"When I was four I had an epiphany while watching *The Lion King*," she recalled. "The magnificent diversity of animals, the prowess, the struggles, and the unification we all share with them hit me through this film. As I matured, these themes nurtured a passion that convinced me that I wanted to become a veterinarian."



While completing an accelerated double major in biology and animal science, Wild volunteered at the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health Center and the Raptor Program and became founder and president of Cornell's chapter of Heifer International, a charity organization addressing world hunger and poverty. She spent time in Thailand training to be an elephant handler and working at the Elephant Hospital in Lampang. Traveling with a mobile veterinary clinic visiting elephants across Northern Thailand, she had the opportunity to handle and care for elephants and even performed minor surgeries.

There she befriended a baby elephant named Khun Chai. Though initially in poor health after being rescued from his kidnappers, he formed a close bond with Wild and began improving rapidly. Soon after Wild had to return to Cornell, Khun Chai's health declined and he passed away.

"I was devastated by the news of his death and the knowledge that he would still be alive if he hadn't been kidnapped," said Wild. "That experience sealed my mission in my mind. I want to protect and save animals in the clinic and in the field through veterinary medicine and animal activism. I applied to Cornell's veterinary college. On my way to Kenya I got a call from former dean Dr. Donald Smith. I had just set foot in Africa for the first time, there were giraffes in the distance, and he told me I'd been accepted. My dream began with Africa, and it took me there full circle."

Wild is spending her last summer before embarking on the veterinary side of her mission riding horses across the Irish countryside to raise funds for the Equine Division of the Humane Society of the United States and organizing her next major activism activity slated for 2012.

We look forward to welcoming Gabby to our incoming class of 2015. You can read more about her past, present, and future adventures at her [blog](#).

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Students to run volunteer veterinary clinic at Bronx YMCA Oct. 8

On Oct. 8, Cornell veterinary students and clinical faculty will join volunteer alumni and offer their first daylong animal wellness clinic in the Bronx at its YMCA. The clinic, at 2 Castle Hill Ave., will see cats from 8 a.m. to noon and dogs from 2-6 p.m. Pet owners are asked to enter the building through the side entrance fence. Pet visits will cost owners \$20 per pet, and all proceeds will go to the YMCA. (Click [here](#) for more info.)

The program is modeled after a veterinary program that's been running at Ithaca's Southside Community Center since 1996. Organized by Cornell parasitologist Dwight Bowman and veterinarians Daniel Fletcher and William Hornbuckle, the clinic allows first- and second-year veterinary students to hone skills that are used during typical wellness visits. During the clinic, students will perform wellness visits on pets that may not otherwise have access to veterinary care. Pets diagnosed with any clinical condition are referred to local veterinary practices for further diagnostics and follow-up.



In the spring, organizers plan to hold the clinic in another New York City borough and hope it will become a regular event.

Dwight Bowman
William
Hornbuckle

With a passion for student-community engagement, Bowman, professor of parasitology in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, won for his efforts a Kaplan Family Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in Service Learning award in May. The annual award honors two Cornell faculty members for making a significant impact on Cornell education by involving students in service learning. Bowman and Fletcher, assistant professor of clinical sciences, will use the \$5,000 award to fund the clinic in the Bronx.

"Students come to veterinary school to touch animals," said Bowman. "We wanted to give them that opportunity as soon as possible, so we developed a community practice training program that immediately allows students to make a difference. They handle everything from interacting with clients to examining patients. As supervisors we watch and assist only when needed, while older students mentor the younger students and manage the clinic. Bringing them to New York City will give us a chance to work and network with our many alumni in the area, begin interacting with New York City communities where need is great, and gain greater exposure."

Bowman and his colleagues are working to turn the service program into an official course in the veterinary curriculum's Community Practice Service rotation, offering credit to its student leaders. He hopes the clinic's expanding exposure and scope will help attract the funding needed to endow the program and ensure its future.

"My overarching goal is to develop the clinic's structure to a point where it will continue as a center of service learning," said Bowman. "We have a new crop of clinical staff devoting time to the project, and I am working to get them more involved with the Faculty Fellows in Service and the Public Service Center. Students continue to show phenomenal interest and participation, and their clientele is expanding. I hope to develop an infrastructure that allows these invaluable interactions to grow."

"This remarkable Ithaca-Cornell collaboration teaches students the value of volunteer service, augments their curriculum through practical, hands-on training and engages students, faculty, community leaders and local veterinarians in an effort that enriches the lives of the most needy individuals in our community," said Michael Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "Not only does Dr. Bowman volunteer endless hours to the organization of the clinic, he tirelessly raises funds, negotiates voluntary drug and vaccine donations from pharmaceutical companies, and obtains equipment and supplies for the program. His efforts exemplify the spirit of Cornell and have established a unique learning model in veterinary medicine."

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Class of 1951



Class of 1956



Class of 1961



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Grateful pig owner gives gift of sight to Cornell's future animal patients

Hours before she was scheduled to leave for vacation, Dr. Nita Irby received a distressed call in the ophthalmology service. Trixie, a beloved miniature potbellied pig, was suffering from an undiagnosed painful eye problem that had been ongoing for several months. Irby agreed to see the pig and in May 2011 Kathy Ruttenberg, a successful artist hugely inspired by her relationships with her adored pets, drove Trixie four hours to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA).

"Trixie was squinting, had a great deal of tears from her eye, and was clearly in pain," said Irby. "Examining her eye, we found a small, shallow ulcer scarring on the eye and hairs trapped in the eye that might have been causing ulcers. We carefully removed the hairs and Trixie improved within days."



Unfortunately, a week or so after the eye healed it became painful once again and Trixie returned to the CUHA for a second examination.

"We found nothing abnormal other than a small ulcer at a new location on the eye," said Irby. "But her hair coat appeared unhealthy and her skin seemed abnormally scaly. Dr. Danny Scott in dermatology diagnosed congenital ichthyosis and prescribed colloidal oatmeal baths and nutritional supplements. In follow-up appointments Trixie's coat has been looking great. At her last visit the Zeiss operating microscope was used to carefully examine the

eye and diagnose a qualitative tear film deficiency. Although Trixie's eye has continued to cause intermittent painful episodes, we hope to see an improvement over the next four to six weeks as the new medication we prescribed begins to work."

"From the moment I first called, Dr. Irby was there for us", said Ruttenberg, who contacted the Hospital wanting to donate in Irby's honor shortly after the initial visit and soon decided to fund the purchase of a new phacoemulsification machine used by the ophthalmology service for cataract removal surgery.

"Shortly after Trixie's initial visit, the ophthalmology service discovered a major potential hardship," said Irby. "Ophthalmology provides a life-changing service by removing cataracts from dogs, cats, horses, and many other animal species to restore sight to animals blinded by cataracts. The surgery requires a phacoemulsification machine, the same device used on humans that utilizes ultrasound to break apart the lens and remove the pieces from the eye. The manufacturer was phasing out our model and would soon stop making the packs we needed to ensure each patient has a new, sterile setup for surgery. We had no money to upgrade to a new machine. The very next day after hearing that we could not purchase the new machine Kathy asked me how she could provide more support to us. Our new machine has been ordered and will arrive any day. Kathy's gift will help restore vision to many, many animals now and in the future."

Ruttenberg is well known for her love of animals, which has been the subject of several news articles, including one in *The New York Times* covering her habit of sleeping with Trixie and others from her menagerie of 70 animals in her mountain home in upstate N.Y. Her generous gift to CUHA will help many animals live better quality lives.

"Dr. Irby exudes such positive energy," said Ruttenberg. "We need more good vets like her, and I wanted to give a gift in her honor. Cornell's hospital strongly impressed me with its professionalism and warmth. Everyone was so nice and knowledgeable and clearly adored animals. From the technicians and staff to the students and faculty, they were patient talking me through things and sharing my care for Trixie. There is nowhere else in the world I would leave my pig."