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## Nominate now for the 2015 Salmon Award

### Continue the Legacy

You know your peers best. You know what they do day in and day out to serve their patients and clients. You know the passion they commit to furthering the profession of veterinary medicine. And, you know the loyalty that drives their service to your alma mater.

Help us honor our alumni by nominating a Cornell graduate for the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service. Named in honor of Cornell's first DVM graduate, who is remembered for his pioneering work in controlling contagious animal diseases in the early 20th century, the award was established by the Alumni Association in 1986 to recognize graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities, or to the College.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year until May 1. The recipient of the award is notified by September 1 and is honored at the annual New York State Veterinary Conference.

**Nominate  
Now**

### **Additional news from the Alumni Association**

Visit our [website](#) for a listing of our board members and our meeting dates. Each fall, we welcome nominations to the board.

To reach the Office of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications, call 607.253.3745 or [email](#) – subject line “Alumni Association.”



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## College showcases shelter medicine in Cornell Sesquicentennial DC Event

One of Cornell's many planned Sesquicentennial celebrations occurred on November 14, 2014. Dr. Elizabeth Berliner, the Janet L. Swanson Director of Shelter Medicine of Maddie's® Shelter Medicine Program, gave an inspirational "RedTalk" about Cornell's pioneering work in shelter medicine and how it has helped the health and welfare of thousands of homeless animals' lives.

The morning after the event, 50 Cornellians, including Berliner and Dr. Michael Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, volunteered at the Washington Animal Rescue League (WARL). The morning was kicked off by Robert Ramin '82, JGSM '85, Executive Director of WARL, who introduced the dean and Berliner and both spoke about the College's role in improving animal health and fighting infectious disease.

Volunteers then broke into groups to help the shelter with various tasks, from walking dogs to cleaning the cat room, where Kotlikoff used a glue gun to help make a scratching post.

The dean is pictured here in the cat room with Sarah Reilly '09, the daughter of former Chair of the Dean's Advisory Council Dr. Phil Reilly '69.



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## Expanding the Cornell neurology legacy

From an early age Lauren Talarico '08 knew what she would be doing with her life. While other children would show interest in other careers, Talarico always had her mind set on becoming a veterinarian.

“Everything I did growing up was animal related,” said Talarico. “From rescuing stray animals in the neighborhood, to working at a local animal hospital at the age of 12, it was always with the end goal of

becoming a veterinarian.”

Talarico visited Cornell when she was still in high school and immediately fell in love with the College. When it came time to apply to follow her life-long dream, she applied to every veterinary school in the country to be safe and was accepted by each one. While visiting another school, Talarico decided that Cornell was the place for her.

“I kept thinking about Cornell the entire time” said Talarico. “Immediately after I called Cornell and told them I was on my way.”

Talarico then spent the next seven years at Cornell, completing her neurosurgical residency in 2012 after achieving her DVM.

“The College of Veterinary Medicine was my home for many years,” said Talarico. “I consider each and every person, from the women in admissions, to my professors, to my friends, as family.”

One particular professor stands out as the reason why Talarico chose to dedicate her life to veterinary neurology. Her favorite classes were with Dr. Alexander DeLahunta. She also attended neuroanatomy rounds with him, examining both large and small animals at two in the morning.

“I was inspired from the very first day of class in a way that I cannot describe with words,” said Talarico. “I knew, within minutes, this is what I wanted to do with my life.”

After Dr. DeLahunta retired, Dr. Curtis Dewey took over the neurology program and became another inspiration in Talarico’s education. He was also her mentor during her three year neurology residency.

“Dr. Dewey solidified my goal further and made it a reality,” said Talarico. “He shaped me into the neurologist that I am today for that, I will forever be in his debt.”

Today Talarico is a veterinary neurosurgeon at VCA SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Center where she uses her Cornell experience to better the lives of animals. One



particular aspect of the job she loves is helping paralyzed dogs to walk again. Another recent highlight for Talarico is when she removed four brain tumors from a cat in one surgical procedure.

“Being able to help animals with neurologic diseases and seeing them recover is the most amazing gift,” said Talarico. “I feel as though I have taken the Cornell neurology legacy to Washington, DC. It is common knowledge that the neurology program at Cornell is unparalleled and I consider myself very fortunate and extremely connected to that legacy.”

Today Talarico is using the lessons she learned at Cornell to help animals in need, as she continues to follow her life-long dream. For those also looking to pursue their own dream of veterinary medicine, she has a bit of advice.

“It is important to realize that becoming a veterinarian is a lifestyle and it requires constant commitment and life-long dedication, never take it for granted, it is a gift,” said Talarico. “If you are fortunate enough to complete your veterinary education at Cornell, realize you are part of a legacy. Make every day count and treat every case you see the Cornell way.”

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## Knee meniscus fixed using revolutionary stem cell procedure

Researchers report on a revolutionary new procedure that uses 3-D printing and the body's stem cells to regenerate knee meniscus, a tissue lining that acts as a natural cushion between the femur and tibia.

People with damaged menisci develop arthritis and are forced to limit their activity.

The procedure, published online Dec. 10 in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*, has proved successful in sheep at Cornell University six months after surgery, though the researchers will monitor the sheep for a year to ensure the animals do not develop arthritis. Sheep menisci are structurally similar to those of humans, and clinical trials in humans could begin in two to three years.



“Most middle-aged people who end up with a degenerate meniscus have it trimmed up [surgically], but if you lose more than 20 to 30 percent, then you are very prone to arthritis,” said Lisa Fortier, professor of large animal surgery at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine and a co-author of the paper; she led the meniscus surgeries on sheep. “If everybody who needed it could replace their meniscus they could slow arthritis and maintain their full function,” Fortier added.

The technique was developed by the paper’s senior author Jeremy Mao, professor of dental medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, and involves taking an MRI of the patient’s (in this case sheep’s) knee. Using a 3-D printer, Mao printed a biodegradable polyester scaffold in the exact shape of a patient’s meniscus. Through multiple lab experiments, Mao’s group discovered that two growth factors, when used in specific concentrations and at critical times, recruited the most stem cells for meniscal repair. The growth factors were then laced into the scaffold, allowing the body’s stem cells build a new meniscus four to six weeks after surgery.

Currently, a torn meniscus requires replacement with cadaver tissue, which has a low success rate and can lead to disease and rejection, and synthetic menisci have proved ineffective and hard to fit properly in diversely built patients.

Approximately a million people undergo meniscus surgeries each year in the United States.

Co-authors include Scott Rodeo, orthopedic surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery, an affiliate of Weill Cornell Medical College; and Chang H. Lee, Chuanyong Lu and Cevat Eriskan, all at Columbia University Medical Center.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Arthroscopy Association of North America, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the Harry M. Zweig Foundation.

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## Rare canine open-heart surgery succeeds

Last April, Dylan Raskin's Japanese Chin, Esme, was diagnosed with mitral valve regurgitation, a fatal condition that causes backflow of blood in the heart's chambers. Though veterinarians initially treated the condition with pills, the dog's heart failure became worse, leading specialists to predict just a few more months of life for Esme.

Esme's future now looks bright, as the Chin received a rare and successful seven-hour open-heart surgery at Cornell's Hospital for Animals Nov. 19 and was released with a healthy prognosis Nov. 26. The surgery was conducted by a team of five Japanese veterinarians who specialize in such heart surgeries, and led to some hefty medical bills, including \$22,000 to fly the surgical team to Ithaca and \$10,000 in hospital fees.



Raskin did research to find and contact the Japanese surgeons, and with the help of two Cornell alumnae, the College of Veterinary Medicine agreed to sponsor the procedure.

"There aren't any places that do this routinely; that's the biggest hurdle," said Dr. James Flanders, associate professor of surgery at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and an expert in small-animal soft-tissue surgery. "This Japanese team has been doing this surgery for the last 10 years and have a very high success rate," he added.

To take Esme to Japan for the surgery would have required a six-month quarantine according to Japanese law, time that Esme did not have, Flanders said.

Though the mitral valve surgery has been attempted on dogs by U.S. surgeons in the past, the procedure has proved especially difficult in small dogs, said Flanders. The surgery requires a bypass pump that temporarily takes over the heart's duties so the surgeons can operate. The biggest challenge comes when taking the animal off the bypass pump and allowing the heart to take up pumping duties again, which often leads to complications and death, said Flanders.

Flanders, a 30-year veteran as a small-animal surgeon, said bypass operations like this require an entire specialized team that includes a surgeon, an assistant surgeon, a perfusionist to operate a heart-lung machine and an anesthesiologist.

To raise the money, Raskin sold his car, took out a loan and enlisted the help of strangers through the crowdsourcing website [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com). The overwhelming public generosity led Raskin to cut off donations once his goal had been reached.

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## James Law seats and lettering up for auction

The College community marked the beginning of the class expansion project construction with a celebration honoring James Law Auditorium. The historical space will be demolished in the first phase of the project.

The College is accepting sealed bids for James Law seats and James Law lettering. Lettering on the brick outside James Law Auditorium and some rows of seats from the Auditorium will be up for bid during the NYSVM Conference held this Spring 2015.



At the Purple Party held on Saturday evening during the conference, conference attendees will place bids – closed – on the items.

Alumni who would like to place a bid, but will not be able to attend the Conference should contact Lyn LaBar in the Office of Alumni Affairs & Development. Lyn may be reached at [cel75@cornell.edu](mailto:cel75@cornell.edu) or 607-253-4230. Closed bids must be placed no later than May 13, 2015.

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## DeeDee Arrison Concert for the Animals

Highlights from the 2014 DeeDee Arrison Concert for Animals at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Music fans of all ages (and species) enjoyed our annual DeeDee Arrison Concert for the Animals featuring Tim Fain and Ben Beilman, accompanied by Robert Koenig. Cornell University extends its gratitude to Clement and Karen Arrison for their sponsorship of this annual performance.



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## Cornell University Sesquicentennial

Around the globe, Cornell is celebrating our University's first 150 years. The history of the teaching of veterinary medicine at Cornell predates the establishment of the College in 1894. Shortly after the University was founded in 1865, Ezra Cornell insisted that a chair of veterinary medicine be instituted. He instructed Andrew D. White, the University's first president, to seek the best-qualified person to teach courses in veterinary medicine and surgery. Legend has it that, as White sailed off in search of world-class faculty to bring back to the University, Ezra Cornell called out "Don't forget the horse doctor!"



James Law, a distinguished young veterinarian from Edinburgh, Scotland was recruited by the University's first president Andrew Dixon White. Dr. Law became the first professor of veterinary medicine and surgery at Cornell and at an American university in 1868. This momentous event would provide the foundation for advancement in veterinary medicine in the United States.



The College proudly joins the University in celebrating the Sesquicentennial anniversary of Cornell's founding. Learn more about the Sesquicentennial and its multiple celebrations here: <http://150.cornell.edu/>

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## Alum gives generous gift as 75th reunion approaches

Dr. Carleton Potter '40 will be returning to Cornell to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> reunion this June. Potter, who practiced in Cortland County for almost 60 years, is truly an example of Cornell pride running in a family.

Potter was born just a month after his father, Wilburn Potter, received his veterinary degree from Cornell University. Growing up, Potter was always interested in animal health, especially large animals and he aspired to have a career in veterinary medicine like his father.

“My father received his veterinary degree from Cornell in 1918, I guess we’re a Cornell family in a way,” said Potter

After completing his one-year prerequisite at the Agricultural College at Cornell, Potter applied to the Veterinary College and was chosen as one of the forty class members out of 250 applicants.

Potter’s time at the College, a time when only four women were in the class, is filled with many memories of classes and favorite professors. A small class size allowed Potter to know Dr. William Hagan well.

“Dr. Hagan was dean and s bacteriology professor and I enjoyed his approach very much,” said Potter. “We got to know each other due to only 40 of us being in the class and I speak very highly of him.”

After graduation, Potter went to work in Claremont, New Hampshire until he visited Cornell in 1941 and connected with a veterinarian from Lawrence, Massachusetts who was in need of a new partner. Here he worked mostly with large animals in a mill town where cows were treated as part of the family.

After three years in Lawrence, Potter returned to Central New York to work in Homer where he focused mainly on large animal, 90 percent of which was dairy work. He built a clinic in Homer for small animals, but treated most large animal cases in his home, customary at the time.

“I was raised on a dairy farm and would go on calls with my father,” said Potter. “This influenced me to work with large animals.”

Many other members of Potter’s family also have ties to Cornell. Along with his father, three of Potters siblings were graduates of Cornell. In 1943, Potter married Marian Wightman ‘40 and, out of their six children, three attended Cornell. Following Marian’s death, Potter married Esther Forbes, a Cornell graduate whose father also attended Cornell.

“Last time we counted, it was about 52 Cornell alums in our combined family,” said Potter of his and Esther’s families.

The legacy of Potter’s family continues to benefit future veterinarians at Cornell. Potter recently gave \$10,000 to an already established family scholarship, the Wilburn and Florence Potter Scholarship.

“It’s sort of a way of paying back,” said Potter. “We have been involved with Cornell quite extensively; we give to a few family scholarships.”

Now as Potter plans his return to Cornell for his 75<sup>th</sup> reunion, he looks back at his family legacy with pride.

“Cornell has been a family affair,” said Potter



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## Cornell vet students participate in “Our Oath in Action Day”

The students, faculty, and staff from the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine joined together with the American Veterinary Medical Foundation to host an “Our Oath in Action” booth at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmer's Market in Buffalo, N.Y. on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

Free to the public, the event featured giveaways, education and awareness materials, fun-filled family activities, and demonstrations. Cornell's participation at the market helped raise Buffalo community awareness of the commitment of the local veterinary community to the health of all animals and the

mission of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. Many area veterinarians as well as veterinary technician students from Medaille College helped develop the event for their community and participated along with the Cornell students and alumni.

## Cornell Vet Students Participate in "Our Oath In Action Day"



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## White Coat Ceremony 2014



Cornell's annual White Coat Ceremony was held on December 6, 2014 to recognize the one hundred and two members of the class of 2016 as they transition from the preclinical to the clinical portion of their veterinary educational training. During this rite of passage, the students each received a white coat- the symbol of professionalism and empathy in medicine. Students were accompanied on-stage and coated by their professional mentors who have provided support and encouragement along the way.

Drs. Steven Osofsky '89, Executive Director of Wildlife Health and Health Policy at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and Susan Hackner, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists, spoke to the group about the significance of the moment. As the students transition from the classrooms to the clinics, the speakers reminded them to stay focused on taking the knowledge they have learned and apply it to each specific client's needs.

Along with the symbolic act of being coated, the students were led by Dr. Edward Gschrey '86 (CALS '83), Treasurer of the Alumni Association Executive Board, in reciting the Veterinarian's Oath. The students promised to use their knowledge to protect animal health and welfare, prevent and relieve animal suffering, aid in the conservation of animal resources, promote public health, and help the advancement of medical knowledge. Family and friends attended the celebration.