

Student Awards

College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University



Prizes and Awards

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY ANESTHESIOLOGISTS' AWARD

This award is given to a fourth-year student exemplifying clinical proficiency in anesthesia. The recipient is nominated by the anesthesia faculty, residents and staff.

Alexander Charles Stuart Thomson

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE PRACTITIONERS' AWARD

This award is presented to a fourth-year student for special interest and accomplishment in feline medicine and surgery. Selection of the recipient is made by the faculty of the Companion Animal Hospital.

Amanda Ann Kennedy

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY AWARD

This prize is awarded to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated enthusiasm for and understanding of diagnostic and clinical dermatology. The recipient is nominated by the dermatology faculty.

Scott Gerard Bertoldo

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE AWARD

This award recognizes fourth-year veterinary students who demonstrate a sincere interest and outstanding didactic and clinical expertise in veterinary internal medicine. Two nominees are selected by the faculty involved in small animal internal medicine or affiliated specialties of cardiology, neurology, or oncology and one nominee is from large animal internal medicine.

Small Animal – Rebecca McBride

Zachary Badanes

Large Animal – Theresa Ann DeBoover

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGISTS' AWARD

This prize is awarded to a fourth-year student who, as judged by faculty and residents in the Section of Ophthalmology, has distinguished himself/herself by outstanding performance on the clinical ophthalmology rotation and shows exceptional interest and potential in the specialty.

Zachary Badanes

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY RADIOLOGY PRIZE

This award is given in recognition of outstanding enthusiasm and understanding in diagnostic and therapeutic radiology. The fourth-year student nominated for excelling in radiology is:

Deirdre Ann Halloran

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS' AWARD

This award is given to fourth-year students who have demonstrated outstanding motivation and interest in the art and science of veterinary surgery. The two students selected for this award are:

Small Animal – Mark Justin Fealey
Large Animal – Scott Gerard Bertoldo

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY ANIMAL PRACTITIONERS

This award recognizes a veterinary student who has demonstrated extraordinary potential in the field of lab animal medicine. Nominations are made by the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) veterinarians, who are ASLAP members, based on demonstration of interest and aptitude in the field of laboratory animal medicine.

Amanda Lee Armijo
Rachael Natanya Labitt

THE JAMES GORDON BENNETT PRIZE

In 1916, Mr. James Gordon Bennett of New York City endowed this prize for the fourth-year student who shows the greatest humaneness in handling animals, with special reference to the use of anesthesia. Mr. Bennett was the editor of the New York Herald (forerunner of the Herald Tribune) a century ago; a man of diverse abilities and interests; he is the person who dispatched Henry M. Stanley in 1870 to find Dr. David Livingstone in Africa. Nominations are made by the faculty of the Section of Anesthesiology in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Anna Sarfaty

THE ANNE BESSE PRIZE

Miss A. B. Jennings of New York City endowed this prize in 1925 for the best work in food animal medicine. Nominations are made by the Medicine Section faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Morgan Brittany Robinson

THE FRANK BLOOM PATHOLOGY AWARD

This prize was established in 1978 from an endowment given by Dr. Frank Bloom. Dr. Bloom, a 1930 Cornell graduate, was a Charter Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, as well as a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He practiced in Flushing, New York, taught at Downstate Medical and published extensively. The nomination of a fourth-year student excelling in pathology is made by Department of Biomedical Sciences faculty specializing in pathology.

Timothy Kevin Wu

THE GARY BOLTON MEMORIAL CARDIOLOGY AWARD

Funds for the endowment of this award were donated by friends and colleagues of Dr. Gary R. Bolton in memory of his outstanding contributions to the field of small animal cardiology. Dr. Bolton was a member of the faculty and taught cardiology for a decade. He was also known and respected as a compassionate veterinarian who exhibited empathy for his patients and their owners. A fourth-year student, who has demonstrated understanding and expertise in cardiology and empathy for patients compatible with the philosophy of Dr. Bolton, has been nominated by the faculty of the Companion Animal Hospital to receive this award.

Shari Perez

THE CHARLES GROSS BONDY PRIZE

In 1929, Mr. Richard Bondy of New York City endowed this prize as a memorial to his son for the best work by a student in the fourth year in the courses in practical medicine and surgery of small animals. Nominations are made by the faculty of the Medicine and Surgery Sections of the Department of Clinical Sciences responsible for teaching in the Companion Animal Hospital.

Noah Daniel Seward

THE JOHN F. CUMMINGS MEMORIAL AWARD

John Cummings, BS '58, DVM '62, MS '63, PhD '66, James Law Professor of Anatomy, had a long, distinguished career at Cornell as teacher, researcher and mentor to both veterinary and graduate students. He was an exciting and inspiring teacher, known for his interest in, patience with and compassion for students. Dr. Cummings was also a researcher in comparative neuropathology, internationally renowned for his work with animal models of human neurologic diseases. His untimely death on November 3, 1996 filled everyone who knew him with great sadness. Dr. Cummings was the kind of person that many of us aspire to be. He was a modest person, of the highest integrity, who knew the importance of family, community and social responsibility and who had broad interests, knowledge and expertise outside, as well as within veterinary medicine. He approached every aspect of life with enthusiasm, honesty, integrity, and a legendary sense of humor and wit. He respected and cared for others, and earned their respect and admiration in return. The College of Veterinary Medicine Classes of 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 established a fund to provide an annual award to be given to a member of the third-year class who best exemplifies these qualities of Dr. Cummings. Students in any of the four veterinary classes can nominate a member of the 3rd year class for this award. The recipient of the award is then chosen by a faculty committee from among those students nominated.

Sabine Fischer-Daly

THE A. GORDON DANKS LARGE ANIMAL SURGERY AWARD

This award was initiated in 1978 by the faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences to recognize the outstanding contributions of Professor Emeritus A. Gordon Danks, first Director of Student Administration and Admissions and Chairman of the former Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery. It is presented to a fourth-year student demonstrating outstanding knowledge and talent in the diagnosis and treatment of surgical problems of large animals. Basic and applied knowledge, diagnostic abilities, general surgical skills, and patient care exhibited during the clinical rotations are considered in the selecting the recipient.

Cara Freedman Rosenbaum

THE DAPHNE AWARD

This award was established to recognize clinical proficiency and assist new graduates beginning a career in a practice setting. It is awarded to a small number of graduating students who exemplify excellence in the practice of veterinary medicine; whose knowledge, professional skills, compassion, and high standards of patient care promise to advance a legacy of excellence throughout their professional careers.

Rebecca Marie Childs

Theresa Ann DeBoover

Deirdre Ann Halloran

Rebecca Barrington Hicks

THE DONALD DELAHANTY MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize was established as a special memorial to Dr. Donald D. Delahanty, a member of the Department of Large Animal Medicine, Obstetrics and Surgery from 1952 to 1975. The prize is given to a fourth-year student showing an interest in equine practice and a high level of proficiency in the field. The candidate is nominated by the faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences concerned with the equine patient.

Courtney Buckley O'Connell

THE HUGH DUKES PRIZE IN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY

This prize was established by former students and friends of Dr. H. Hugh Dukes, who was a pioneer in the education of students in physiology and who served the University and College for 28 years as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology. With a view to encouraging veterinary graduates to undertake research and teaching in physiology the prize is awarded upon the judgment of the veterinary physiology teaching faculty to a veterinary student who has done excellent work in physiology laboratory courses and shows potential for teaching and contributing new knowledge to physiology. Nominations may be made by any faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Tatiana Cichanowicz Weisbrod

ELANCO SURGICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Elanco awards this prize to fourth-year students who demonstrate outstanding surgical skills and academics. Nominations are made by faculty members in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

Deirdre Ann Halloran - Small Animal

Noah Daniel Seward -Large Animal

ELANCO PARASITOLOGY AWARD

Elanco established this award to honor a fourth-year student who has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the area of parasitology based on course grades, aptitude and extra-curricular interests in clinically pertinent parasitology research. Nominations are made by the faculty engaged in teaching parasitology.

Timothy Kevin Wu

THE ETTINGER INCENTIVE AWARD

Dr. Stephen Ettinger, Class of 1964, established this award to provide encouragement to all veterinary medical students at Cornell. The award, Dr. Ettinger's Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, is given to a second-year student who has made the greatest improvement in cumulative GPA between the first and second year.

Christina Watts

THE HOWARD E. EVANS AWARD IN COMPARATIVE ANATOMY

In 1994, on the occasion of his 50th year class reunion, Dr. Howard Evans '44 and his wife Erica generously endowed this scholarship to be awarded by the faculty of the Department of Anatomy. The purpose of this award is to recognize and encourage student participation in anatomical endeavors that pertain to the gross structure or function of any animal (particularly fish, reptile or bird). This year the award goes to a second-year student.

Melissa Hanson

THE MYRON G. FINCHER PRIZE

This award was initiated in 1980 through an endowment from Dr. Neil W. Pieper, '32, given in honor of Professor Emeritus Myron G. Fincher, '20. It is in recognition of the many contributions to the College by Dr. Fincher. Always a gentleman, he firmly demanded the best from his students and played a leading role in the instruction of large animal medicine and obstetrics for 45 years. It is presented to a fourth-year student demonstrating the best work in courses dealing with large animal obstetrics and reproductive diseases. Academic as well as practical performance is considered. Nominations are made by the Section of Theriogenology in consultation with other clinical faculty.

Benjamin Austin Kasl

THE FINGER LAKES KENNEL CLUB AWARD

This award is presented to a veterinary student who has demonstrated an interest in purebred dogs. Students in any class year are eligible.

Susan Sperling

THE TRACY FRENCH CLINICAL PATHOLOGY PRIZE

This prize is awarded in honor of Dr. Tracy French, who was an associate professor in Clinical Pathology for over 26 years at Cornell University. Dr. French was a leading architect in the creation of eClinPath at Cornell, the web-based clinical pathology teaching modules. This on-line textbook has and will continue to be used as an exceptional educational resource for faculty, students and alumni. This prize is awarded to the veterinary student who achieves the highest grade in the Clinical Pathology course, VTMED 6320, thus displaying excellence in clinical pathology.

Steven Yang

THE GENTLE DOCTOR AWARD

The Gentle Doctor Award was originally made possible by Dr. William Hornbuckle's contribution of prize money from the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award received by him in 1979. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kirk established a permanent endowment fund for the continuation of this award. The recipient of the award is a fourth-year student who, in the opinion of the faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences, exemplifies enthusiasm, motivation and dedication to the delivery of excellent veterinary patient care. This year the faculty has selected:

Jesse J.L. Navatta

THE GRANT SHERMAN HOPKINS PRIZE

The endowment for this prize was given by Ms. Ann Ottaway Hopkins in 1955 in memory of her husband who had served the University and College for 45 years as Professor of Veterinary Anatomy. It is awarded upon the recommendation of the anatomy faculty in the Department of Biomedical Sciences on the basis of interest, ability, perseverance, and performance in work in that department.

Emily Victoria Throwe

THE P. PHILIP LEVINE PRIZE IN AVIAN MEDICINE

This prize was established from donations made by friends and colleagues of Dr. P. Philip Levine in memory of his many contributions to the field of avian medicine, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Levine was a long-time member of the Cornell faculty and was the first chairman of the Department of Avian Diseases. Much of his life was dedicated to the training of young people and to encouraging them to aspire to excellence. In the spirit of encouraging excellence, this prize is awarded to a veterinary student excelling in avian medicine.

Brian Edward Carson

THE ROBERT V. MANNING '55 PRIZE

This prize was established by the family of Dr. Robert V. Manning '55 in his memory. It is awarded to a third or fourth-year student with interest in bovine medicine who best exemplifies Dr. Manning. The student should exhibit qualities of good work ethic, value system and humor. Nominees are selected by faculty of the Equine and Farm Animal Hospital.

Kaitlyn Rose Briggs

THE MERCK MANUAL AWARDS

Merck and Company, Inc., gives copies of the Merck Veterinary Manual to members of the fourth-year class who will graduate highest in their class. The recipients in the Class of 2017 are:

*Kaitlyn Rose Briggs Alexandra Shay Herestofa
Yuan Kang Noah Daniel Seward*

THE JANE MILLER PRIZE

Funds for the endowment of this prize were given by Dr. Frank H. Miller, a graduate of McGill University and a trustee of Cornell University for twenty consecutive years. As a memorial to his wife, the prize is awarded to a member of the second-year class who has done the best work in veterinary physiology. Candidates are nominated by the physiology faculty in Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Nicholas Walsh

THE MALCOLM E. MILLER AWARD

In 1965, Ms. Mary Wells Miller Ewing established this award in memory of her husband, Dr. Malcolm E. Miller, '34, a former professor of anatomy and the head of that department from 1947 to 1960. The recipient is to be a fourth-year student who, in the judgment of the Dean, has demonstrated perseverance, scholastic diligence, and other personal characteristics that will bring credit and distinction to the veterinary profession.

To be announced at Hooding

THE MARY LOUISE MOORE PRIZE

Dr. Veranus A. Moore established this endowed prize as a memorial to his wife for the best work in bacteriology. Dr. Moore served as Chairman of the Pathology and Bacteriology Department and as Dean of the Veterinary College from 1908 to 1930. Nominations are made by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Noah Daniel Seward

THE NEUROANATOMY AND CLINICAL NEUROLOGY PRIZE

In memory of Dr. William B. Forsythe, this prize is to be awarded to the fourth-year student who has demonstrated the most outstanding expertise and interest in neuroanatomy and clinical neurology. Nominations are made by the faculty who have primary responsibility for instruction in neuroanatomy and in clinical neurology. This year the faculty selected:

Rebecca McBride

THE NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY PRIZE

This prize, which consists of an engraved plaque and a cash award, is provided annually by the Society for the best Senior Seminar. Members of the fourth-year class are eligible to compete. Nominations are made by the Senior Seminar Committee which judges the quality of the seminars. This year the committee has selected:

Yuan Kang

THE LEONARD PEARSON VETERINARY PRIZE

This award, endowed in 1993, is for the fourth-year student who most successfully demonstrates the potential for professional and/or academic leadership in veterinary medicine.

To be announced at Hooding

THE PHILOTHERIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC PRIZE

The Philotherian Photographic Prize, endowed in 1972 by the late Dr. and Mrs. Hadley C. Stephenson, is given to the veterinary student who has taken the best photograph of an animal in its environment. In a letter about the prize, Dr. Stephenson said "the members of the veterinary profession possess a feeling for the animals ... [and] ... we wish to encourage the expression of that feeling". The photographs are judged by a committee of College faculty and staff members on originality, individuality of the animal and its enjoyment of its surroundings, the effect it has on the judges, and suitability for framing.

First Place: Alyssa Cornelius '18

Second Place: Patrick Connelly '20

Third Place: Lacey Brown '20

THE PHI ZETA AWARD

The Alpha Chapter of Phi Zeta, the honor society of veterinary medicine, acknowledges the second-year student with the best academic record upon completion of the first three semesters of study.

Allison Tuchrello

THE WILLIAM C. REBHUN AND SAMUEL GORDON CAMPBELL AWARD

Through an endowment established in 2000 by the Rebhun and Campbell families, the William C. Rebhun and Samuel Gordon Campbell Award recognizes a fourth-year student who, while on clinical rotations, has demonstrated a practical and reliable work ethic, a passion for discussing casework with colleagues, faculty, and staff, and a balanced and active life away from the veterinary college. These qualities were espoused by William C. Rebhun, (DVM, Cornell University, 1971, ACVIM, ACVO) and S. Gordon Campbell (BVSc, University of Glasgow, 1956, MVSc, Toronto University, 1959, PhD, Cornell University, 1964, Associate Dean 1980-1985) who were both well-known and respected teachers in the College of Veterinary Medicine, with a combined service to the College that spanned three decades. Both men shared a vision of veterinary medicine as an essentially human endeavor, tempered by practical thought, tolerant ideals, and passionate and regular discourse. They were adamant proponents that ideas must be discussed openly and that debate and disagreement were an integral part of the learning process. Both men also shared a keen belief that the intense academics of Cornell University must be balanced and informed by a full life away from the classroom and clinic. They shared a love of the practical aspects of farming, were avid athletes, and, more often than not, could be found either with their families and friends or outdoors when not at the College. They met all people with an open hand and treated everyone with a sincere equality that cultivated a broad spectrum of friendships from all sides of the communities in which they lived. They also were adamant that all people should be treated with fairness. The recipient of this award also will have demonstrated an egalitarian approach to clinical work, meeting clients, patients, staff, fellow students, and faculty with equal respect and care. The Rebhun and Campbell families established this award to focus on the philosophies and traits that reflect the contributions of Dr. Rebhun and Dr. Campbell to veterinary medicine.

Danielle Alleman

THE JULIE A. RICHTER PRIZE

Established by the family of Julie A. Richter DVM '94 in her memory, this prize is awarded first to a third or fourth-year student who is from a family actively engaged in food-animal farming or from a farm background. If no such student is enrolled at the College of Veterinary Medicine, the prize is awarded to a student with interest in food-animal medicine.

Corine Ann Giroux

THE COLONEL FLOYD C. SAGER EQUINE OBSTETRICS AND PEDIATRICS AWARD

This award, created on the occasion of Dr. Sager's 90th birthday in 1984 by another Cornellian who trained under Dr. Sager, recognizes a Cornell veterinarian whose name is synonymous with excellence in equine obstetrics and pediatrics. Following Dr. Sager's graduation in 1917, he served in the army Remount Service until after World War II. He then became the veterinarian for the world famous Claiborne Farm in Kentucky where he remained until his death in February, 1986. The fourth-year student receiving this award, in the opinion of the faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences, has displayed outstanding aptitude in equine obstetrics and pediatrics.

Courtney Buckley O'Connell

SIMMONS AND ASSOCIATES CAREER EXCELLENCE AWARD

In 2003, Simmons and Associates Educational Trust was established as a not-for-profit educational trust to award and recognize the third-year veterinary student who has distinguished himself/herself by demonstrating a keen interest or measurable aptitude for the pursuit of excellence in the business of small animal medicine. The recipient of this award will be eligible for the Simmons and Associates national essay contest award.

Thomas Wootton

THE ISIDOR I. SPRECKER WILDLIFE MEDICINE AWARD

This award was established in 1996 by Esther Schiff Bondareff, '37 in honor of her friend, Isidor Sprecker, D.V.M. '39 as a testimony to her admiration of him and her keen interest in improving the quality of veterinary health in zoo animals. This award is presented annually to a third or fourth-year veterinary student in good academic standing, with a strong interest in pursuing a career in zoo and wildlife medicine. This year the faculty selected a fourth-year student.

Andrea Christina Aplasca

THE DOROTHY SULLIVAN PRIZE

From an endowment established in 1996 through the bequest of Dorothy "Dottie" Sullivan, a long-time employee of Cornell and the College's Office of Student Services. This prize is awarded to the fourth-year student whose interests and exemplary efforts as ambassador have strengthened and enriched the activities, outreach, image and environment of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jacob Michael Wolf

SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recognizes outstanding students who have integrated academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, campus involvement, community service, the arts, athletics, or career achievement.

Anastasia Nicole Handwerk Breidenbaugh Yuan Kang

THE ANNA OLAFSON SUSSEX PATHOLOGY AWARD

This award was endowed in 1974 by Peter and Harriette Olafson in memory of Dr. Olafson's sister. The award is given to a third-year student who has done outstanding work in pathology. Recommendations are made by faculty actively engaged in teaching pathology.

Jordan Ford

THE JACOB TRAUM AWARD

Through an endowment established by friends of Jacob Traum, 1905, Professor of Bacteriology Emeritus, University of California, and formerly Chief Scientist at the Federal Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory, this prize is awarded to the fourth-year student who is judged by the Department of Microbiology and Immunology as having exhibited superior interest and accomplishment in bacteriology, epizootiology, pathology, and virology, including an aptitude for and expressed interest in research on infectious diseases.

Kaitlyn Rose Briggs

ROBERT ROSENTHAL SENIOR STUDENT AWARD FOR PROFICIENCY IN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

This award is presented to the senior veterinary student deemed to have outstanding aptitude for, and competence in, the diagnosis, treatment and general care of companion animals affected by malignant disease. The recipient is selected by faculty members in the section of Oncology.

Jodie Louise Joseph

SOCIETY FOR THERIOGENOLOGY AWARD FOR PROFICIENCY IN THERIOGENOLOGY

The "Proficiency in Theriogenology Award", sponsored by the Society for Theriogenology, is awarded to a senior student deemed to have illustrated proficiency in clinical theriogenology

Taylor Anna Mahren

THE HORACE K. WHITE PRIZE

An endowment for this prize was originally given by Mr. Horace K. White (and later his sons of Syracuse, New York) for the student with the highest academic record during their veterinary training. This award, originally called the President's Prize, dates back to 1873 and is probably the longest-standing prize at Cornell. The original donor was a brother to Andrew Dickson White, the first president of the University.

To be announced at Hooding

THE ZOETIS LARGE ANIMAL CLINICAL AWARDS

ZOETIS gives these prizes to students considered to be the most proficient in the practice of large animal medicine. Nominations for these awards are made by the faculty members of the respective departments.

William Charles Chandler - Dairy Production Medicine

Theresa Hubbell- Equine Medicine

ZOETIS/VECCS AWARD FOR PROFICIENCY IN EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE

Zoetis and the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society sponsor this award given to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and exceptional proficiency in caring for emergency and critical care patients. Special consideration is given to students who have been active and productive member of SVECCS.

Jacob Michael Wolf

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

THE ZOETIS DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

This award, selected by members of the fourth-year class, goes to a full-time member of the veterinary medical faculty who has demonstrated continued excellence in teaching.

Dr. Ricardo de Matos

VETERINARY CLASS OF 1974 CLINICAL RESIDENT AWARD

The DVM Class of 1974 established these awards to recognize the special efforts of residents who teach veterinary students and provide services to hospital clients. Recipients for the award are selected from residents serving the 1) Companion Animal Hospital 2) Equine and Farm Animal Hospital and 3) both Hospitals. The recipients are selected by a vote of the fourth-year class.

Companion Animal Hospital

Dr. Domenick Valenzano - Surgery

Equine and Farm Animal Hospital

Dr. Marta Cercone – Large Animal Medicine

Both Hospitals

Dr. Erin Epperly- Imaging

OUTSTANDING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN AWARD

This honor is awarded to a licensed veterinary technician working in the Cornell University Hospital for Animals who is judged to demonstrate noteworthy dedication to the training of veterinary students, exemplary compassion for animal patients and clients, and outstanding technical and nursing proficiency. The recipient is selected by a vote of the fourth-year class.

Paul Ebner, LVT, Community Practice Service