



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

eVETS CONNECT

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[News & Publications](#)

[Publications](#)

April 2017

News for alumni of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine





[Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

[Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

[\(607\) 253-3000](#)

[Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

[Cornell University ©2016](#)



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

Alumni Association News



Nominate Your Peers for the Salmon Award

Established by the Alumni Association in 1986, the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service honors Cornell Veterinary College DVM graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities or to the College.

The award is 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. D.E. Salmon was one of Dr. James Law's first students when Cornell University opened its doors in 1868. He received the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree in 1872 and entered practice in Newark, NJ. He continued his advanced research at Cornell and in 1876 he was awarded the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. This was the first DVM degree to be awarded in the United States of America.

* * * * *

Help us honor our graduates by nominating a Cornell graduate. Nominations are accepted throughout the year until May 1. Should a nominator wish to re-nominate an alumnus/a from the previous year, a revised nomination form must be completed for the candidate to be considered. The recipient of the award is notified by September 1.

Submit your Nomination Online

Paper Nomination

Nomination should not exceed 1000 words in total.

Nomination form and supporting materials must be postmarked and received by May 1, 2017 to be considered for 2017.

Year Received	Name
1986	Arthur Gordon Danks* '33, Ellis Pierson Leonard* '34, Frederick O. Wright* '41
1987	John D. Murray* '39
1989	Stephen J. Roberts* '38
1991	Robert E. Clark* '52
1994	Richard C. Grambow '57, Robert W. Kirk* '46, Richard A. Smith* '51
1996	Stanley M. Aldrich* '50, Louis C. Schimoler* '47

1997	John J. Brennan '52
1998	Francis H. Fox *'45
1999	Robert V. Manning* '55
2000	Robert E. Lynk '61, Harold W. Zweighaft* '56
2001	Robert B. Hillman '55
2002	John D. Shumway '56
2003	George W. Abbott* '45
2004	Robert F. Kahrs '54
2008	Alexander de Lahunta '58
2009	Fredric W. Scott '62
2010	Stephen J. Ettinger '64
2011	N. Joel Edwards '64
2012	Jeanne A. Barsanti '74
2013	James F. Peddie '65
2014	Lila T. Miller '77 (CALS '74)
2015	Paul D. Pion '83
2016	Robert R. Marshak '45
* - deceased	

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

 Ithaca, NY 14853

 (607) 253-3000

 Directions

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service

Nomination Form for 2017

The Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service honors Cornell Veterinary College DVM graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities or to the College.

Nomination form and supporting materials must be postmarked and received by **May 1, 2017** to be considered for 2017.

* denotes required field

MAIL TO:

Salmon Award Committee, Alumni Association
College of Veterinary Medicine
Alumni Affairs and Development Office
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-6401
Fax: 607.253.3740
Phone: 607.253.3716

NOMINATE ONLINE:

www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/salmon

Email: vetfriends@cornell.edu (subject: Salmon Nomination)
with questions or print, complete form, scan and send via email

***Nominee:** _____ ***DVM Year:** _____

Home Address: _____

***Phone:** (Home) _____ (Mobile or Business) _____

Business Address: _____

Email: _____

***Nominator:** _____ **Year (if applicable):** _____

Address: _____

***Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

(We suggest that the nominee NOT be informed of this consideration).



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service Nomination

Page 2

Nominee: _____

Please indicate the area of focus for which the Nominee is being considered: (Mark off all that apply)

- ☐ Commitment and accomplishments related to **teaching, research and/or the clinical practice of veterinary medicine**
- ☐ Commitment and accomplishments related to **supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine and Cornell University**
- ☐ Commitment and accomplishments related to **organized veterinary medicine**
- ☐ Commitment and accomplishments related to **civic organizations, the nominee's community and/or society as a whole**

Please provide information that will describe and support the nominee's commitment and/or accomplishments for each of the categories that you have selected above. This can include such things as leadership positions held, programs and or published articles, citations of recognition, as well as other information you deem appropriate.

Please keep documentation of support concise.

Should not exceed 1000 words in total.

(1) Teaching, research and/or the clinical practice of veterinary medicine



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service Nomination

Page 3

Nominee: _____

(2) Supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine and Cornell University

(3) Organized veterinary medicine



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service Nomination

Page 4

Nominee: _____

(4) Civic organizations, the nominee's community and/or society as a whole

Summary: In 3 or 4 sentences, why is this nominee a stand out among Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine graduates.

Please provide at least two additional individuals *who could be called upon* to provide further support of the nominee's selection. At least one of these references does need to be a graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

*Name: _____ CU CVM Grad: Yes / No

Email: _____ *Phone: _____

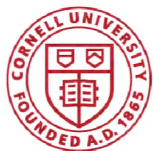
*Name: _____ CU CVM Grad: Yes / No

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ CU CVM Grad: Yes / No

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Notification by the Alumni Association Award Committee will be made no later than September 1.



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

College News



Dr. Jodi Korich '97 named associate dean for education

[Read more](#)



Construction update

[Read more](#)

How to heal veterinary student debt

[Read more](#)



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

[\(607\) 253-3000](#)

[Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [College News](#) >

Dr. Jodi Korich '97 named associate dean for education

Dr. Jodi Korich '97, has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Education in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She is expected to begin her duties by July 1, 2017. "Korich was selected for the position after a very competitive search process and I congratulate her on her appointment," says Dean Lorin Warnick. "I look forward to working with her and am confident that she will provide excellent leadership for educational programs in the College."

"I am truly honored to have been selected for this position," says Korich. "Having served at Cornell previously, I know from first-hand experience the talent of our faculty and students. It is a great privilege to be able to return to Cornell and serve with this administration, working with our faculty to help lead the College's education programs."



Korich currently works at Texas A&M University as the founding director of the Center for Educational Technologies and clinical associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Having earned her DVM at Cornell, she spent five years in clinical practice in Fairfax, VA, and then returned to Cornell 2002 through 2010 as an instructor and senior extension associate in the Department of Clinical Sciences. "As a member of the class of 1997 and a former faculty member, Cornell and Ithaca is a place I know and love," says Korich. "I am grateful to once again have the opportunity to contribute my knowledge, skills, and passion for education to the College community."



As associate dean for education, Korich will have primary responsibility for the College's education programs, continuing education and distance learning. "Having devoted the past eleven years of my career to educational technologies, it is probably no surprise that I am passionate about technology-enhanced learning," she says. "Educational technologies are advancing rapidly and it is now feasible to blend technology into traditional courses to enhance faculty's teaching capacity. In the future, I'd also like to see us harness adaptive learning technologies to create more customized learning experiences for our students."

In close partnership with other College leaders, Korich will provide vision and leadership to ensure excellence in our educational programs and to meet the changing needs of the students, the profession, and society. She will also be appointed as an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

For Korich, this opportunity represents a chance to continue an important legacy. "I've been thinking a lot about how leadership is a relay race, and it is now my turn to pick up the baton and carry it forward in a manner that would make my predecessors and mentors proud."



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [College News](#) >

Construction update

What's happening and what's ahead?

Construction

- Construction for new Library/MRC/Dean's Suite wing continues. Interior framing and infrastructure installations continue. Scheduled for completion August 2017.
- Construction of the new cafeteria continues. Interior framing and infrastructure installations continue. Scheduled for completion August 2017.
- New Atrium and lecture hall building is enclosed. Interior framing and infrastructure installations continue. Block work to follow.
- Temporary Gallery wall has been taken down.
- Some temporary walls will be constructed in the Schurman tutorial corridors.
- Glass curtain wall is being installed on new Library wing and courtyard side of new Atrium.

VRT

- The new glass curtain wall assembly is complete.
- Office relocations are complete. Left to do – Punch list items and perimeter heat water hydronic balancing.
- The design efforts for levels 6 and 7 floor renovations are currently underway. Construction will tentatively begin in early Spring 2017.

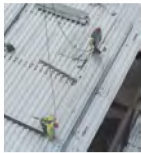
Community Practice Service Building

- G. M. Crisalli & Associates is contractor.
- Demolition of the existing Poultry Virus Lab and construction of the new building will begin spring 2017 with completion anticipated March 2018.

Check out the live construction cam feed [here!](#)

Thursday, March 30, 2017 - 2:25pm

image



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

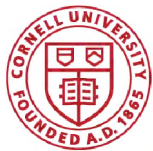
[\(607\) 253-3000](#)

[Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

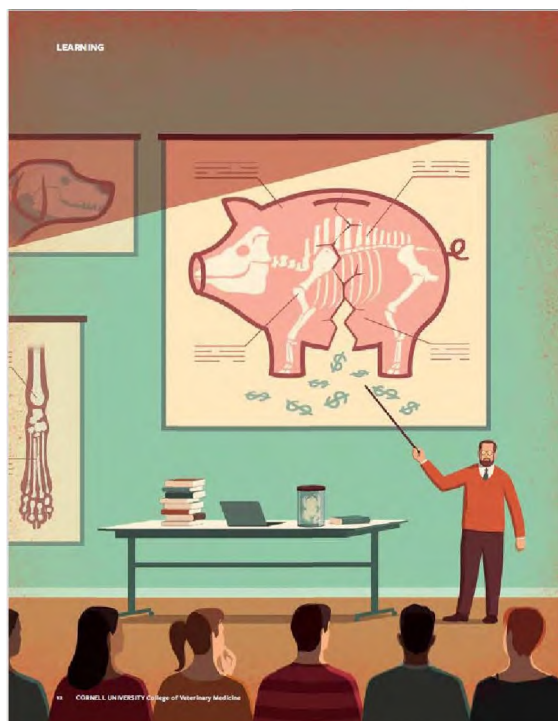
Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [College News](#) >

How to heal veterinary student debt



Veterinarians are necessary. This isn't news to pet owners, animal lovers, or farmers who rely on these professionals to maintain animal health and well-being. But their necessity doesn't end there. The veterinarian is a key player in public health policy and research—bringing crucial understanding to zoonotic and infectious disease, as well as food safety and security. Veterinarian scientists make vital discoveries on dangerous diseases and life-saving drugs, and reveal new insights to basic biology. In sum, we need vets. Yet, many young and aspiring DVMs are finding the financial side of the career to be increasingly challenging.

Along with other U.S. veterinary schools, the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine has experienced the crunch from outside economic pressures. While the Cornell veterinary graduates enjoy better employment rates, higher salaries, and lower median debt than the national average, many face daunting statistics: the median debt-load of a CVM graduate in

the Class of 2016 totaled around \$152,000. At the same time, starting salaries for graduates entering private practice have not kept pace, hovering around \$73,000. The result is a debt-to-income ratio of roughly 2:1. Dr. Lorin Warnick, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, has named the problem one his top strategic priorities. "We're taking this issue very seriously, and looking closely at the practical ways to improve it," he says.

Between a rock and a hard place

Debt is a large portion of the financial challenge for many graduates. Since 1989, mean educational debt for all CVM students, including those without debt, rose at an average annual rate of about 7%. Fortunately, the increase has slowed, holding steady or with a slight decline over the past five years.

Government support for higher education and loan programs has waned over the years, shifting the burden of payment onto students and families. Additionally, personal debt overall increased both during the easy-lending days before the recession beginning in 2008, and in the years following as private resources declined. On top of this, veterinary education is expensive. "Veterinarians are educated to work with a wide variety of species," says Warnick. "It takes a lot of resources to provide of veterinary education, including specimens and surgical labs, which are costly to provide and maintain."

Nevertheless, tuition covers only 14% of the entire CVM operating budget. "It doesn't come close to covering the cost of the education," says Dr. Marnie FitzMaurice, director of veterinary curriculum. "It's important to note that our tuition is increasing at a slower pace than that of the University as a whole; it isn't just veterinary school that's expensive, it's systemic to higher education in general." According to the U.S. Department of Education, tuition at four-year colleges has more than doubled over the past three decades—even after adjusting for inflation. The total student loan debt is now over \$1.3 trillion, with average outstanding balances (adjusted for inflation)



increasing by roughly 25 to 30% between fiscal years 2009 and 2015 alone. Since 2000, tuition at non-profit colleges increased by roughly 30%, whileroom and board increased by 23%.

Dr. Paul Pion '83, president and co-founder of Veterinary Information Network (VIN), and a vocal advocate for addressing veterinary economics, believes it's the trend of higher raising tuition and class size. "I'm a big believer in supporting basic research and advanced diagnostics, but students should not be asked to pay for these," he says. "The expansion in administration, infrastructure, faculty and research has raised the cost of operating a veterinary school." Pion also takes issue with the current

approach in veterinary education. "We're still trying to train everybody to do everything when the current reality is that the vast majority focus upon one or a few species," he says. "All this effort and money goes into preparing students for a test [the NAVLE] that's not really that selective, and it's become more of a business than a standard that tells us anything. I understand it is hard to rollback programs and that every professor thinks the details of their domain are essential knowledge for every veterinary graduate, but if we don't make the needs and best interests of the consumer (student) the primary driving force in curriculum choices, we will never succeed in designing efficient and effective curricula or controlling education costs."

Warnick recognizes Pion's point, but notes that a "comprehensive, comparative scientific foundation," is integral to Cornell's sterling veterinary education, and that some portion of the cost of that training does have to be paid for through tuition, "Schools are certainly looking at more ways to focus curriculum and ensure training is economical," he says. "But we don't want to lose sight of the value scientific and medical advances have made over the last few decades. Additionally, a broad curriculum prepares graduates for a wider variety of career options and opportunities in life."

While educational debt is a reality for most professional-school graduates, veterinarians have an extra challenge: most starting salaries are comparatively low. "We take on a physician's debt, if not more—but we make the equivalent of someone with an undergraduate engineering degree," says Dr. Tony Bartels, debt educational director at VIN. "The cost of education has greatly outpaced the starting salaries of veterinarians."

"I think the income is a bigger deal," says Dr. Kerry Ryan, an associate veterinarian at Mendon Village Animal Hospital in Mendon, N.Y. "Honestly, the student debt would be fine if we were making more money. But as it is, the salary is not sufficient for the amount of work you do and the amount of education you have." This sentiment is a fairly universal one among DVM graduates who are dealing with the reality that veterinary care is a service that some clients will forgo when finances feel tight.

"The economics of animal health care is a big factor," says Warnick. "People are willing to pay more for human health care than for animals', plus third-party payment is typical in humanhealth." Nevertheless, certain career choices can lead to higher incomes for veterinarians. Owning a private practice can be a more profitable option, as is going into certain board-certified specialties, such as radiology, surgery, and ophthalmology. Industry jobs within pharmaceutical companies can also be highly lucrative. "I don't think any of us would advise students to choose their career path based entirely on money," says Warnick. "But we do want them to be able to meet their financial goals and be entrepreneurial when thinking about their work."

Different finances, different futures

Few veterinary students decide on the career for financial reasons—but the economic realities after graduation have been on many CVM graduate's minds, no matter what career path they're on.

Dr. Julia Miller '12 is in a post-doctoral position at the College, with plans to pursue a career in veterinary academia. While lucky enough to get in-state tuition and have no undergraduate debt, she now has \$215,000 worth of loans from her four years of veterinary education, the cost of living, and deferred payments from her year-long internship.

This amount has grown from her original \$164,000 owed when she first left veterinary school. "I'm in the middle of the pack in terms of debt load," she says, noting that the size of her debt load is due in part to a lack of financial savvy during veterinary school. "I just didn't think about how it all adds up," she says. Her subsequent internship added to the debt load. "Economically it will never benefit you to do an internship, as you will spend that year deferring your loans and accruing more interest—that's a huge amount of money," Miller says. But from an educational and medical view, Miller says an internship is

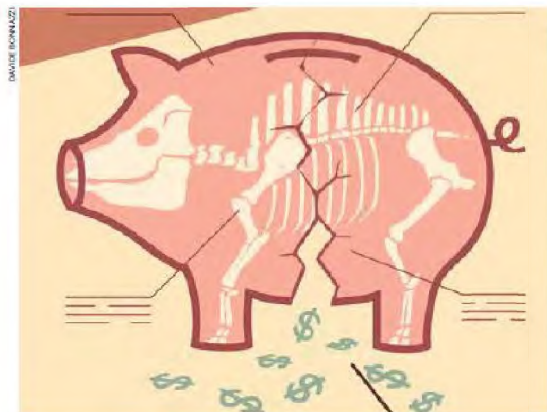
valuable. "For me, I'm interested in teaching and specializing," she says. "I'm not driven by the monetary aspect." To help manage the monthly payments, Miller is now on an income-based repayment plan, which caps payments at a defined percentage of a borrower's income. Fortunately, Miller and others who choose a career in academia will qualify for loan forgiveness.

Dr. Kerry Ryan '12, the associate veterinarian at Mendon Village Animal Hospital mentioned above, has always been mindful of her money. "I remember as a teenager, a vet in his mid-forties—who I thought very highly of and who worked very hard—told me he was finally done paying off his student loans," says Ryan. "I was struck by how long it took to pay that off." So Ryan worked diligently for two years before going to veterinary school, which allowed her to take out loans for tuition costs only. During veterinary school, she worked a number of part-time jobs—an approach that she admits isn't for everyone. "There were a lot of times where I would work overnight at the hospital and then went straight to class the next day. Thankfully I can function on fairly small amounts of sleep—I know everyone can't do that."



DR. JULIA MILLER

While just four years out of veterinary school, Ryan has managed to pay off half of her student loans. She has done this through cost-efficient living—driving a fuel-efficient car, keeping home energy costs to a minimum—and careful attention to her debt. While she is on the income-based repayment plan, she makes two or three payments per month—and is always assessing if she can pay more towards it. "I make my full payment at the first of the month, and then half-way through the month I look at my budget to determine if I can afford to pay some more," she explains. "In my mind, having any kind of debt is an emergency. It's a top priority for me."



Dr. Ingrid Rhinehart '11, has just purchased her own practice—Briar Patch Veterinary Hospital, in Ithaca, N.Y. She views it as the best way to maximize her earnings while doing what she loves. "I didn't become a veterinarian for financial reasons," she says. "It was the lifestyle and career I wanted." Originally trained as an economist, Rhinehart went into veterinary school knowing she wanted to own her own practice. She attended practice-buying seminars at conferences, networked with accountants and lawyers who

specialize in the transaction, and, upon graduation, sent letters to existing practices asking them if they would be willing to sell. The hard work paid off. "I see young DVMs saying that because of all the debt they've already incurred, they'll never be able to buy a practice—but that's a misconception," she says. "Even with a lot of existing debt, if you have good credit, you can buy a practice." Rhinehart is less than a year into owning Briar Patch but sees it as the ultimate solution to her debt. "You are taking on more debt, and you are certainly banking on yourself," she says. "But I feel like I've finally settled into my true career, and I do feel it will pay itself off. I'm glad I did it—even though right now I have scary numbers that come in the mail every month."

CVM Solutions: getting heads out of the sand

No matter who you talk to about student debt, the consensus is clear—more needs to be done.

According to Miller, the first action to take is educating students. "A lot of people have their head in the sand," she says, stressing that students need a strong dose of reality early on "to get them thinking about being as frugal as possible so they can leave with the least amount of debt as possible."

The College is on it. Currently, first year DVM students have a mandatory class meeting that encourages them to think strategically about their career goals, personal finances, and loans, with the goal of helping them limit or reduce borrowing. Students are asked to go through the CVM student loan scenario calculator—an online tool that allows them to manipulate variables such as the size of their loans, length of time until payoff and associated interest rates, and their projected salaries at different points in their career. It shows exactly how much they will owe and what their monthly payments will be. It also allows them to compare that information, which is based on standard loan repayment assumptions, with the various income-based repayment plans, including a calculation of the projected taxes that would apply to any funds that would be forgiven. Each year, students receive a report summarizing their cumulative debt totals for loans administered by the College. "We advise them to live like a student now so they can live like a doctor later," says Dr. Kathy Edmondson, assistant dean for learning already living frugally." Warnick agrees, noting that while educating

students about budgeting is a necessary part of the solution, it only addresses a part of the overall issue. "It doesn't solve the larger problem—but for the individual student, it can be very impactful."

Each year, the College also hosts presentations by Heather Jarvis, a national expert in student loan repayment plans, who presents an overview of the various options, current terms, and interest rates. Members of the College administration and student services staff also meet with Jarvis to discuss recent and potential changes to student loan programs in greater depth. Rhinehart would like to see more mandatory business education for DVM students, including information on practice ownership. "We should really be helping people understand that, not only can you own a practice with this level of debt—maybe you should," she says. "It's an avenue that isn't as heavily focused on compared to preparing for internships or residencies."

The College will be increasing its focus towards business education; Warnick plans to incorporate new coursework on entrepreneurship and veterinary business management. Additionally, in January, it co-hosted the world's first Animal Health Hackathon, which united business, engineering, and veterinary students at Cornell with alumni mentors to generate novel solutions in animal health. "The event parked creative, entrepreneurial thinking in our veterinary students, and allowed them to network with innovators and leaders in the field," says event manager Len Johnson, assistant dean for marketing and communications.



CVM Solutions: lightening the load

The College also aims to attack debt through reducing the cost of the overall education for individual students. One method will be through formalizing a seven-year, joint Bachelor's/DVM program for Cornell undergraduates who can go straight to veterinary school after completing their junior year. Another major effort includes scholarship aid. "We're making scholarships for DVM students a priority for our philanthropy," Warnick says. "And we'll continue to do our best to provide scholarship aid where we can to help people most in need." Currently, 82% of CVM students receive scholarship aid—a percentage the CVM administration aims to maintain even after the class size increases from 100 students to 120 later this year, with the Class of 2021. The total scholarship dollars awarded to College students in the last three years averaged over \$2.2 million, but there is still unmet need, and the College is committed to doing more.



Jodie Joseph '17 is making sure to take advantage of both the funding available from the College and from external sources—noting that even smaller awards can add up and make a difference. "I was able to reduce my fourth year loans by half because of all of these "little" scholarships," says Joseph.

Michele Cestone, whose family foundation funds annual scholarships to vet students all four years, notes that gifts like these have broad impact. "When you help a vet student, you're really helping animals in an exponential manner—for each vet we help, we are able to help countless animals for many years to come," he says, noting that some of the students his scholarship has supported have gone on to treat his own pets. "You really get to see the fruits of your donation come back in so many different ways."

Indeed, scholarships often determine whether a student will become a veterinarian at all. "I can promise you that without the grant and scholarship programs available to me as an undergraduate and veterinary student here [at the College], I would still be out there scrubbing kennels," says Shanna Landry '13 DVM '17. "I appreciate my scholarships more than words can express."

Getting government involved

The College is working to increase scholarship support, loan counseling, and business education, and students and graduates are carefully managing finances and making savvy career decisions—yet a significant portion of the problem will remain untouched by these efforts as long as higher education prices and loans remain high.

"We need to go to the government to address this issue," says Miller. "If they want people with this level of training, the government needs to help. I would like to see them adjust the student loan interest rates."

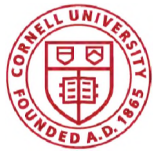
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) takes an active role in advocating for legislation that addresses student debt solutions. This past year, AVMA advocated for solutions such as abolishing fees on federal student loans, lowering interest rates on federal student loans and expanding the student loan interest deduction. "Our collective goal is to reduce the debt-to-income ratio, which presently is about 2:1, to about 1.4:1," says Gina Luke, AVMA assistant director of governmental relations and advocacy & policy. Luke encourages veterinarians to join the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network and to sign up for the AVMA Advocate in order to become actively involved in combating educational debt at the federal level.

A pathway still worth walking

Veterinary medicine is a profession offering rewarding career opportunities and a chance to make a real difference in the world, but also comes with financial challenges for many new graduates. Preparing veterinarians for financial pressures will continue to be a complex challenge. "These are big problems; they're multifactorial and have evolved over years and decades," says Pion. "There's not going to be one single solution—there's going to be several little pieces that collectively move towards it." As more players in the veterinary world actively work to address the issue, this rate of progress looks to pick up. For Warnick, there's hope that this trend will help the profession thrive again. "I still think investing in a veterinary medical education in the United States is a good thing to do," says Warnick. "This is a single degree that gives you entry into many career paths—many of which allow for challenging intellectual work, is often service oriented, and can be very emotionally rewarding. I'll continue to work to ensure that people from all walks of life and socioeconomic backgrounds can find a pathway to afford a veterinary medicine career."

Note: a slightly different version of this story first appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of 'Scopes magazine





Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

Alumni Highlights



Dr. Mark Helfat '77: From dairy parlors to DC

[Read more](#)



Dr. Joseph Mankowski '83: a ride-along into research

[Read more](#)

Dr. Danielle Buttko '10 named AAAS Public Engagement Fellow

[Read more](#)



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

 Ithaca, NY 14853

 (607) 253-3000

 [Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [Alumni Highlights](#) >

Dr. Mark Helfat '77: From dairy farms to D.C.



If you ask Dr. Mark Helfat '77 to list one of his most memorable experiences as a veterinary student, he'll likely tell you about doing blood draws on bulls. "I worked for the mastitis lab, and every two weeks they would send me to the bull barn to draw blood—talk about wearing a diaper," Helfat laughs. "I'd be going eye-to-eye with these animals that were the size of a pick-up truck with heads the size of a refrigerator—with just a few bars between us. Thank you very much, Cornell, for that experience."

Though there may be a touch of sarcasm when voicing that last sentiment, Helfat is genuine about his fondness for Cornell. From his early days as a DVM student "nerd", to his recent roles in national leadership, Helfat's connection to his veterinary alma mater has stayed strong. "I went to three schools that have strong alumni networks—Philips Exeter, Wesleyan, and Cornell—and Cornell is dearest to my heart."

Born and raised in Queens, NY, and now a resident of southern New Jersey, one might assume that Helfat would be predisposed to prefer small animal medicine—far from it. Grumpy bull encounters and all, he was smitten with dairy medicine. "It was a type of med that excited me," says Helfat. "Everything from checking cows and telling a farmer if they were pregnant or not, and when they were due—to walking through and finding a displaced abomasum and right then and there anesthetizing her and doing the

surgery."

While cows were his primary passion, Helfat also loved small animals--beagles, to be exact--which he first fell in love with during his time working with the teaching beagles at Cornell. After graduation, he worked at a mixed animal practice first in Amsterdam, NY, and later in southern New Jersey, which over the years became solidly small animal. It was there, in 1979, that Helfat stumbled into his next passion—veterinary advocacy. He attended a local veterinary continuing education meeting where someone was looking for volunteers to serve on the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association (NJVMA). "I foolishly raised my hand, and that's how it all started," says Helfat.

Since then, Helfat has been a continuous member of NJVMA, serving as Vice President, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past-President, and on numerous committees. From 2002-2011, he served as one of the NJVMA delegates to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates. Currently, he is chair of the AVMA Board of Directors.

In these roles, he's helped establish the vet services loan repayment program, which helps pay the student loans of any veterinarians working in underserved areas in the country. This program touches upon a topic that's near to Helfat's heart. "Student debt is at the top of my list of issues I care about," he says. "It's almost embarrassing to think about the money I did not spend to go to vet school. I wasn't spending more than five-to-ten thousand to go to school a year, and I could easily work enough to pay for that." Helfat knows that current students have a much heavier financial burden. He's also passionate about maintaining the quality of an American veterinary education at the highest level of any country in the world— "that's a goal that really keeps me excited," he says.

This excitement has sustained Helfat throughout his career as a veterinarian, which as a primary care small animal practitioner, might have become slightly monotonous. "It has really prolonged my career," he says. "It opened up a whole new world to national and international issues in veterinary medicine." He does admit that leadership comes with a price. "You have to have a backbone—you will attract critics. Nonetheless, I'd do it all the same."



Was this love for advocacy with him since the early days? Helfat laughs. "I paid my measly ten bucks to SCAVMA and never did a thing—I was a total nerd, all I did was study." Two of his Cornell classmates, Drs.

Joseph Kinnarney and Douglas Aspros, have both served in the AVMA, and Helfat notes how having fellow alumni has made the experience all the better. "It's nice to have Cornell friends there over the years—what are the chances that you'd get to serve on the board with two people you know, with that common history? Cornell runs very deep in all of our blood," Helfat says.

Now, Helfat will be stepping away from an active role in national leadership once his term as AVMA Board of Directors chair ends in July—but he's making sure that the next generation of volunteers will take up the standard. "It's time to let other people come up—I'm taking up a spot," Helfat explains. "And it's our responsibility to make sure someone is encouraged to come and carry on that role."



[Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

[Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

[\(607\) 253-3000](#)

[Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [Alumni Highlights](#) >

Dr. Joseph Mankowski '83: a ride-along into research



Dr. Joseph Mankowski's career has not gone as planned—and that's a good thing. "From a very early age, I wanted to be an equine veterinarian," says the Class of 1983 grad. But destiny had other plans, putting Mankowski at the head of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology, a program with a long and interwoven history with Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Cornell veterinarians have had a great influence on Johns Hopkins Medicine," says Mankowski, "and we're looking forward to continuing that relationship."

The Cornell Connection

The relationship began in 1962 with Dr. Edward C. Melby Jr. '54 who came from a mixed animal practice in Vermont to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to found a comparative medicine program. Other Cornell DVM alumni followed this track, including former directors of the JHM division of comparative medicine, Dr. Jim Brayton '58, Dr. John D. Strandberg '64, and Dr. Franklin M. Loew '65. Both Melby and Loew later served as deans of Cornell's Veterinary College. Veterinary pathologists at JHU have included Dr. Bob Squire '58 and Dr. Richard Montali, '64. Currently at JHU, Dr. Cory Brayton '85 directs the mouse pathology phenotyping core while Dr. Bob Adams '73, a laboratory animal veterinarian, is the Associate Provost of Research Animal Resources for Johns Hopkins. In exchange, three DVM trainees from the JHU program now sit on the College faculty at Cornell: Drs. Mary Martin, Teresa Southard, and Katie Kelly. "We've had a great pipeline between Cornell and JHU," says Mankowski.

Equine Enthusiast

Before following the path of comparative medicine, Mankowski was dead-set on being a horse doctor. As a teen raised on an Arabian horse farm, he rode with a veterinarian mentor, Dr. Bill Santoro, who took Mankowski around to horse farms and racetracks in Maryland. Mankowski attended Cornell as an undergraduate, where he worked in the lab of the venerable Dr. Bud Tennant, who first encouraged

Mankowski to study viral infectious diseases, working on woodchuck hepatitis virus as a model for hepatitis B. As a veterinary student at Cornell, Mankowski focused on his passion for all things equine: he worked at the Cornell Equine Research Park in exchange for on-site housing, spent a summer doing equine embryo transfer in England, and found his favorite subject was theriogenology despite the early morning mare palpations on Snyder Hill. After graduating, he completed an internship in large animal medicine and surgery at University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, and then went on to live out his original dream as an equine veterinarian in the greater D.C. area. "It was a great practice," says Mankowski. "We ran the roads making farm calls but also had a very busy inpatient equine clinic, managing challenging medicine cases and performing surgery."

Planting a Seed

After three years of the private practice life, Mankowski was thinking of doubling down—hiring more veterinarians and moving more into a management position. Then he got calls from Drs. Corinne Sweeney and Jim Orsini '77, faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, who encouraged him to apply for a residency. "They planted the seed that led me to consider academic career options beyond practice," says Mankowski. While he didn't opt for the residency, he did decide to plunge into research by pursuing both a PhD in human genetics

and molecular biology and a residency in comparative pathology at Johns Hopkins. "I really wanted to know more about the infectious disease cases we couldn't quite solve," he says. "It challenged me to pursue intensive research training."

Research with Real Impact

Since diving into the world of biomedical research, Mankowski has focused on HIV, investigating the impact of HIV on the nervous system. His NIH-funded research team has identified biomarkers that predict the onset of nervous system damage and uncovered key events in the pathogenesis of HIV by studying its primate equivalent, SIV (Simian Immunodeficiency Virus). His interest stems from both an intellectual and a personal place. "When I first began this research, HIV was sweeping our community. It devastated many people in Ithaca including our vet school community," he says. "It resonated with me on a personal level."

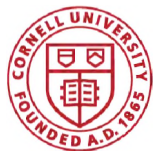
Meaningful Mentorship

Mankowski now encourages the next generation of veterinary students to follow in his footsteps as director of the JHM's Comparative Medicine training program. In addition to training in biomedical research, students train in diagnostic comparative pathology in a wide range of laboratory, domestic, and exotic animals. They perform necropsies, examine tissues under the microscope, participate in pathology rounds, and receive one-on-one mentorship from pathology faculty. Pathology trainees also serve as prosectors on the JHU human autopsy service, providing the most comparative pathology training possible. The JHU program also trains veterinarians in laboratory animal medicine to complement their research training. The JHU DVM research training program runs on NIH training grant funding, and has done successfully for over 40 years.

"We teach veterinarians that they are full-fledged members of the biomedical research community," says Mankowski. "Many veterinary students think that their training only makes them great clinicians—what they often don't understand is that DVM training provides an excellent foundation to become outstanding biomedical researchers as well."



Mankowski with horse in 1987



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) > [Alumni Highlights](#) >

Dr. Danielle Buttke '10 named AAAS Public Engagement Fellow



Danielle Buttke DVM/PHD '10 was named as one of the 2017-18 Public Engagement Fellows with the AAAS Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute for Public Engagement with Science. According to the AAAS press release, "Buttke is one of 15 infectious disease researchers to have demonstrated leadership and excellence in their research careers, and interest in promoting meaningful dialogue between science and society."

Buttke is currently acting epidemiology branch chief and one health coordinator with the National Park Service. She is one of two epidemiologists for the National Park Service and specializes in zoonotic disease and ecological drivers of infectious disease. Prior to joining the National Park Service, she served as an epidemic intelligence service officer at the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. "I'm interested in using public interest in personal health as a way to increase support for public green space," says Buttke. "I'm also interested

in enhancing public understanding of how human actions can drive infectious disease spread through a variety of avenues, including school programs, websites, and smart phone apps. Buttke earned her DVM/PhD from Cornell University in 2010.

Buttke will join her fellow AAAS Public Engagement Fellows in June 2017 at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC for a week of intensive public engagement and science communication training, networking, and public engagement plan development. After the training, AAAS Public Engagement Fellows will return to their institutions with resources and connections to develop and implement public engagement activities, opportunities for training other scientists in their communities, and increased capacity for public engagement leadership. AAAS staff will provide ongoing support and continuing professional development throughout their fellowship year.

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Ithaca, NY 14853

(607) 253-3000

[Directions](#)

[Privacy](#) [Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

Student News



White Coat ceremony: the rite of passage

[Read more](#)



Jodie Joseph '17 wins Westminster Kennel Club Foundation scholarship

[Read more](#)

Class of 2018 Hamilton parody video for White Coat ceremony

[Read more](#)



[Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

[📍 Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

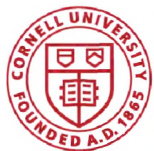
[📞 \(607\) 253-3000](#)

[🚗 Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [News](#) >

White Coat ceremony: the rite of passage

🐾 Friday, March 24, 2017 - 9:27am



On Saturday, March 18, 97 members of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2018 participated in the White Coat ceremony, a rite of passage for third-year veterinary students. The students were coated by their chosen mentors—veterinary faculty members or DVMs who made an impact on their pre-clinical study. They also all stood and recited the veterinarian's oath, administered by Dr. Susan Ackerman, DVM '86, chair of the Alumni Association Executive Board.

The ceremony provides students a symbolic transition from the pre-clinical to the clinical phase of veterinary education. The white coat is a symbol of medical professionalism and the ceremony signifies the beginning of students' clinical apprenticeship to sustain and restore the health of animals and people.

Lorin D. Warnick, Austin O. Hooey Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, spoke of the great responsibility of donning the white coat (or coveralls and boots) as they start clinics: "Your responsibilities for client communication and patient care increase. Having completed all your pre-clinical course work, you are in a better position to integrate

the knowledge and skills you have learned and apply them in a clinical setting. You are taking another step in joining the veterinary profession and accepting the associated rights and responsibilities.”



Dr. Matthew Antkowiak '97, co-founder and veterinarian at The Atlas District Veterinary Hospital (AtlasVet)

Dr. Matthew Antkowiak '97, co-founder and veterinarian at The Atlas District Veterinary Hospital (AtlasVet) in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker. Drawing from his experience as a veterinary student and practitioner, Antkowiak encouraged

students to learn from their mistakes, follow their own path, and to be confident in their knowledge and abilities. These three “nuggets” of advice were delivered with humor, sincerity, and wit.

The Class of 2018 began clinic rotations on March 27 in the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

 Ithaca, NY 14853

 (607) 253-3000

 Directions

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) >

Jodie Joseph '17 wins Westminster Kennel Club Foundation scholarship

At the annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show this February, the College hosted New York-area alumni and friends for a reception and viewing of the Best in Show event, where a German Shepherd took home the top prize. This event also recognized this year's CVM recipient of the Westminster Kennel Club Foundation scholarship, Jodie Joseph '17. She is one of only six veterinary school students to receive the honor. Kristin Pennock, director of student financial planning, nominated Joseph for her work with Merlin's Kids, a non-profit that rescues and rehabilitates shelter dogs into service dogs for special needs kids.



An honor and surprise

Joseph was unaware of her nomination and was surprised when she heard about the award. "I was incredibly humbled. I had no idea that I was even nominated until I found out I won," says Joseph. "I think the biggest honor and surprise was receiving something I did not even ask for; this showed how others felt about my commitment to dogs, not just my own crazy dog lady words in an essay."

Joseph plans to pursue small animal medical oncology with a focus in integrative medicine, particularly acupuncture and herbs. She has taken courses for the Chi Institute Small Animal Acupuncture and the College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies Essential Western Herbs Introductory Course. "My goal is to offer clients an array of care options for their pets and be there to support them during the most difficult journey of their pets lives," she says.



Allies for purebreds

The Westminster award aligns with these professional interests. "I am fascinated by purebred dogs. As a future oncologist, knowing a dog's breed may predict certain cancers that the dog may be predisposed to," says Joseph.

She also believes that veterinarians and breeders can and should be allies in working towards purebred health and wellness. "Responsible breeders do what they do to better the breed, through temperament and health. These breeders can be an incredible resource and partner for the veterinary community. If you get breeder clients, consider them as allies working towards the common goal of the best care possible for their animals."

Search

Sign in



"Class of 2018 Vets" Cornell Vet School Hamilton Parody!



Ari Boltax

Subscribe

5

769 views

Add to Share More

6 1

Published on Mar 14, 2017

JUST YOU WAIT for what the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2018 will accomplish when they enter their clinical rotations this month!

SHOW MORE

Loading...

Skip navigation

Up next



Autoplay

I'm So Doctor- Cornell Vet 2016 Senior Skit
Rebecca Sandler
955 views



Let it Go - Vet School Parody
phoebe cahill
19,253 views



CAN'T STOP THE HEALING! (DukeMed Parody of "CAN'T STOP"
DukeMed 2020
7,376 views



Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai—A Hamilton
Icahn School of Medicine
11,394 views



A WHOLE DAY WITH SECOND YEAR VET STUDENTS
TodayInVetSchool
7,451 views



Mean Tweets Resident Addition- Cornell Vet 2016 Senior Skit
Rebecca Sandler
358 views



Pre-Vet Summer School at the RVC
Royal Veterinary College
2,264 views

Vet Student Barbie Veterinary school comedy video Murdoch
Strawberry Vet
330 views

Vet School Funk
Sam Dicker
324,216 views

Yuan Kang '17: Student Life as a Cornell Vet Student
Cornell University College of V
2,235 views

We Are McGill - McGill Medicine Class of 2020 (Cheap Thrills - Medical Students' Society of Iv
4,832 views

VetSchoolFunk

Search

Sign in

- 3:35

Cornell Vet School
Class 2016

Diego Portela

1,398 views
- 4:58

UCD Final Year - Vet
School Parody Mash
Up - "What Do You

Thao Nguyen

4,831 views
- 14:39

Vet School EXPOSED

AyeWoodz

4,489 views
- 4:33

Shit Vet Girls Say 2-
Cornell Vet 2016
Senior Skit

Rebecca Sandler

1,105 views
- 2:26

Cornell University
College of Veterinary
Medicine 2015 AVAP

Cornell University College of V

261 views
- 13:52

The Four Year MEDley
[Medical School
Parody]

Roger Auth

833 views
- 4:41

Is Vet School Right For
You? My Experience

The Bow Tie Vet Guy

11,538 views
- 4:17

Shit Vet School Girls
Say: Cornell CVM 2012

jakubat376

51,512 views

SHOW MORE

Language: English ▼

Content location: United States ▼

Restricted Mode: Off ▼

History

Help



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

Development News

Give a Little, Get a Lot: The Clinic Memorial Program



Join a growing number of alumni and referring veterinarians who are giving to the Clinic Memorial Program at the College, which both sends a warm and personal message to grieving clients and also supports the College, the Baker Institute for Animal Health and/or the Feline Health Center (FHC). The process is simple: just send us the address and name of your client and their beloved pet, along with a small donation (\$10-\$15 per pet), and we send a heartfelt letter to your client.

Clinics often give to FHC in memory of cats and to Baker or the CVM in memory of dogs and other animals. These donations are tax deductible for your practice.

Dr. Brett Tillou, owner of Tillou Veterinary Hospital in Hamburg, NY, joined the program a little over a year ago, and cannot say enough about it. He has been overwhelmed by

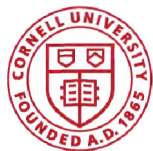
the positive response from clients, and receives a hand-written note of appreciation at least once a week. His practice did not send sympathy cards, and after hearing about this program at an CVM Alumni Association Executive Board meeting, he soon began making memorial gifts online using the link below. He has never regretted it, and sees it as a way to simultaneously let his clients know he cares, and to support the College that gave him the start in the profession he so loves. He also appreciates the way we at the College take the burden from his practice manager by sending letters to his clients on his behalf.

In turn, the College often receives support from those and other clinics' clients, who learn about our work through this connection. A very large proportion of the philanthropic support the College receives every year comes from non-alumni "friends"; many of them clients of vets who make memorial gifts for their pets. These donors may never step foot on our campus, but they love animals and their veterinarians, and they believe in the mission and work of the Baker Institute, the Feline Health Center, or the College. This program is a vital way to introduce those friends to Cornell.

There's more information here, as well as the links you can use to begin making your gifts.

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/giving/ClinicMemorials.cfm>

Please contact Sheila Reakes, Director, Annual Giving, at 607-253-4310, or smr45@cornell.edu to learn more.



Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[Home](#) > [About Us](#) > [News & Publications](#) > [Publications](#) > [eVETS Connect](#) >

Events



- [Reunion](#)
- [NYSVMS Spring 2017 Conference](#)
- [Meet your Alumni-Elected Trustees](#)

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

[📍 Ithaca, NY 14853](#)

[📞 \(607\) 253-3000](#)

[🚗 Directions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Site Feedback](#)

Cornell University ©2016

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



Alumni Affairs and Development

- [Alumni](#)
- [Reunion 2017](#)
- [Registration and Pricing](#)
- [Schedule of Events](#)
- [See Who's Coming](#)
- [Class Dinners](#)
- [Accommodations](#)
- [Giving and Awards](#)
- [Reunion 2016 Memories](#)

[eVETS connect](#) > Reunion 2017

Reunion 2017 - June 8-11

Members of the DVM Classes ending in 2s and 7s - Return to Cornell for Reunion Weekend!

Save the date, talk with your classmates and make plans to return.

Stay tuned to the Cornell Veterinary Reunion website for updates!





The New York State Veterinary Medical Society and Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine have partnered to offer an unparalleled breadth and quality of continuing education courses taught by experts in veterinary medicine - many world-renowned.

A partnership o

Our courses offer something for everyone:


- Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians
- Large animal, companion animal, exotics and beyond



[Skip to main content](#)[Cornell University Alumni and Friends](#)SEARCH CORNELL: ☒ Pages ☐ People [more options](#)[Participate](#)[Volunteer](#)[Remember](#)[Give](#)[Services](#)[About Us](#)

Cornell Alumni-Elected Trustees

Request A New Ballot

What is your NetID? 

What is your Preferred Class Year?



Current Alumni-Elected Trustees

- [Nicole B. DelToro '91](#)
- [Elizabeth Everett '97](#)
- [Stephanie Keene Fox '89](#)
- [Katrina E. James '96](#)
- [Pamela G. Marrone '78](#)
- [Jonathan K. Poe '82](#)
- [Susan T. Rodriguez '81](#)
- [Michael Troy '81](#)

Learn More

- [Cornell Board of Trustees](#)
- [Cornell Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations](#)
- [Report of the Task Force on Alumni Trustee Elections](#)
- [Trustee Charter Provision for Membership, Responsibilities, and Member Listing](#)





Contact

Loreal Maguire
llm94@cornell.edu
607-255-2960

Candidates for the 2017 Alumni Trustee Election



[Up Close with the Candidates](#)

Candidates endorsed by the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations

			
Dr. Sheila Wilson Allen AB '76, DVM '81 Athens, GA Read more View Candidate Video	Mr. Jay W. Carter BS ENGR '71, MEN '72 Hillsborough, NJ Read more View Candidate Video	Ms. Linda Marcelle Gadsby BS ILR '88 South Orange, NJ Read more View Candidate Video	Mr. Kent G. Sheng AB '78 Allendale, NJ Read more View Candidate Video

Unendorsed candidates (petitioned to be on this year's ballot)

Unendorsed candidates did not go through the CATN review process, nor did they choose to self-nominate via the traditional nomination process. Rather, they each filed a petition with 400 alumni signatures in order to appear on the ballot.

	
Ms. Linda Copman AB '83 Ithaca, NY Read more View Candidate Video	Mr. Joseph Rowland BS CALS '73 Owego, NY Read more View Candidate Video

If you have questions about the nominations process or the election, please contact [Loreal Maguire](#).

Vote	Nominate	Learn More
• Why Vote?	• Nominations Timeline	• Board/Current Trustees
• Your Vote Matters	• Nominations Criteria	• FAQ
• How to Vote	• How to Nominate	• Policy on Campaigning
• What is the Role of the Board of Trustees?	• Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations	• Election Data
	• Process	

Vote

Why Vote?

By voting, you are helping to select the alumni-elected members of the Cornell University Board of Trustees who guide the future of our alma mater. Cornell is one of the few major universities that offer their alumni this opportunity, so make sure you are ALL IN and vote!

Your Vote Matters

You have a voice in Cornell's alumni trustee election. Make a difference by voting for the two candidates you want to see become trustees. Not happy with the ballot choices? [Make a nomination](#) beginning May 17, 2017.

How to Vote

Ballots will be sent electronically or via paper on March 21. Polls will be open from March 21–May 2 (Noon, EDT).

If you have not received your unique voting number (needed for voting), please contact cornell@electionservicescorp.com or call 1-866-720-HELP (4357). Once the polls open, use your voting number and class year to vote [here](#).

What is the Role of the Board of Trustees?

The [Board of Trustees](#) is vested with "supreme control" over the university, including all of its colleges and other units. Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to the university as a whole. Among other responsibilities, the board elects the president, adopts an annual plan of financial operation, and establishes degrees to be awarded.

The board consists of 64 voting members. In addition to board-elected trustees, Cornell students, employees, faculty, and alumni elect individuals to serve on the board with full voting privileges. Alumni trustees serve a four-year term. Four ex officio members—the president of the university, the governor of the state of New York, the speaker of the state assembly, and the president of the state senate—also have voting privileges.

[Back to top](#)

Nominate

Nominations Timeline

- Nominations Open: May 17, 2017
- Nominations Close: June 21, 2017
- [Submit a nomination](#).

Nominations Criteria

Consider these suggested skills, attributes, and experiences of trustees:

- Contributions to the Board of Trustees
 - Recognized level of success
 - Demonstrated commitment to Cornell
 - Acknowledgement of the importance of higher education
 - Strong integrity and exemplary conduct
 - Diversity
 - Satisfaction of both broad and specific needs of the board
- Personal skills and characteristics
 - Interpersonal ability in both one-on-one and group settings
 - Good judgment and strong analytical aptitude
 - Fervent yet not dogmatic convictions
 - Proven leadership
 - Vision and perspective, and the ability to articulate them
 - Common sense and pragmatism
- Effectiveness as a prospective trustee
 - Ability to put the university ahead of special interests or constituencies
 - Undivided allegiance (e.g., concurrent service on another Ivy board would probably not work)
 - Availability to attend all the meetings and participate in committee work
 - Collegiality (i.e., shares ideas and decision-making)
 - Ongoing commitment to offer financial support to Cornell

[Back to top](#)

How to Nominate

Nominations open on May 17, 2017. [Submit a nomination](#).

Recommendations for getting started:

- Step One: Review the [nominations criteria](#).
- Step Two: Review the [position description](#) and then click on the red NOMINATE button.
- Step Three: Enter the name of your nominee. If he/she is already in the CUVolunteer system, the name will appear in a dropdown list—choose it and the person's NetID will prepopulate the next field. If the name of the person is not in the dropdown list, type it in and enter the NetID of the person (click on NetID lookup to find the person's NetID).
- Step Four: Enter your name as nominator.*
- Step Five: Provide replies to the three required questions.
- Step Six: Click Submit

**Please note that you will need to have created a profile within CUVolunteer in order to submit a nomination. You will need your NetID and password to create a profile. If you have questions, please contact [Carole Quealy](#) or consult our friendly [User Guide](#).*

Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations

The Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations is composed of [twenty-four alumni members](#), representing each college and a broad range of alumni organizations. The committee, which reports to the Board of Trustees Committee on Alumni Affairs, was charged by the Cornell Alumni Association with the responsibility of screening and endorsing qualified alumni to stand as candidates in the annual election for alumni trustees. The nominations received by the committee are submitted by alumni. While administratively supported by staff, the review of candidates and selection of nominees are wholly the responsibility of the alumni committee.

In 1939, the trustees of the university decided that elections for alumni trustees should be more dignified. Previously, there had been a great deal of competitive campaigning, large sums of money spent by the nominees, and many pressures. After surveying procedures used by other universities, the trustees suggested that Cornell's alumni association study the problem and make recommendations. It was recommended that a Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations be formed. Thus, the committee was created to stimulate a continuous and exhaustive search for the ablest alumni to be placed in nomination.

Process

- May: Subcommittee of CATN meets to cull down pool of nominees based on nomination criteria; members in fourth year of term transition off committee
- June: New CATN member orientation webinar
- July: Term starts for new CATN members
- August: Materials finalized for committee review
- September–November: Full CATN meets to review candidates, using nomination criteria, demographic data of the BOT and candidates, and needs of the Board to make determination
- November: List of top 8 candidates given in rank order to BOT Chair, who then offers candidacy to those on the list in the order of their ranking; first four to reply positively run on the ballot
- December: Candidates send biographical materials, interview questions, photos, etc to Office of Alumni Affairs
- March 21–May 2, 2017: Election
- May 17–June 21, 2017: Nominations period

[Back to top](#)

Learn More

More About the Board and Current Trustees

- [Year One for New Trustees](#)
- [Reports of Outgoing Alumni-Elected Trustees](#)
- [Going Proactive](#)

FAQ

[Frequently Asked Questions about the Alumni Trustee Election](#)

Policy on Campaigning

“Prohibition on Campaigning by Alumni Trustee Candidates: Reflecting the view of all Cornellians, the Cornell Alumni Association desires that the most highly qualified and dedicated men and women serve as alumni trustees of the university. Many who might be superb trustees are financially unable and/or do not desire to engage in campaigning. It is for these reasons as well as having candidates considered solely on their merits that the Cornell Alumni Association prohibits campaign activity of any kind by or on behalf of any candidate. Campaigning includes, but is not restricted to, soliciting endorsements of one's candidacy, written or oral contact with alumni about one's candidacy, statements to the press, advertising, social media and other networking technologies, press releases, etc. If publishers of college, unit, class or club newsletters, e-mails, social media posts, or their like wish to print any candidate information, they must give the same information in the same space on all candidates for that election. Questions should be directed to the Office of Alumni Affairs.”

[2015 Election Data](#)

[2016 Election Data](#)

[Back to top](#)



DR. SHEILA WILSON ALLEN

Endorsed by the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations



"The Board of Trustees must help position Cornell University to retain and recruit exceptional faculty and staff members who have a passion for creativity and discovery, and who embrace the responsibility to inspire future leaders through undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs on all three campuses."

Cornell Degree: AB A&S 1976, DVM 1981

Other Education: MS, Clinical Pathology 1986, Residency Small Animal Surgery 1985, University of Georgia

Please describe the reasons why you hope to serve on the board, the strengths you would bring to this position, and the ways in which you are uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success.

Having devoted my entire career to higher education, with twenty years as a senior administrator, I have firsthand knowledge and experience with the challenges faced by universities in promoting an inclusive culture of discovery and creativity, and in serving society through outreach activities. My experience with faculty retention and recruitment; advancing the research enterprise; enhancing diversity among faculty, staff, and students; and private fundraising for investing in capital projects and building the endowment would prove useful as a trustee. My work in higher education accreditation has provided the opportunity for in-depth review of universities throughout the world. This perspective would be valuable in helping Cornell maintain its position as a leader among elite universities internationally. Finally, with my undergraduate degree from Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences and my professional degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine, I deeply appreciate the value that private and publicly supported colleges bring to the Cornell community.

Cornell will welcome the university's 14th president, Martha E. Pollack, as trustee elections are underway. What do you believe are the three most important issues the president will face during her first year? How can you assist her in addressing Cornell's distinctive challenges as well as broad issues in higher education that impact Cornell?

The world has witnessed multiple instances of injustice, violence, and disregard for basic human rights in recent years. College campuses have not been spared from these harsh realities. President Pollack must reaffirm openly and repeatedly Cornell's commitment to fostering a community in which everyone is valued. The trustees must continue to commit to such principles in word and action. Secondly, the prospect of affording a Cornell education has never been more challenging. The trustees must work with President Pollack to further enhance financial aid opportunities so that Cornell can continue to fulfill its motto of "any person ... any study." Finally, President Pollack and the faculty will be continuing to review and revise the undergraduate curriculum to provide a more cohesive array of options for all students. Preserving Cornell's liberal arts legacy, while incorporating contemporary didactic and experiential studies to enhance that foundation, is a challenge I would embrace with enthusiasm.

In 2017 Cornell will dedicate its new Tech campus on Roosevelt Island. Together with the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medicine, the three campuses will comprise "One Cornell." In your view, how does this concept advance our university's future? What challenges do you foresee?

Cornell's three campuses have the expertise to tackle some of the most pressing problems facing society, such as global health threats, food safety, and security. Cornell's Tech campus is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of the vast opportunities for collaboration that the New York City area provides. I would envision "One Cornell" to include not only the three campuses, but also the strong Cornell alumni network in the New York metropolitan area. Having students from multiple colleges working side-by-side in a corporate environment solving problems together will be an enriching learning experience for the students and their mentors. Coordinating these experiential learning opportunities will certainly be challenging, but the Cornell Tech campus is strategically positioned and equipped to meet that challenge.

Professional Experience:

- Senior Accreditation Advisor, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges 2016–present
- Dean, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine 2005–2016
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine 1997–2005
- Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine 1986–2016

Alumni Service:

- President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) Sustaining Member–2016
- Cornell University Council (Member 2016–2020)
- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAN) Member

Prior:

- College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council (Member 2010–2015)
- PCCW (Member 2010–2015)

Community/Public Service:

- American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Board of Regents 2001–2004
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Board of Directors 2010–2012
- Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2007–2013 (Chair 2012–2013)
- National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council Committee to Assess the Current and Future Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine 2007–2011

Student involvements/activities:

Pre-veterinary Club

Additional information, optional:

Husband Douglas Allen, Jr., two adult children: Kelsey Wilson Allen, Mark Wilson Allen