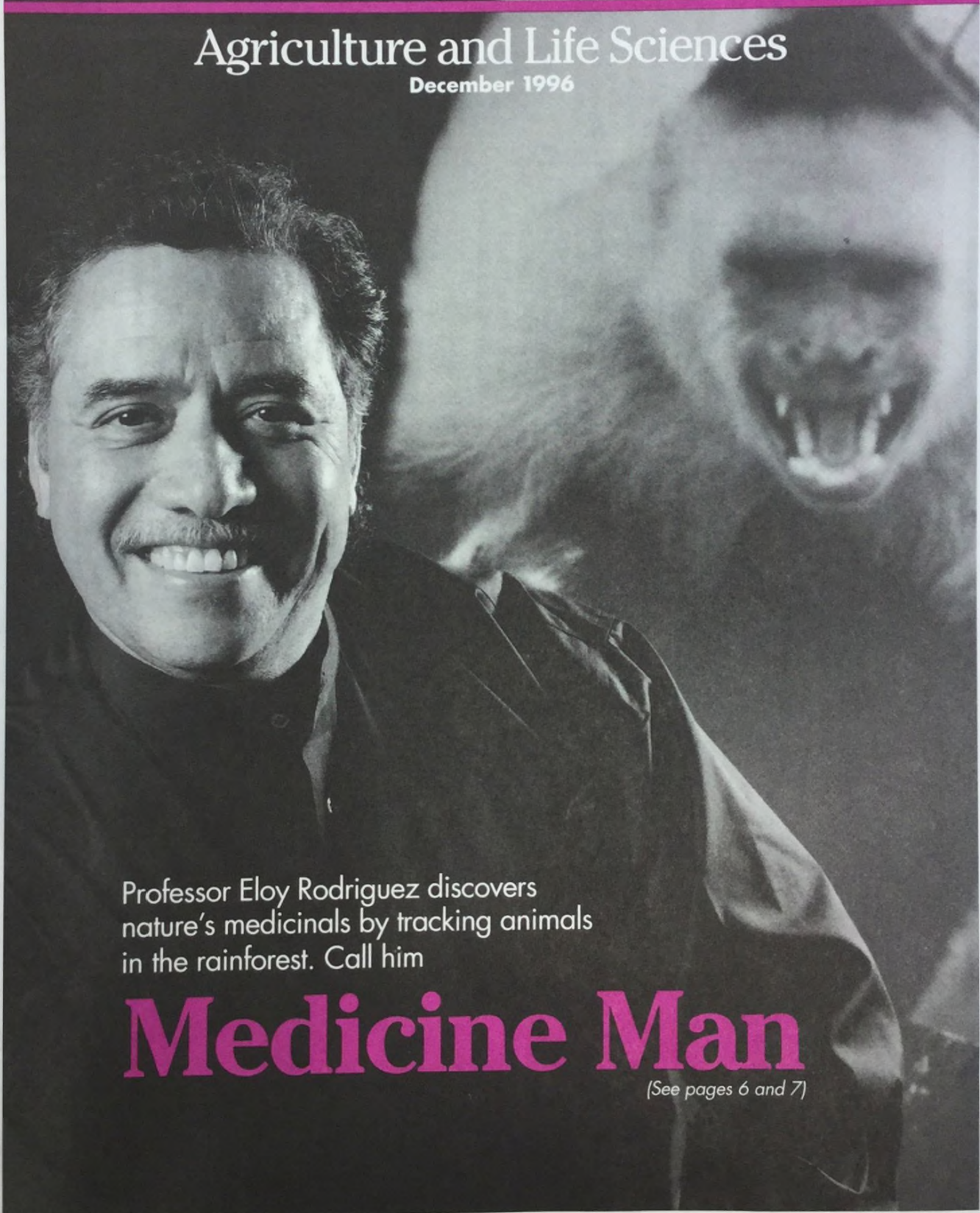


# ALS NEWS

Agriculture and Life Sciences

December 1996



Professor Eloy Rodriguez discovers  
nature's medicinals by tracking animals  
in the rainforest. Call him

## Medicine Man

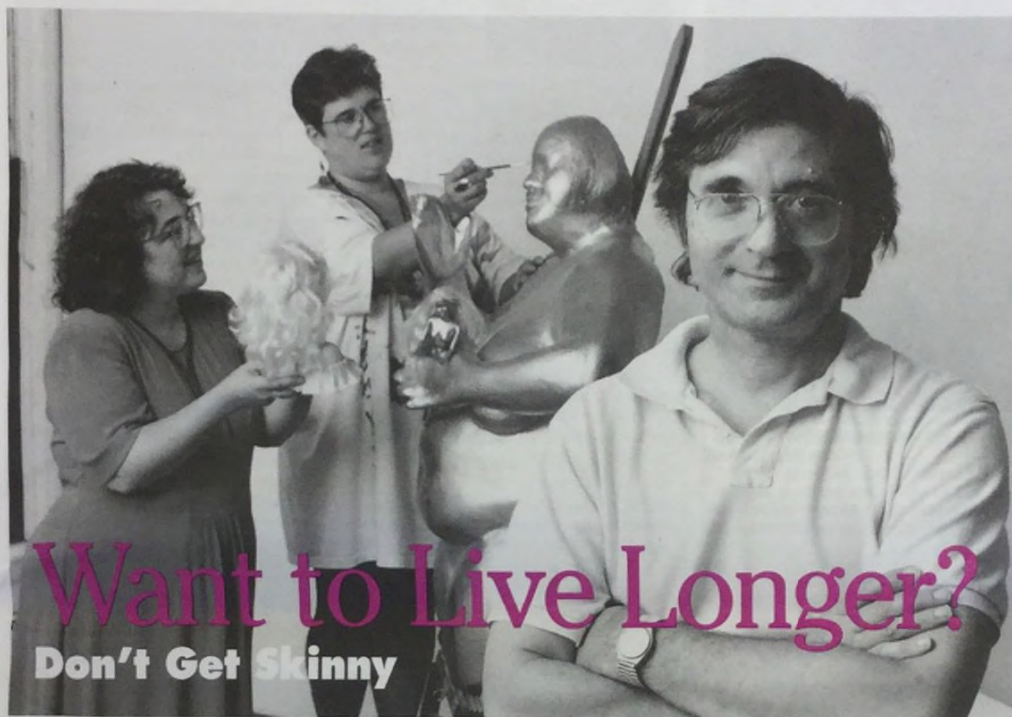
(See pages 6 and 7)



# ALS NEWS

## Agriculture and Life Sciences

A Publication for Alumni and Friends of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University/December 1996



### Want to Live Longer? Don't Get Skinny

**LIVING OFF THE FAT:** Levitsky says that eating low-fat foods is better for health than limiting calories and trying to get really thin. Terri Nicholetti, left, holds a Barbie doll, while Patty Brown puts the finishing touches on her sculpture showing the contrast between society's ideal woman's body and a common overweight body type.

An ALS nutritionist says that dieting is futile and that people who are moderately overweight actually live longer than underweight people. And forget about those low-fat imitations of rich foods; choose naturally low-fat, plant-based cuisine.

**T**he bottom line for weight-conscious Americans is don't diet. Don't make some foods forbidden. Don't bother with the new cardboard-tasting, low-fat cookies, cheese, and chips. And don't focus on weight and fret about not being thin.

Do eat more plant-based foods. Do choose more dishes from foreign cuisines that are naturally low in fat. And focus on being healthy instead of slim.

That's the advice of David Levitsky, ALS professor of nutritional sciences and professor of psychology. He should know—he's been studying diet, nutrition, and obesity for more than 30 years and has conducted numerous studies that back up his advice.

Levitsky recognized early that low-calorie diets just don't work. "More and more research is finding that dieting is futile and can backfire. If you try to limit calories, you end up hungrier and often end up eating more," Levitsky points out. Diets can also lead to weight obsessions and eating disorders; slow down metabolism; heighten sen-

sitivity to the taste and smell of food; trigger depression, apathy, and irritability; devastate self-esteem; and be downright unhealthy.

In the early 1990s, Levitsky set out to explore whether a low-fat diet would similarly backfire. He and his colleagues, research associate Anne Kendall-Casella and associate professor Barbara Strupp, studied what 13 women ate for as long as 11 weeks. The women consumed either a carefully measured regular or low-fat laboratory diet. They could eat all they wanted, but their intake was monitored.

On the low-fat diet, the women not only steadily lost weight—about one-half pound per week—but avoided the common pitfalls of low-calorie diets.

"The weight loss is relatively slow, but it's persistent and should result in a 10 percent loss of body weight in a year," says Levitsky, who teaches undergraduate courses on nutrition and health, personalized health and nutrition, and obesity and the regulation of body weight.

Next, Levitsky wanted to know whether women in the community would switch to a low-fat diet. He and Kendall-Casella asked 42 household "food purchasers" (who happened all to be women) to try preparing low-fat meals for their family. He found that, on their own, they lowered their fat to 25 percent of calories—5 percent less than the dietary guidelines and thus healthier than the guidelines. Although the women said they preferred their new lower-fat diet, they were not going to continue serving it. Why?

"Because their husbands were resistant. We know from other studies that men, in general, are much more resistant to new foods and medical compliance," Levitsky points out. "So then we thought, perhaps if we could get to the children, we could help families consider lower-fat diets."

#### Low-Fat School Lunches

Levitsky and then-graduate student Antonia Demas PhD '95 (Ed.) turned to an elementary school in Trumansburg, N.Y. In a pilot project, students learned about other cultures and cuisines in the classroom and sampled new and unfamiliar—and very low-fat—foods such as couscous, pasta primavera, Chinese bean dumplings, chutney, and curry. When they later saw those foods served in the cafeteria, students were up to 20 times more likely to eat them than if they hadn't learned about them before.

"Our work is confirming that when children are exposed to low-fat foods in the classroom, they accept them at about the same rate as other foods served in the

cafeteria," Levitsky says.

But are low-fat diets healthful to growing children? The American Pediatrics Association has been reluctant to recommend them without research. To find out, Levitsky and Cornell colleagues statistician Edward Frongillo, epidemiologist Patricia Cassana, and nutritionist Wendy S. Wolfe analyzed a nationally representative sample of 2,940 American children, ages 2 through 17.

"Children on low-fat diets grow at exactly the same rate and have better vitamin and fiber status—but with reduced cholesterol—compared with children on higher-fat diets," Levitsky says of the findings.

#### Underweight Is Not Healthy

In the meantime, Levitsky helped write a book on the need for women to escape the cultural pressure to be thin (see box). To find out just how healthy—or not—it was to be thin, Levitsky with Frongillo, associate professor Jeffery Sobal, and then-graduate student Richard Troiano analyzed nine large, prospective studies with information on mortality from all causes and body weight.

They found that the health risks of being 20 to 30 pounds overweight are exaggerated. People this overweight were not more likely to die over a 30-year period than average-weight persons. However, the health risks of being moderately underweight were shown to be comparable to that of being quite overweight and look more serious than most people realize.

"It just may be inappropriate to recommend that people currently considered moderately overweight should lose weight to increase longevity," Levitsky says.

Nevertheless, eating a low-fat diet, regardless of your size or weight, is much more healthful and can lower your risk of many diseases including heart disease, cancer, stroke, arteriosclerosis, and diabetes.

Levitsky warns, however, that merely substituting low-fat versions of familiar foods won't work. "They just won't taste the same and you'll end up craving the foods you miss." A small preliminary study he conducted last year with a group of undergraduate students showed that women preferred low-fat foods that were unfamiliar such as tabouli and lentil stew than familiar foods such as pizza and tuna fish salad made with low-fat cheese and mayonnaise.

In summary, Levitsky stresses, "Do not look at weight as the bottom line; look at health. And lowering the fat in your diet and moving your body whenever possible are the two best things you can for your health."

Susan Lang

#### Book Frees Women from 'Diet/Weight Prison'

Terri Nicholetti was fed up with the failures of more than 100 weight-loss attempts over 11 years and weight swings between 135 and 208 pounds in a hopeless quest for a slim body. She found herself trapped in a diet/weight prison locked by societal ideals for thinness and her own fear and shame.

Nicholetti managed a great "escape" and, with the support of David Levitsky, offers a "key" to the 43 million other American women imprisoned by obsessions with eating and weight in the book, *Fed Up! A Woman's Guide to Freedom from the Diet/Weight Prison* (Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1993; when she co-authored the book, she used the name Terri Garrison).

Nicholetti, founder and director of the Diet/Weight Liberation Project at Cornell, says *Fed Up!* is a hands-on manual for women concerned about weight. Based on scientific research, activities, and visualizations, the book leads the reader through the process of exchanging obsessions with weight, eating, and the goal of thinness for pleasurable and healthful eating and a balanced, joyful lifestyle.

"Women can refuse to participate any longer in their own oppression and to claim the rights of diet/weight freedom," says Nicholetti, also the editor of *Graceful Eating*, the newsletter of the Diet/Weight Liberation Project, a self-help support network providing information and support to persons who are preoccupied with food and weight, sponsored by the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy at Cornell. "Those rights are to accept our real bodies because they are ours; to celebrate ourselves, size and all; to eat what we want and be satisfied; and to be treated with respect regardless of our size."



## ALUMNI PROFILE

Alan Cohen '81

## Ithaca's Mayor Targets Drugs, Racism as Problems



**SWEET VICTORY:** Cohen hosts the Ithaca media at his restaurant on election night, 1995.

Alan Cohen '81, mayor of Ithaca and owner of Simeon's Restaurant on the Commons, arrives for our interview right on time and only slightly out of breath, with a friendly smile on his increasingly well-known face. He has the confidence and energy that are the hallmarks of political success, and he looks right at home in the fourth floor mayor's office with its huge desk and comfortable leather chairs.

When Cohen ran for office last year he was the proverbial dark horse. He was a small business owner with minimal political experience, an outsider, and worse: an independent who would not align with either the Democratic or Republican party. He was hard to define but even harder to ignore. He had a message and a way of putting his message across that won him the election, to the surprise of more than a few.

Today, hizzoner is in chinos and loafers, with his shirt sleeves rolled up. It's a working day for the mayor of Ithaca: that means back-to-back appointments with various groups and officials representing a myriad of issues, problems, and agendas. Here are his thoughts on a few of them.

**Q. What is your vision for Ithaca?**

**A.** I'm not going to be unrealistic and say I want Ithaca to be like it used to be. Whatever era you might point to in the past, those days are gone. What I do want Ithaca to become once again is a healthy, vibrant, safe community to live and work in. I want Ithaca to be a role model for other communities when it comes to a variety of social issues. I'm very concerned with issues of diversity. We are perceived to be a more progressive community, but people of color who come to this community say that it has the same problems as, if not worse than, some other communities. We have to address institutional racism and the underlying attitudes that create it.

When you're dealing with an attitudinal problem, the only way you're going to change things is to start with our young and hope that a generation or two from now everything will be different. I'll continue to work with the schools to try to reach the youth in our community to discuss attitudes of respect for other human beings, community pride, and the concept that in any community where you live,

you are a part of the community and you have a responsibility to be a contributing member.

**Q. What other problems are a concern?**

**A.** Surprisingly, given its location, given the type of community it is, Ithaca has a large and growing crack cocaine problem. We need a multi-faceted approach that entails vigorous law enforcement but also addresses treatment options, education, and the socio-economic root causes. We're not going to solve society's problems, but we might establish a model in this community that might be used elsewhere. The drug problem isn't something one law is going to change. There has to be a whole package to address different aspects of the problem.

**Q. And how are town-gown relations?**

**A.** To say I'm enthusiastic about the direction we're going in would be an understatement. President Rawlings and I share a vision of the university being a working partner in the community. We both recognize the importance of a healthy, vibrant, and safe community to the welfare of the university. One only need to look to our sister Ivy League institutions of Yale and University of Pennsylvania to see the negative impacts on those schools because of the safety and economic conditions surrounding both of those schools. We're far from that situation, but we could easily be there.

Instead, we're developing a partnership between town and gown to work toward community economic development. Businesses could start and grow here, based on anything that comes out of Cornell technology, and that's a wide spectrum.

**Q. How did your Cornell degree help get you to this office?**

**A.** A lot of what I learned at Cornell has been applicable here. I was an agricultural economics major with an emphasis in business management. That indirectly led me first into the operation of my restaurant. Running the restaurant has given me substantial experience, now directly applied to management in city hall. There are a lot of corollaries between the two: both are essentially service-driven organizations, working for the benefit of the customer. In the city's case, the customers are the residents and taxpayers and businesses in the city.

**Q. What's in your near future? Other political goals?**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

## College Bids Farewell to a Friend; Tackles Wider Issues



As most of you probably know, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences lost one of its best friends and most avid supporters with the passing of Ron Lynch '58 this past June. Although I didn't get a chance to know Ron well, the fact that I am in a position that bears his name (Ronald P. Lynch Dean) has made him a significant presence in my life. I learned soon after arriving here of his devotion to Cornell. His efforts made a huge difference for the college—one that allowed it to cross the fine line from being very good to being truly singular among its peer institutions.

Ron served the college and the university in many capacities. He was a life member of the ALS Alumni Association, and in 1993 he received the association's Outstanding Alumni Award. He and his wife, Susan, also made generous gifts to several areas at Cornell. But we in the college will most remember his gifts to furnish the David L. Call Alumni Auditorium in Kennedy Hall and to endow the deanship. It is fitting that we will always have Ron's name connected with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences because he was one of our greatest champions.

Ron's years of work for the college paralleled its growth from a traditional ag school to a more expansive college that embraces both agriculture and the life sciences. This was a natural evolution brought about by the recognition that production agriculture doesn't operate in a vacuum. Rather, it's firmly intertwined with environmental and natural resources issues, community and rural development, food and nutrition, the biological sciences, and international development. This is why we have chosen to structure our programs around these areas.

As our college and other colleges of agriculture have moved in this direction, some traditional production agriculturists have worried that we're not directing our attention to things that are "center of the plate." They're concerned that by addressing these other issues, we're trying to categorize things in a manner that will diminish our work on behalf of growers.

But the fact is that by studying how these issues both affect and are affected by agriculture, we provide benefits across the board. A good example is the enormously ambitious New York City Watershed Project. The project has shown how careful stewardship of the lands around the Catskill/Delaware watershed upstate and the Croton watershed just north of the city can protect the city's drinking water while helping farmers adopt better farming practices.

At stake is one of the largest surface water storage and supply systems in the world. More than 550 billion gallons are stored in its lakes and reservoirs, and 1.3 billion gallons are distributed to the city and to Orange and Ulster counties every day.

To minimize the amount of chemicals, nutrients, and bacteria entering the watershed, hundreds of dairy and crop farmers are learning more effective fertilizer application methods and strategies to reduce runoff from animal waste. The Whole Farm Planning approach they've been taught, together with the improvements they've made to their properties, have allowed them to operate their farms more profitably while protecting the watershed. I hate to resort to an already overused phrase, but it's a classic "win-win" situation.

New York City's treasury hasn't done too badly, either. Although the city has spent tens of millions of dollars on the watershed project, it has saved an estimated \$8 billion it would have had to spend on federally mandated water filtration plants if the project had not been approved. Make that a win-win-win situation.

Another example of a practice that benefits both agriculture and the environment is integrated pest management. For years, the accepted practice for pest control was the application of tons of pesticides. But these practices pose a threat to water supplies and human health. Over time, they also become less effective as pests develop immunities.

By showing growers how to fight pests using pest identification procedures, natural predators, biopesticides such as bacteria and viruses, and other strategies, IPM has dramatically reduced the amount of pesticides needed and is now a nationwide practice. With the encouragement of the EPA, the FDA, and the USDA, the goal of having 75 percent of the manageable acreage in the nation using IPM methods by the year 2000 is clearly within reach. Growers decrease costs and improve yields while protecting the environment and human health. Again, a win-win situation.

These are just two examples of how production agriculture and the environment can each be enhanced without diminishing the other. Such approaches will become even more important as suburbia continues to encroach on areas that have for decades been devoted solely to agriculture. By looking at the needs of both sides, solutions can be found that meet and even exceed their needs. This is the type of problem that drives the college today and will continue to do so in the future. We look forward to the challenge.

Daryl Lund, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean

**A.** I'm very happy to be giving back to my community and want to continue to do so to a limited extent. But the first priority in my life is settling down and starting a family.

**Q. Any prospects?**

**A.** [Laughs.] If there were, I wouldn't tell you. But I will say that any political life I have in the future will be strongly influenced by the wishes of my family. Beyond that, I don't really see in the present political environment any real viability for me beyond local politics. I am independent; I pride myself on that. I've been an independent since I registered to vote in 1977. I think a third party is a great idea. You're

going to have to build coalitions to get things done. I'm a social progressive who is fiscally conservative—if a third party emerges that's just that, who knows?

**Q. Would you do it all over again?**

**A.** Yes. I love this job. I have an opportunity to do wonderful things for my community. I'm learning a tremendous amount. I'm constantly challenged. I love the fact that there are so many different things going on at once. Of course, that can also be frustrating, but what I've learned about myself is that I have the ability to go as far as I want to go.

Jeanne Mackin



## SHORT REPORTS

## Two ALS Grads Die in TWA Accident



Tracy Hammer '89 at an alumni event in Michigan, summer 1995.

TWA flight 800, which crashed off Long Island in July, killed two ALS alumni: **Steven Snyder '60**, a veteran TWA captain who was a "check pilot" on the flight, and **Tracy Hammer '89**, a doctoral student in microbiology and veterinary science at Michigan State.

Snyder was on the flight to observe the crew's performance, a duty reserved for the fleet's best pilots. At Cornell, he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity and a member of Air Force ROTC.

Hammer, a graduate of the Department of Animal Science, was traveling to Paris to present a paper at an international conference on animal genetics. She was a member of Kappa Delta sorority and had many friends at Cornell and in the Ithaca community. Hammer was interviewed for the New Alumni page in the December 1995 *ALS News*.

Donations are being accepted in memory of the two graduates. Please direct inquiries or gifts for the **Tracy Hammer Memorial Fund** or in **Steve Snyder's** name to **Maya Gasuk, 272 Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; phone: 607-255-0359; e-mail: mlg2@cornell.edu**

## Sea Grant Helps Flight 800 Recovery Effort



The aftermath of the TWA explosion this past summer has entailed a massive recovery effort in which the New York Sea Grant Institute, a joint program of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the State University of New York, took part.

Sea Grant was asked if it could help determine where pieces of the shattered wreckage might wash ashore, based on knowledge of water and wind movement around Long Island.

"I basically provided estimates of the probable location and path of floating material several times a day," said Jay Tanski, Sea Grant coastal processes and facilities specialist based at SUNY-Stony Brook.

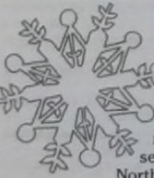
The morning after the crash, Sea Grant received a call from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, asking for help in deciding where to station crews to recover wreckage that they thought would wash up on state park beaches during the busy summer period.

Tanski used a U.S. Coast Guard study that modeled water movement off Long Island and data from a buoy in the ocean that gave hourly measurements of wind speed and direction. Tanski began plotting a trajectory for the TWA debris. "What it showed was that from the time the plane went down, the movement would be toward shore, but toward the east, not the west, where they had deployed most of their people," he said.

Tanski's estimates were correct. "They found material on the shore within two hours of when the predictions suggested it would wash up and within the area the model had predicted. This was around the West Hampton area, farther east than the Parks people were originally thinking," he said.

Larry Bernard

## Weird Winter Weather Good for Bird Diversity



Last winter's mish-mash of weather sent bird-watchers to their field guides as species showed up where they're usually not. Documenting irruptions of seldom-seen species throughout North America were thousands of participants in a volunteer-run and scientifically based program, the legions of Project FeederWatch.

Analysis of Project FeederWatch's 1995-96 reports at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology showed normally north-wintering birds to be feeding throughout the continent; apparent population shifts among house finches, which suffer a contagious eye disease; more rare-bird sightings; and an unsettling trend for the squeamish: more songbird-eating hawks at the feeders.

"It was an invasion year, continent-wide, for typically irruptive species. Pine siskins, red-breasted nuthatches, and common redpolls visited 25 percent or more of feeders in North America, and FeederWatchers saw a 36 percent increase in evening grosbeaks,"

said Ken Rosenberg, research coordinator of Project FeederWatch. "We think severe weather and availability of food had something to do with the irruptions."

Now beginning its 10th season, Project FeederWatch gathers scientific data from volunteer participants throughout the United States and Canada. The reports from volunteers are analyzed at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. These widespread scientific studies of winter bird populations, behavior, and diversity would not be possible without the comprehensive network of FeederWatch observers in the field.

Coinciding with the start of fall bird-watching, FeederWatchers began their counts in early November but volunteers may join the current season until March 1, 1997, by calling 1-800-843-BIRD. A \$15 annual participation fee covers costs of printing, postage, the quarterly newsletter *Birdscope*, and data analysis. A special scorecard that accompanies the Project FeederWatch annual report is found on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's World Wide Web site: <http://www.ornith.cornell.edu>

Roger Segelken

## ALS Career Office Wins Awards

The ALS Career Development Office received two awards for excellence in programming at the annual SUNY Career Development Organization Conference in early June. **Alumni Career Link** won an award "for the development and implementation of a new and/or innovative program among four-year

colleges, university centers, and specialized colleges." The **Alumni Career Leader Series** (which debuted this past year in food science, communication, and natural resources) won an award "for programming with other offices, academic departments, and community organizations."

**Alumni Career Link** is a computerized "expertise bank" of more than 500 ALS alumni who have volunteered to offer career exploration and job search assistance to students, prospective students, and fellow alumni. It

## Brooklyn Shade Trees Attacked by Asian Beetle

A tree won't grow in Brooklyn. Cornell University scientists have confirmed what they believe is the first known infestation of an Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, a large beetle that is attacking Brooklyn's horsechestnut and Norway maple tree population.

The Norway maple is the most planted shade tree throughout New York State.

This beady-eyed beetle, about 1-inch long, has coal-black wing covers sprinkled with startling white spots. The black and white antennae are long and impressive. The beetle was found devastating trees in the Greenpoint neighborhood of northern Brooklyn.

Native to Japan, Korea, and the southern sections of China, this is the first time this beetle has been seen outside of Asia, said E. Richard Hoebeke, Cornell senior extension associate and assistant curator in entomology.

These beetles might prove to be the ultimate Brooklyn dodgers. Short of cutting down



Hoebeke takes an up-close look at the Asian longhorned beetles.

the maple and horsechestnut trees, there is little that can be done to curb the Greenpoint infestation, Hoebeke said, adding that there are no known natural predators.

Three-quarter-inch, circular holes in the Brooklyn trees led authorities to think pranksters were drilling them. But rather than human teenagers causing the damage, adult beetles emerging from the heartwood center of the trees bore an exit hole through the outer bark.

Blaine Friedlander

## OBITUARIES

## Malott, Sixth Cornell President, Dies

**Deane W. Malott**, Cornell president from 1951 to 1963, died Sept. 11 at his home in Ithaca. He was 98.

Malott presided over a period of rapid expansion of the university in the post-World War II years. Under his direction, Cornell's budget grew from \$42 million to \$110 million, faculty salaries increased by more than 60 percent, and growth in sponsored research grew from less than \$15 million annually to more than \$45 million.

President Hunter Rawlings said, "Deane Malott will be remembered by some as a builder of buildings—for teaching, for research, for student housing, and other pressing needs—which literally transformed the Cornell campus during his presidency. But he will be remembered far longer as the builder of the intellectual landscape that characterizes Cornell today."



In October 1995 at age 97, Malott took part in the inauguration ceremonies for Rawlings.

**Robert Becker**, 64, retired associate professor of horticulture at the Geneva experiment station, died July 23 after he fell from a church roof he was helping to paint in Rushville, N.Y.

Becker was the regional extension specialist on vegetables for Ontario County Extension from 1960 to 1970. His work and rapport with growers and processors was so well appreciated that he was named the extension specialist on vegetables for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He held that position from 1970 to 1986. Becker was named an associate professor of horticultural sciences in 1986. He retired in 1992.

Even in retirement, Becker served as a resource person and supported the vegetable extension field staff. He helped with the station's variety evaluation programs and the New York State Vegetable Conferences. On retirement, he became the editor of a new publication, *The Fruit Quarterly*, a combined project of the New York State Horticulture Society and the Geneva station.

**Ron LaFrance**, former director of the college's American Indian Program, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home on the Akwesasne Reservation near Hogansburg, N.Y. He was 51.

LaFrance joined the American Indian Program in 1984 as an extension associate. He was named acting director in 1988 and served as director from 1991 to 1993. One of LaFrance's achievements was the completion of Akwe:kon, the program's residence house. More than 1,200 students participated in the program's courses and activities during his tenure.

Most recently, he was director of the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education.

ers employed in the students' fields of interest. Secondary goals include providing alumni the chance to give something back to the college and to enable Dean Lund to meet alumni and increase his familiarity with ALS graduates.

For further information on either of these programs, contact the ALS Career Development Office at 607-255-2215.



# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1930s

**Steve M. Smith '35** of Yorkville, N.Y., served in the past as president of the Council for the Class of 1935.

**Chet Freeman '39** of Ithaca, N.Y., returned to the Mariana Islands for a 50th anniversary reunion of his B-29 bomber group in the 39th Air Corps. (This was incorrectly stated in last issue.)



## 1940s

**Joseph Hoffman '42** of White Plains, N.Y., works part-time in the office at home importing and exporting chemicals.

In the last issue, the alumni note on **Allen J. Albright '44** of Ontario, N.Y., should have read "retired from banking in 1980 and now operates a fruit farm."



## 1950s

**M. Paul Friedberg '53** of New York City is a partner in M. Paul Friedberg & Partners, a landscape architecture and urban design firm. The firm has received more than 20 design awards, including most recently an honor award and a merit award from the Update New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in the category of site planning/design. He also serves as a juror for the Petrosino Park Redevelopment Design Competition.

**Eugene Doner '55, MS '57** of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, retired from the staff at McGill University in December 1994 after 37 years as a professor of animal science. He was director of McGill International from 1985 to 1994.

**Jean D. Krelitzinger '58** of Newtown, Conn., is chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Western Connecticut State University. She has three daughters and six grandchildren.



## 1960s

**Richard H. Weidgen, Jr. '67** of Rochester, N.Y., has been appointed to the Horticultural Program Committee of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. His business, Weed Man, has received the Environmental Protection Award for the second year in a row from the Professional Lawn Care Association of America.

**Bette N. Zippin '68** of Lauderhill, Fla., is a computer supervisor with Broward County Schools. She remains active in Cornell alumni activities as membership chair for the Cornell Club of the Gold Coast and reunion chair for the class of 1968. She and her husband, Bob '68, have two sons as Cornell—Jonathan '98, and David '90.



## 1970s

**Mark P. Charlton '74** of Newark, Del., is a pastor at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Del. He is active in the Cornell Club of Delaware and with Cornell Band Alumni.

**Andrew S. Hajdo '74** of East Norwich, N.Y., works with the East Norwich Veterinary Clinic. He is past president of the Oyster Bay Rotary and the Oyster Bay Jewish Center.

**Lee Kowalsky '78** of Utica, N.Y., is a middle school science teacher at John F. Kennedy Middle School. She coaches cross-country and is a board member of the Utica Teacher Council Policy Board. She has served as president of the Utica March Council.



## 1980s

**Eva M. Bostek-Brady '83** of Bernardsville, N.J., is a veterinarian at the Madison Veterinary Hospital in Madison, N.J. She and her husband, Tom, have a son, Ethan Thomas Brady, born in February, the couple's first child.

**Howard J. Gels '85** of Coral Springs, Fla., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1989 and completed his residency there in orthopedic surgery. He also participated in a sports medicine fellowship at Cincinnati. He is currently in private practice in Coral Springs and covered Olympic soccer in South Florida. In April 1995, he married Elise Gels.

**Kellie Reynolds Rosenberg '87** of Watertown, Mass., had a second daughter, born in April 1996. She and the family recently moved to the Boston area where her husband will be starting his residency in Pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

**Kelly J. Smith '88** of Cincinnati, Ohio, is working with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati as a brand manager. She is past chair of the ALS Ambassadors and alumni liaison to the ALS Alumni Association. In the past, she worked as associate director of ALS Alumni Affairs and served as class of '88 president. She writes that she misses New York, especially Cornell.

**Catherine Blodgett Gaffney '89** of West Henrietta, N.Y., likes her new position of office coordinator/buyer with Wegmans Food Markets. She and her husband recently built a new home and plan to build a barn and keep some animals.

**David Sonow '90** of Chicago, Ill., is a consultant with Price Waterhouse. He began work to complete his master's in management at Kellogg (Northwestern) in September 1996.

**Walter J. Currie MPS '91** of Quebec, Canada, is working on an agricultural extension state coordinator with American Samoa Land Grant Program. He is interested in establishing a Cornell Samoa Alumni Organization.

**Catherine M. Coombe Bender '92** of Grahamsville, N.Y., worked as a loan officer for Hudson Valley Farm Credit, A.C.A., until May 1994. Now she is a financial planning consultant for Coombe Financial Services. She married Tim T. Bender in September 1994.

**Heather A. Cabrera '92** of Brooklyn, N.Y., received an MS in education in February 1995. She teaches science and math at a new alternative high school in New York City.

**Yong J. Chung '92** of Brea, Calif., is a doctorate student at UCLA in environmental science and engineering.

**Steven R. Deward '92** of Nashua, N.H., is a representative sales manager for Agway in northern New England.

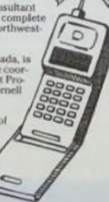
**Patricia C. Jilison '92** of Brockton, Mass., married Michael H. Jilison Eng '91 in September 1995.

**Christina Jordan '92** of Apple Valley, Minn., was recently promoted to vice president of QA Precision Products, Inc., a firm that manufactures bearings and castings. She also just purchased her first home.

**Betty Lin '92** completed a summer internship at Nestle USA in Glendale, Calif. In September, she began her second year at the University of Chicago Business School. She invites fellow '92 grads to look her up if they are in the Chicago area.

**Mark E. Lipowski '92** of Cheektowaga, N.Y., is engaged to fellow Cornellian Jen Dwyer '92.

**Jill M. Dewslaplaere '92** of N. Rose, N.Y., recently married Todd H. Marshall '93.



## 1990s

**Kraig D. Marquis '92** of Chapel Hill, N.C., is about to finish his MS in environmental engineering from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been a private engineering consultant for over two years, specializing in water quality and stormwater management.

**Stacey J. Rapoport '92** of New York City is a third-year law student at Fordham University.

**Peter W. Rynkiewicz '92** of Tully, N.Y., works at the Cortland County Health Department as assistant public health engineer. He is Second Lieutenant with the Army Reserves.

**Heather Garbick Savickas '92** of Colorado Springs, Colo., married Eric Savickas in March 1995. She is working as a marketing assistant for Newham Hybrids, a swine breeding stock company.

**Carol F. Streiner '92** of Fort Collins, Colo., is currently finishing her master's degree in resource economics. She enjoys mountain biking and horseback riding.

**Stacey N. Welch '92** of Pittsburgh, Pa., is finishing the MA program in medical ethics at University of Pittsburgh. She did two years of research at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in immunology and renal cell carcinoma.

**Theresa D. Wells '92** of Waverly, N.Y., recently returned to New York after spending two years in Wisconsin. She is working towards her master's in library sciences.

**Terri A. Zachos '92** of Ithaca, N.Y., graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell in May with an interest in small-animal medicine and surgery.

**Glenn M. Zieve '92** of Philadelphia, Pa., will be finishing his fourth year at the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine.

**Katherine S. Abernethy '93** of Huntington, N.Y., is a vocational coach training developmentally disabled adults to function independently within the community and at the job site. She remains involved with Cornell by interviewing prospective students.

**Stephanie L. Dickinson '93** of Boston, Mass., is a technical assistant involved in cancer research. She is engaged to be married and is an active judge and rider in equestrian competitions.

**Mary T. Friesley '93** of Suffern, N.Y., is studying toward a master's in biotechnology at William Paterson College of New Jersey.

**Frederic N. Gahler '93** of New York City, entered a training program at Catoir Fitzgerald after graduating from Cornell. He is a securities trader, trading a wide array of technology and bank stocks.

**Jessica L. Geyer '93** of Cary, N.C., is pursuing her DVM degree at North Carolina State University, class of '99.

**Katie G. Goldberg '93** of Charlottesville, Va., worked for two years in Washington, D.C., at the Environmental Health Institute. In August, she began her second year of law school at University of Virginia specializing in public interest environmental law.

**Karen M. Krane '93** of Cambridge, Mass., is an environmental scientist with Camp Dresser and McKee. She is involved with the rotating employee program there and enjoys working in a variety of different disciplines.

**Valerie McConnell '93** of Bellevue, Ohio, is a loan officer with Union Bank and Savings.

**Jane D. McGuire PhD '93** of Binghamton, N.Y., is an assistant professor at Mansfield University in Sayre, Pa. She is on the faculty for senior nursing student BS candidates in leadership and management and health care and community health. She also advises registered nurses seeking BS degrees in nursing.

**Leon J. Perkowski '93** of Sumter, S.C., received his MS degree in environmental pollution control at Penn State University in August 1995. He is currently serving as Wing Weather Officer.

**Patricia A. Selig, D.O. '93** of Endicott, N.Y., is a Doctor of Chiropractic in the Endicott area. She recently attended the dean-alumni get-together in Endicott in May 1996.

**Marilei Smith '93** of Brooklyn, N.Y., is working toward her Master of Public Administration at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. She was married in June 1996.

**Kimberlee A. Adams Stauber '93** of Cromwell, Conn., is a technical sales representative for Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc. She was recently married.

**Heather A. Toomey '93** of Seattle, Wash., is a graduate student in the museology program at the University of Washington. She is studying learning in science museums and lives with two other Cornell alumni.

**C. P. Wierzala '93** of Colorado Springs, Colo., is a sales manager with Sports and Recreation Inc.

**Kristen M. Anderson '94** of Tonawanda, N.Y., is a medical student at University of Buffalo Medical School. She is a fan of the plant sciences at Cornell and the lovely landscaping maintained by the Grounds Department.

**Christina N. Atwood '94** of Atlanta, Ga., is a lab technician at Cryo Life Inc., a company that processes and stores human tissues for transplantation.

**Michael J. Blazek '94** of Louisville, Ky., is a lab technician at the University of Louisville Medical School. He will be entering a PhD program next year in biochemistry.

**Christine A. Burillo '94** of Westport, N.Y., is a grad student in a master's program in biology at SUNY-Hunter. She is also working full-time at the Population Council.

**Deena S. Chapman '94** of Burbank, Calif., is in her second year with the national service program AmeriCorps. She works with the American Red Cross doing earthquake and disaster training in underserved communities. She also responds to national and local disasters such as fire, floods, and hurricanes.

**Jonathan B. Cohen '94** of South Windsor, Conn., is a master's student at the University of Connecticut researching the decline of greater scaup populations on Long Island Sound.

**Rebecca A. Emerling '94** of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., had been working as an assistant manager at M&T Bank. She returned to college in January 1996 to work on her master's degree and certification in special education.

**Mary H. Fales '94** of Falconer, N.Y., is a sophomore in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ross University. She and her roommate survived Hurricane Luis last September.

**Margit K. Feary '94** of New York City, is an editorial assistant writing and editing for the health and nutrition department of NYC City Magazine. She is also a member of Cornell Club of New York City.

**Julie E. Fixman '94** of Ithaca, N.Y., is a student at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Rosario Gonzalez '94** of Pembroke Pines, Fla., is working as a veterinary assistant and pet counselor in two veterinary clinics.

**Robert J. Greenblatt '94** of Roslyn Heights, N.Y., is teaching math at Canisius High School in Brooklyn.

**Dana B. Hagendorf '94** of New York City, is a consultant with Price Waterhouse LLP. She enjoys traveling, horseback riding, and working out.

**Kathleen L. Hall '94** of East Meadow, N.Y., is a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon, West Africa, working in agroforestry. She is enjoying it very much.

**Arif S. Haq '94** of Carboro, N.C., is a first-year law student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Ellen M. Johnston '94** of South Salem, N.Y., is teaching high school math at John Jay High School. She was the 1995 New York State winner of the Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award. She is also assistant director for the plays and musicals and junior class adviser.

**Andrew M. Lopez '94** of Bloomfield, N.J., is a first-year medical student at New Jersey Medical School.

**Andrew J. Miller '94** of York, Pa., is a student at Duke Law School.

**Kristen A. Mixer '94** of Atlanta, Ga., is a research assistant with Yerkes Primate Research working with small nonhuman primates, primarily in AIDS and cancer research. She also sings with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

**Brian T. Nicholson '94** of Hoboken, N.J., is involved in sales for family fruit farms. He works in distribution to retail outlets in Manhattan.

**Dineen M. Pashoukos '94** of Washington, D.C., is a student at Georgetown Law Center.

**Arl B. Rubinfeld '94** of Schenectady, N.Y., is a student at Buffalo Medical School.

**Eileen M. Sierk '94** of Orlando, Fla., works on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, a missionary organization. She is working in Corporate Human Resources at the Crusade's world headquarters.

**Emily C. Zollweg '94** of Bozeman, Mont., is a graduate student at Montana State University studying the food habits of native and introduced fish in the Flathead River.

**Andrew J. Bandurki '95** of Grand Blanc, Mich., is a senior marketing analyst for Mitsubishi International Corp.

**Meredith R. Bauer '95** of Washington, D.C., is an environmental protection specialist with the EPA working on global climate changes.

**Thomas M. Bean '95** of Westwood, Mass., is working on a small vegetable farm. He hopes to expand his greenhouse and nursery production.

**Sanjoy Biswas '95** of Philadelphia, Pa., is a master's student at Thomas Jefferson University in clinical pharmacology.

**John T. Bucci '95** of Hoboken, N.J., is a stockbroker in lower Manhattan.

**Susanach C. Daly '95** of Amherst, N.Y., is attending Mayo Medical School.

**Jennifer J. DeWe-Mathews '95** of New City, N.Y., is working for a small animal veterinary clinic.

**Michael J. Docherty '95** of Pittsford, N.Y., is enrolled in medical school at SUNY-Buffalo.

**Katherine M. Dowell '95** is attending the University of Georgia's graduate program in ecology. She is working with former Cornellians Bob Hall and Judy Meyer. She also plays the clarinet in the Athens Symphony Orchestra.

**Elena B. Elkin '95** of Hartsdale, N.Y., is a research assistant at Cornell Medical College's Department of Health while earning a Master of Public Administration in health policy at NYU.

**Oren K. Fix '95** of Rochester, N.Y., is a student at University of Buffalo School of Medicine in biomedical sciences.

**Richard L. Glan '95** of Ithaca, N.Y., is developing and marketing specialized printing jobs with Chromatic Technologies and Dynacolor. He works with two Cornell alumni.

**Heidi B. Glocker '95** of Cooperstown, N.Y., is a student at Rutgers University in the physician assistant program.

**Courtney A. Goldstein '95** is a media buyer for radio and television with McLann-Erickson Worldwide.

**Kristen L. Hauser '95** of Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., is attending Georgetown Law School.

**Michael J. Helms '95** of Ardenville, Pa., has been an agricultural program assistant with Penn State Cooperative Extension in Adams County since February. He works in rural and urban relations and sustainable agriculture.

**Julie A. Kowitz '95** of Nashville, Tenn., is a first-year medical student at Meharry Medical College.

**Mark R. Lenz '95** of Spencerport, N.Y., is in Cornell's Master of Engineering program.

**Melissa J. Lewin '95** of Philadelphia, Pa., is a research assistant with Philadelphia Health Management Corp. working on AIDS research.

**Michael P. Melman '95** of Plainville, N.Y., is a first-year medical student at SUNY-Buffalo.

**Julie A. Monaco '95** of Kinderhook, N.Y., volunteers full-time at Albany Medical Center. She likes running, skiing, hiking, and cooking.

**Melissa J. Murray '95** of Westford, Mass., is a first-year vet student at University of Massachusetts. She enjoys music and horseback riding and hopes to practice equine medicine.

**Laura C. Nowak '95** of Orchard Park, N.Y., is living in Europe through an extended study program with Cornell's horticulture program. She is working with some of the best florists in London, Amsterdam, and Paris.

**Nicole B. Pasquariello '95** of Lansing, N.Y., is a science teacher with the Lansing School District. She and Bill Lazor (HE '94) were married this past summer. Nicole and Bill are currently residing in Ithaca where Bill is the lead receivers' coach at Cornell.

**Kristine A. Resner '95** of New Berlin, N.Y., is a student at Harvard Medical School.

**Michael I. Rollins '95** of Ithaca, N.Y., is working on his MRA in finance at Cornell's Johnson School of Management.

**Arena M. Roush '95** of Shreveport, La., is teaching biology in Louisiana with Teach for America.

**Jennifer J. Ross '95** of Wilbraham, Mass., is a PhD student in biochemistry at Thomas Jefferson University.

**David R. Sprecher '95** of Pomona, N.Y., is working as a patient-care technician treating patients with kidney failure.

**Kanwar P. Singh '95** of Pittsford, N.Y., is a first-year medical student at McGill University in Montreal.

**Steven R. Thompson '95** of Watsburg, Pa., began his naval pilot training in January 1995. He plans to return to veterinary school in 2010.

**Katherine W. Timony '95** of Syracuse, N.Y., is a first-year medical student at SUNY-Buffalo.

**Jenny Tu '95** of Bethpage, N.Y., is a master's student at Columbia pursuing a degree in human nutrition.

**Toya M. Willford '95** of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is working on a master's in urban planning at Cleveland State University.

**Tina K. Woolston '95** of Ithaca, N.Y., is a graduate student in an MS/PhD program at Cornell in animal science. She just returned from five months in Venezuela studying the bozain, a leaf-eating bird.

**Karen M. Young '95** of Ann Arbor, Mich., is a first-year medical student at the University of Michigan.

**Thomas G. Zimmerman '95** of Deer Park, N.Y., is a medical assistant at an oncology practice. He recently joined the Rescue Company of the Deer Park Fire Department and is a New York State certified EMT.

**Robin McLean '96** of Grahamsville, N.Y., began a master's in agricultural education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute this August.

**Dana I. Harvatine '97**, student writer

The drawings of the telephones for each decade were done by Ithaca artist Jim Houghton.



## Scenic Prints of Cornell & Ithaca

### A Perfect Gift



The college's alumni association is offering 10" x 13" and 15" x 17" color reproductions of four oil paintings by Victor R. Stephen, professor emeritus of communication. Alumni and faculty members choose these scenes, which represent the four seasons, as the most memorable of campus and the Ithaca countryside. Send the following:

10" x 13"

15" x 17"

- |   |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taughannock Falls...Winter Morning | prints at \$10 each. | prints at \$20 each. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Slope...Spring Evenings       | prints at \$10 each. | prints at \$20 each. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beebe Lake Bridge...Summer Night   | prints at \$10 each. | prints at \$20 each. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cascadilla Gorge...Fall Afternoon  | prints at \$10 each. | prints at \$20 each. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Four Season Set                | all prints for \$35. | all prints for \$70. |

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Please add \$5 for delivery outside continental United States. Enclose check or money order payable to ALS Alumni Association.

Mail to ALS Alumni Association, 265 Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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This is a gift order. Please mail to above individual, and enclose a card reading: \_\_\_\_\_



# Enchanting Professors Are Never Forgotten

The letters and e-mails you sent describing your most memorable ALS classes showed that what some professors taught you really made indelible marks on your lives. Sadly, several of the professors you wrote about are no longer alive, a few dying before their life work was fully accomplished. But some are still here challenging today's students.

I've arranged the following recollections in chronological order by class year. And I've shortened some of the longer letters because of space limitations. We all realize that there are so many other remarkable teachers in the college. I hope these brief tributes stir some pleasurable memories.

## TOM MAHNKEN '44

It is difficult to choose the most memorable class. There were so many great ones—**Bristow Adams's** Rural Journalism and **Albert Hazen Wright's** Vertebrate Taxonomy (half the lecture would be anecdotes of Carl Hubbs, Klauber, et al. and mention of that great institution "Ward's Scientific Establishment"). **Bill Hamilton's** Mammology and **Perry Gilbert's** Comparative Anatomy were both winners. However, **Prof. Recknagel's** Woodlot Management probably was the most memorable. "Reck" taught one thing in class—theory; but when we got out in the field for our lab at Cornell Plantations, the theory was left in Fernow and what Reck gave us was the practical. I have never forgotten that nor Reck's great enthusiasm for timber—especially black walnut.

## GEORGE H. AXINN '47

Nancy (Wigsten) Axinn and I were married as undergraduates at Cornell, and both finished in the Class of '47. We each read *ALS News* separately, and without consulting each other agreed that **Bristow Adams** was our obvious first choice. BA, as Prof. Adams was known to several generations of students and faculty... taught Extension, Agricultural Journalism, and other writing classes. He taught his classes eminently well. He changed our lives. Several of my early jobs were in agricultural journalism, and Nancy has been editing my writing and that of others ever since.

He was an unusually stimulating teacher and a special human being. Every Tuesday evening, for decades, his home (just across the suspension bridge from the campus) was open house to students. We sipped hot chocolate, ate cookies, and learned about life in the many parts of the world where BA had traveled, about journalism, and all the other professions.

Now, as the two of us are preparing to attend our 50th reunion next summer, it is great to be reminded by you to think back on our college years, and to reflect on the lessons we learned from Bristow Adams.

## JANET ARMSTRONG HAMBER '51

I knew I had to write to express my appreciation for **Dr. Arthur Allen's** course in Ornithology. I still clearly remember the spring day in 1951 when I was a senior in the College of Agriculture. Dr. Allen was leading a small group of students on an afternoon lab field trip across the elm-covered Ag campus when he suddenly stopped, raised his binoculars and said in a hushed and breathless voice, "Look! The first robin of spring." Now being a New Yorker, I had seen the first robin of spring for some 20 years and had never been that overwhelmed by the event. But here was Dr. Allen, still excited by the appearance of the common robin after some 50 years. At that moment it occurred to me that there was a joy in birding that I had never known. And from that moment on I had found my passion in life. Birding has been both an avocation and vocation. After some 15 years as a "birder," I went on to become the associate curator of ornithology and mammalogy at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. That in turn led me into 20 years of field research on the endangered California condor. None of this would have happened without Dr. Allen's inspiring course.

## GERALD SCHNEIDER '61

Before there were today's environmentalists, there were the field zoologists, resource managers, and conservationists in the Conservation Department in Fernow Hall. They were a breed unto themselves, not like the more laboratory types we see today. It was the late '50s and early '60s.

There was mammalogist **William B. Hamilton, Jr.**, known affectionately as "Wild Bill," who had great wit and humor! I recall his display of metal shot in a petri dish that he passed off as droppings from squirrels that chewed on electric wiring, his mention of all the squirrels walking on their "elbows" on campus because of clipped toes used in field studies, and his throwing a mounted porcupine for me to catch when I first entered his office.

**Arthur Allen**, the famous ornithologist, was still around. I recall being told he once upset the opening of the duck-hunting season in the area by rowing a boat in the center of a lake (Beebe Lake?) between all the hunters hiding in the brush along the shore around him waiting to fire.

**Dr. Edward Raney**, the famous ichthyologist, was probably the teacher of just about every other ichthyologist around. He, like the others mentioned, were "real men" in the best, nonsexist sense of the term, as bold as the outdoors itself!

**Laurence Hamilton** introduced me to the wider world of environmentalism beyond the traditional conservationist trappings. His concept of the watershed as a planning unit, while dated now, helped enlarge my thinking about ecological action. This was pioneering stuff then.

A few buildings away was **Dr. Richard Fischer**, and his "nature study" program. I think of him with affection as reminding me of television comedian Wally Cox who played "Mr. Peepers." Fischer probably trained more teachers of "nature study" than any person alive then or since. He inspired me, and many others!

## RUTH ZIMMERMAN BLEYER '62

Truly, the best remembered was **Dr. Fischer's** Field and Natural History class. I can never forget the weekly field trips, rain or shine, and the sense of wonder that he could instill! As a teacher, and as a parent, I have used "field trips"—I have even been known to give rewards for finding a red-eyed vireo, and have told stories about watching the salamanders mate in Bull-Pasture Pond!

## STEVE SINGER '64

Reading your column in the August issue of the *ALS News* really gave me a jolt. Two of the four professors you mentioned were also on my list of the best I had at Cornell, even though I graduated almost a decade earlier. They might have been the two best, period. I'm talking about **Charlie Russell** and **Bill Keeton**. I had Keeton for Bio 101-102 because I started out pre-med. Silly me. I did okay in biology but bombed out in chemistry and quickly switched back to writing. That's where Charlie came in. He always encouraged me during my bumpy career through school, told me journalism would punch my ticket someday.

And that's why I'm dropping you a note. I'd like to tell Charlie he was right, that I've some success right there in journalism. [Editor's note: I wrote to Singer and informed him that Charlie Russell had died some years ago.]

## FRECK VRUGTMAN, MS '66

My most memorable teacher ever was the late **Dr. Robert T. Clausen**, professor of botany (plant taxonomy). Prof. Clausen also was the most demanding teacher; most demanding of his students and most demanding of himself.

On Sundays students had the opportunity of joining Prof. Clausen in the field; students were "cordially invited and expected to attend." Excursions were scheduled for 9:00 a.m., providing the opportunity for attending morning mass prior to departure. Excursions were held rain-or-shine and lasted until 6:00 p.m., or darkness, whatever came first... field excursion participants would work as late [early?] as 3:00 a.m. on Monday morning identifying and pressing the plants collected.

In order to be as unbiased as possible in the selection of plants for identification during lab tests, he had assigned a consecutive number to every taxon in *Gray's Manual of Botany* and would use a table of random numbers to select the plants he would put on the test. He once drove some 450 miles on a weekend collecting the species he had drawn by random number.

Prof. Clausen worked in cycles; it was said that it was a seven-year cycle. Courses, assignments, and major field studies were never the same from one year to the next...

Prof. Clausen was a most fair teacher. To achieve the same mark in an exam a doctoral student majoring in plant taxonomy, for instance, would be allowed zero errors; a doctoral student minoring in plant taxonomy and a master's student majoring in plant taxonomy would be allowed two errors; and so on down the line...

It takes some time and distance to realize who the real master-teachers are!

## GLENN WITHIAM '74

You don't want my class recollections! I unfortunately took Bio 101-102 the year **Bill Keeton** was on sabbatic. We had the most unholy lineup of guest lecturers. The correct answer to any of the questions on one of our prelims was "some of the above, but I'm not sure which." I am not making this up... Of course, balancing off this nonsense was **Paul Ebert's** fantastic Rural Sociology 100 and the fine job **Duane Chapman** did (and still does) on the environmental resources courses.

## C. WEINSTEIN '80

I'm happy to write in to honor **Dr. William Keeton**. Dr. Keeton was an outstanding teacher in class and also attended his office hours religiously. I was really shocked when I attended his office hours once to ask him a quick question and he not only answered my question, but also showed genuine interest in me as a person. He asked if I was enjoying Cornell so far, he said he knew how stressful freshman year could be and how overwhelming the school could seem. It really helped me get through the difficult times (as a bio. major) to know there were caring, compassionate people like him at Cornell. I'm a successful physician now; I will always remember him and be grateful for the strength he gave me.

## LEONARD PINSKER '84

... There was CA 201 (Parliamentary Procedure). **Russell Martin** taught that course: basically, "How to Run a Meeting in Ten Not-So-Easy Lessons." In order to have an "organization" that would have "meetings" we could run, we became "The Society for the Improvement of Cornell University." Some of the suggestions we came up with for improving Cornell were downright laughable; the one that I submitted was to have a building named after Professor Keeton (he died the week before the class of '84 got to the campus for the first time). It actually got to the point of writing a letter to then-Dean David Call making this suggestion; his reply was that a professorship had been (or would be) named in Keeton's honor...

But after a good deal of reflection, I'd have to say that the one course I took which changed my life most profoundly was Ag Engineering 151 (a computer course with **J. Robert Cooke**). ... What made this course different was that we learned how to operate the type of machine on which this letter is being written—a PC. This class used what was at that time (fall 1983) the hottest item in personal computing: the IBM PC/XT.... That class gave me my first exposure to word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and the like—all of which was an enormous help in finding part-time jobs while I was in graduate school. (And, of course, I use those techniques on my present job.) Thanks, Professor Cooke.

## BARRY POLLEY '85

To this day when I think back to academic experiences that really mattered, I think of **Richard Baer**—ALS 407: Religion, Ethics, and the Environment. Prof. Baer played so many roles—advocate, mentor, taskmaster, devil's advocate—with skill and the utmost respect for his students. I hope to do as well.

# Passing Of the Dean's Hat

Dean Isaac Roberts presented his top hat to Liberty Hyde Bailey when Bailey became dean. Bailey, in turn, presented it to Dean Beverly Galloway and began a college tradition.



Dean William I. Myers passes the dean's hat to Dean Charles E. Palm in April 1959.



Dean Charles E. Palm passes the top hat to Dean W. Keith Kennedy in May 1972.



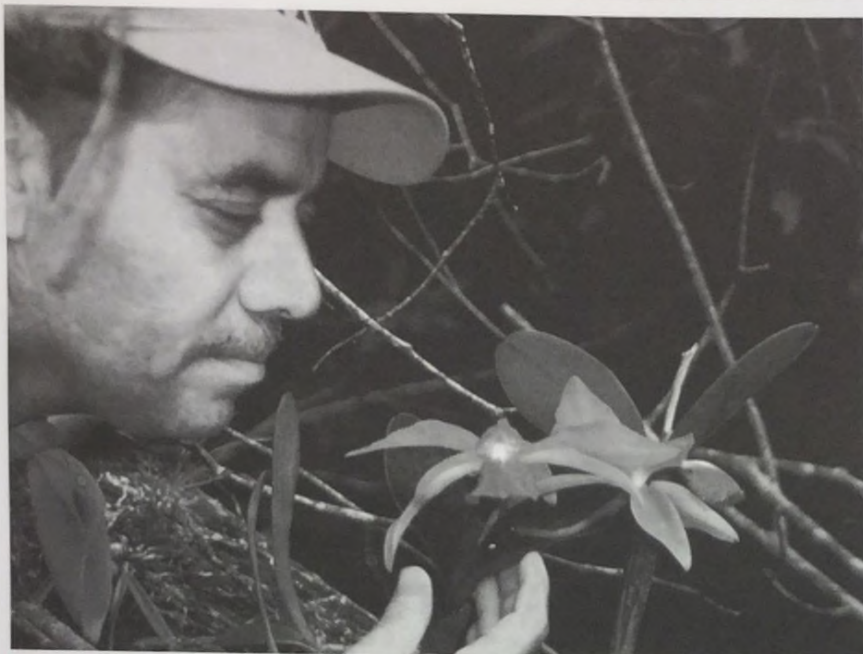
Dean W. Keith Kennedy passes the hat to Dean David L. Call '54 in October 1978.



Dean David L. Call '54 passes the hat to Dean Daryl B. Lund at Reunion Breakfast under the tent on the Ag Quad in June 1996.







# Medicine Man

Eloy Rodriguez goes deep into the tropical rainforest and tramps through the bush to track primates as they swallow plant leaves and rub them on their bodies to repel ectoparasites. The plants are what he seeks because they reveal nature's cures for animal and perhaps human

**HIDDEN TREASURES:** Rodriguez examines an orchid during his trip to the Venezuelan Amazon last summer.

Somewhere in the back of his mind, Eloy Rodriguez always knows the threat is there. In Uganda it's AIDS. In the Amazon it's schistosomiasis. Neither these nor the ever-present possibility of newly emergent viruses, such as the Ebola strain that terrorized Zaire last year, could keep Rodriguez out of the recesses of the tropics—the site of his "idea factory."

Considered to be one of the world's leading plant chemists, Rodriguez is the James A. Perkins Professor of Environmental Studies in the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium and Section of Plant Biology in the Division of Biological Sciences. Rodriguez knows the action starts in the field. Despite the dangers, that's where discoveries are made, discoveries that offer hope for curing disease—from exotic viruses that arise near the equator then threaten to spread around the globe to old-fashioned killers like tuberculosis, made mighty again by antibiotic-resistant strains.

"When I'm tramping about in the bush, I don't pretend that I'll discover the cure for AIDS, that's not the reason I'm passionate about being there," says Rodriguez. "I just continue to be amazed by nature and am driven by an intellectual hunger to better understand it."

Yet it's not that simple. The awe of the old-time naturalist, the zeal of the explorer, and the wizardry of the modern-day biological chemist come together in Rodriguez. This combination, coupled with a love of scientific innovation, has enabled him to spawn new areas of research that one day may help unlock the secrets of nature's medicine chest—the complex and interactive workings of herbal medicines.

What initially set Rodriguez apart from other "chemical prospectors," scientists who look to nature as a source of medicinal and other beneficial substances, was his interdisciplinary approach to research and his role in determining why African chimpanzees exhibit a most peculiar behavior: swallowing whole the bitter leaves of the plant *Aspilia* and other species.

It happened like this. When Harvard Uni-

versity primatologist Richard Wrangham was a graduate student of Jane Goodall's in Tanzania, he observed chimps grimacing as they swallowed the young leaves of the *Aspilia*, an East African Compositae. Wrangham asked Rodriguez, known for his expertise in the chemistry of the Compositae family, to analyze the leaves. Rodriguez's laboratory discovered that *Aspilia* contained thiarubrine-A, a bright red oil that's rare in leaves of higher plants. When he then tested the compound against nematodes, fungi, and certain viruses that afflict wild chimpanzees and humans, he found that it inhibited the growth of some of these disease-causing agents.

"I would never have looked at the plant if

*Capuchin monkeys exhibit what's called "fur rubbing" behavior. Instead of swallowing the leaves of plants, they vigorously rub the leaves on their fur. When Rodriguez looked at the chemistry in the four species of plants the monkeys choose, he found it perfect for killing mites and fleas.*



it weren't for the animal behavior," Rodriguez says. "Then once we discovered the chemistry, we said, 'Wow! Look at what we've got here!' I predict it's going to be biologically active and possibly useful in human and veterinary medicine and in agriculture."

Thiarubrine-A is now under investigation in Rodriguez's laboratory for its possible antibiotic and anti-cancer properties for

use in treating humans. Its nematode-killing properties also make it attractive for use against these common pests of New York State crops.

With the realization that animals could point the way toward plants of possible medicine use, Rodriguez and Wrangham coined the term zoopharmacognosy (zoo=animals, pharma=drugs, cognosy=recognize) for the study of how animals select and use plants for their possible curative powers. Since they presented the idea at the 1992 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, other animal behaviorists have been reporting their own observations of howler and murrelet monkeys, Kodiak bears, and coatis (a tropical mammal related to the raccoon) who appear to use plants to ease what ails them.

In the meantime, Rodriguez has turned his attention to capuchin monkeys, a "weedy" monkey that is common throughout the Americas, who exhibit what's called "fur rubbing" behavior. In this case, instead of swallowing the leaves of plants, they vigorously rub the leaves on their fur. When Rodriguez looked at the chemistry in the four different species of plants the monkeys choose, he found it perfect for killing mites and fleas.

"By paying attention to what animals are doing," he says, "we uncovered a possible arthropod repellent of the animal world." As it turns out, Japanese scientists and Rodriguez's laboratory are currently investigating some of the natural insecticides from plants of the genus *Piper*. These plants of the pepper family are ones that the monkeys particularly love, Rodriguez notes.

Animals, however, are not the only "consultants" Rodriguez turns to in the tropics. Native peoples, too, guide him toward plants of particular value. Amazonian people from the tropical regions of Peru put Rodriguez onto una de gato (or cat's claw). A simple extract of the bark of this common vine (*Uncaria tomentosa*-Rubiaceae) is one of the plant extracts most widely used for the treatment of cancer and as an immunostimulant in Latin America. His laboratory

is currently doing detailed chemical analysis in search of the properties that account for its purported medicinal activity.

## Medicinals Next to Food Crops

Discussions with inhabitants and scientists from Africa and South America and various colleagues at Cornell conducting agricultural research in Central and South America have stimulated Rodriguez to develop a new area of research: agromedicinals. This is the study of how to integrate medicinal plants alongside food and other traditional cash crops.

"If you go into Honduras or Brazil and ask the campesinos what's important to them, they'll always tell you it's their health," Rodriguez says. "As agricultural scientists working in developing countries, we haven't listened to this."

Hope for controlling malaria, schistosomiasis, Chagas's disease, and other illnesses that kill children by the millions and render small farmers unable to work the land lies in traditional medicines, Rodriguez explains: "Synthetic medicines are so expensive, they're out of the question. When your yearly income is \$150, you can't be thinking about a \$15 bottle of penicillin."

In collaboration with tropical agronomists and soil biologists in the college, Rodriguez has initiated a research project in the agricultural regions of Honduras to investigate ways of introducing indigenous medicinal plants to gardens or agricultural plots now cultivating chocolate trees, bananas, and yucca.

Benefits of this integrated approach abound. Not only can it provide small farmers with access to medicines but also improve their agricultural practices and help conserve the vanishing rainforest. Rodriguez points out that the nutrient-poor soils of the tropics are what compel farmers to slash and burn the forest in search of new, if only temporarily, productive land. Some medicinal plants of the legume family fix nitrogen and, as such, are possible soil-enriching plants. Others are natural insecticides, protecting crops. Still others provide





## He Cuts Fresh Swaths for Students

**P**rofessor Eloy Rodriguez led 14 students, mostly undergraduates, on a two-month research expedition into the Venezuelan Amazon this past summer. They ventured into areas that had never been studied or explored. As a consequence, the students, in collaboration with Venezuelan scientists, discovered several new plant and insect species. Venezuelan and Cornell scientists and students are now describing some of the new species.

The students also discovered that the Amazon is a "healing forest," not only because of all the natural medicines it

harbors, but because of the ever-radiant sun, the continuous rain, the tea-colored refreshing water of the rivers, and the ultra-clear night skies dotted with shooting stars.

The base camp is an ecotourist site called Yutaje, which is hundreds of miles from the nearest major town. Yutaje is the indigenous term meaning "the place of foam or suds." The waterfalls leaping from precipices churn up huge clumps of suds that float down the tributaries of the Orinoco River. The foam is a natural result of the mixing of pure Amazonian rainwaters with organic soaps (saponins), tannins, and other medicinals extracted from the diverse forest trees. The white foam masses are "the icebergs" of the Amazon.

But Yutaje is an imperfect paradise. Hot and humid, there are plagues of mosquitoes waging war with sweaty human bodies. "The mosquitoes are so thick they can resemble black clouds," Rodriguez says. "Even when you're wearing netting, they penetrate your clothes." If you survive the unrelenting mosquito bites, you must be on constant guard against getting stung by gigantic ants (more than an inch long), known as the "24-hour ant" because its bite inflicts 24 hours of excruciating pain on the victim.

"It's more comfortable to be in my laboratory at Cornell than being half-starved, bitten up by mosquitoes and other insects," Rodriguez says, but discovering nature's medicines entails intense study of plants and animals in their native habitats. His excursions are also driven by his desire to teach students the excitement of fieldwork. Scientists who do the majority of their work in the field "are a dying, but passionate, breed of scientists," he says.

When Rodriguez and his students discover insects that spit or ooze chemicals, they must immediately analyze the biochemicals in the rainforest station. If they waited to determine which chemicals were of value (after they returned from the Amazon), they might never find the coveted insects again. "It's a true marriage of ecology and chemistry, and a union of fieldwork and laboratory research," Rodriguez says. He points out that the experience is social and cultural too because the students interact with the indigenous people of the Amazonas.

Rodriguez offers these fieldwork experiences to inspire students to go on to graduate studies in the basic sciences, because many biology students have their sights set on medical school. He hopes that motivated students will pursue studies in conservation biology, chemical ecology, ethnobotany, epidemiology of infectious diseases, and evolutionary medicine (how viruses and bacteria mutate), among other fields.

In the 10 years he has been taking students to the tropics, Rodriguez has never had to send one home, but he has come close. Some students do have problems overcoming vampire bats, piranha fish, tarantulas, and diarrhea, and others have a difficult time acclimating to the rugged and unforgiving conditions of the rainforest.

Near the end of the Amazonian expedition, Rodriguez asked the students what they missed most while away from Cornell. They overwhelmingly said Snickers bars; second was peanut butter. Rodriguez thinks they really craved the chocolate constituents and fat. They all ate relatively low-fat diets there and some lost weight.

Cornell's president, Hunter Rawlings, wants the university to excel in nontraditional teaching methods where faculty interact daily with undergraduates and get them involved in cutting-edge research. That's what Rodriguez and other scientists are doing by assisting students in developing original tropical and biochemical research projects. Efforts are under way to convert the Amazon site into a tropical ethnobiomedicine station with, Rodriguez hopes, support from Cornell and Venezuela. The facility would be the first of its kind, training undergraduate and graduate students in tropical biomedical research involving a unique and diverse mix of biologists, anthropologists, chemists, botanists, ecologists, and physicians.

Liz Bauman

Field analysis is done in a lab built of palm leaves.

Photo by Eloy Rodriguez

shade, control weeds, or otherwise improve growing conditions.

Growing medicinals in home gardens also limits the need to forage for them in the forest, ending practices such as stripping tree bark, which kills highly valued tree species.

Potential also exists for establishing a highly valued cash crop. Poor, rural people

*The awe of the old-time naturalist, the zeal of the explorer, and the wizardry of the modern-day biological chemist come together in Rodriguez.*

are not the only ones who put their faith in plant-based medicines. The use of herbal medications is a booming business in Europe and the Far East, with the United States not far behind. Herbs are the basis of commercial pharmaceuticals as well: more than 25 percent of the prescription medicines used in this country contain substances harvested from, or chemicals synthesized from, tropical plants.

Closer to home, Rodriguez's work in identifying and then understanding the chemical efficacy of medicinal plants is of heightened relevance at a time when antibiotics, once thought to be invincible protectors of public health, are rendered impotent by resistant strains of common bacteria.

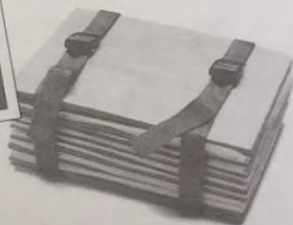
"The reason herbal medicines used 1,000 years ago are still used today is because it's very difficult for organisms to develop resistance to them, because herbal extracts are of a complex cocktail of many secondary chemicals," Rodriguez explains. "This complexity allows for interactions among the chemicals—you get synergisms that compound the effect. We know herbal medicines work; people wouldn't continue to take them if they didn't, but how they work is still a mystery."

Metta Winter



Photo by Eloy Rodriguez

Cornell and Venezuelan undergraduates discovered new species in the Amazon.





# Books Still Inspire Great Minds at Mann

With electronic technology threatening to make books obsolete, some of the college's great thinkers defend the glories of paper texts and teeming library stacks.

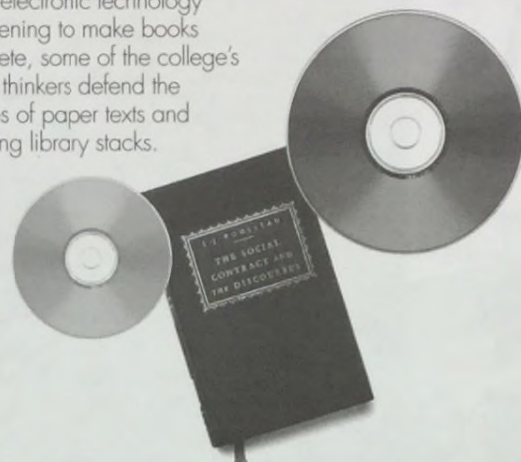
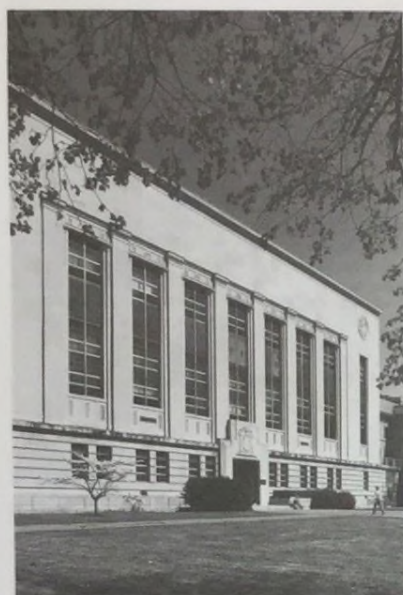


Photo by: Charles H. Hargrett



**M**ann Library is the second-largest agricultural library in the country, home to more than 650,000 volumes on everything from human nutrition to commodities markets, to maps of the human genome. It's also home to 41 books dedicated to the topic of honeybees. You'll find them on the library's eighth tier, where it is always hot and musty no matter what the season. Mixed among books on apiculture and honey, these books discuss honeybees in mountain agriculture, histochemical investigations of the midgut of worker honeybees, and 62 years worth of Japanese honeybee studies.

Forty-one books out of 650,000 doesn't sound like much, and they aren't. But consider what happens when one of those books falls into the right hands—and the right mind. An undergraduate was once idly walking through another such library when he picked up a journal with an article on "The Dance of the Honeybee." Afterwards, he stayed up all night, pondering what he'd just read. "I couldn't get over it, thinking that we're not giving insects enough credit for complicated strategies and behaviors," he said years later. "They're more sophisticated than people."

That undergraduate was Thomas Eisner, now the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Biology at Cornell. Eisner is an expert in the field of insect behavior and how chemicals influence it, and recently was awarded a National Medal of Science by President Clinton. He credits that moment in a library with helping him realize what he wanted to do with his life. "Wandering through a library is like wandering through nature and making new discoveries," he says.

With the growth of the World Wide Web and other information technologies, some observers are questioning the need, or even the relevance, of libraries. Books themselves are sometimes regarded as heavy dinosaurs buried in a sediment of dust, the tree-destroyers of a soon bygone era. Who needs a heavy bound volume when you can slip a CD-ROM with an entire encyclopedia on it into your coat pocket?

But taking the time to make an excavation, to wander among the paper giants and brush aside the dust, can change your life forever, as Eisner knows.

## Collection Has Breadth and Depth

According to Jan Olsen, director of Mann Library, the library strives to maintain a collection of as much breadth and depth as possible. For Olsen, books contain the essence of reasoning, and Mann Library can't buy enough of them. "We buy as broad a selection as we can because it's our responsibility to represent the body of knowledge from all points of view," she says. "We do this in an objective way, without an agenda of our own, because it's our ethical responsibility to society to make that available."

For Ray Oglesby, emeritus professor of natural resources, who has spent much time doing field research on lakes and their water-

sheds, a periodic exploration of Mann's stacks offers a chance for intellectual renewal. "Several times I've developed an intense interest in a new area based on something I've found there by wandering through the stacks," he says.

Once Oglesby found a treatise describing 1,500 years of climate change in China, deduced from historical records describing the presence (or absence) of certain plants and animals. For Oglesby, who was doing work on climate change at the time, this offered an entirely different approach. "I realized the Chinese were doing something no orchardist in the Western World would do—look at climate changes over the long term to determine places to invest and plant. It conditioned my thinking about the relation of climate to plants and animals."

*"I want you to go into the stacks, feel the paper, look at the coffee stains, see how worn the key pages are, and reflect on how many people have read this book before you and where they are now."*

—Prof. Randy Wayne

Plant biologist Randy Wayne finds the material in Mann Library fuel for his ideas. "I must be in there every day," he says. During one expedition in Mann, Wayne found *The Poetry of the Vegetable World: A Popular Exposition of the Science of Botany and its Relations to Man* by M. J. Schleiden. Published in 1853, Schleiden's book chronicled the thought and emotion surrounding new discoveries. Written for the general public, this book made connections between science and the larger world, and was not merely a documentation of experiments and results. In this text, Wayne saw the potential for inspiring undergraduates.

Wayne's course BioP1 444: Plant Cell Biology is now based largely on this philosophy, integrating many disciplines, with an extensive reading list of books that take Schleiden's approach. Last year he also introduced a 10-page creative writing project as an option for the final exam, to encourage better writing skills. Wayne received a broad range of responses: a story written from a chloroplast's point of view, a children's story, a protein's personal journal, memoirs of a ribosome, and a transcript of a cellular musical.

Wayne also tries to show his students the value of the collections. He once told a class, "I want you to read an article written by George Palade. I want you to go into the stacks, feel the paper, look at the coffee stains, see how worn the key pages are, and reflect on how many people have read this book before you and where they are now." Wayne later found out his teaching assistant for the class inadvertently had the book photocopied and put on reserve.

## Books vs. Electronic Information

So is it a losing battle? Are books becoming extinct? Even a bibliophile such as Wayne sees the benefits of electronic technology. "It is unbelievable for me to be able to check and see if a book has been loaned out, and if it hasn't been, to run down and get it. The digital library helps me walk around the library and look at other disciplines. Something is lost, and something is gained. I'm sad about what's lost, but there is easier and faster access."

Olsen has led Mann Library to the forefront of library technology and is clearly aware of the advantages. But she still maintains that books are the essence of libraries and their mission. "It's true that electronic information—in the form of books, journals, and extracts—serves users in a number of ways that print can't," she says. "You don't have to go anywhere, you're able to review masses of information more quickly, and it doesn't take up a lot of space either in your area or in the library. But there are some even more important ways that electronic technology doesn't allow important intellectual processes to occur."

Olsen maintains that electronic data force movement through information in strict ways, and limit the reader's ability to be creative, analytical, and develop new ideas. "With a book, you're more aware of having a holistic body of information," she says. "You have a better sense of where you are in the greater text, and you have more tactile control over how quickly or slowly your eyes move across the page, which can allow you the time to spark a new train of thought."

And, for those who have glared at a computer screen until it becomes a gray blur or sat until their feet fall asleep, Olsen has a second point. "Reading, deliberation, mulling over—these are not processes supported or promoted with the ergonomics of sitting at a computer," she says. "Let's face it, it's uncomfortable." The computer reader tends not to turn back the "pages" to refer to previous points made, and reflects less than does a text reader. Olsen also argues that electronic technology is still too new to have reached the level of print in its ability to convey language and thoughts.

So life with books continues while electronic technology evolves. Although Olsen stands behind her decision to support both, it's clear books will remain the cornerstone of Mann Library. "While electronic technology is a convenient way to access data, it does not relieve the library or the librarian of the responsibility to make the essence of scholarship, the printed material, available. Without books, I feel the aspects of scholarship will be tarnished, diluted, and even annulled in some cases, and our goal is to provide the ideal and the pristine."

Or, as Oglesby puts it, "Having a good library to browse in makes me more conscious of what being a scholar means. People talk to me about the danger of becoming bored in retirement, but there are hundreds of thousands of volumes in Mann Library that I have not yet explored."

Maya Gask

## You Can Recognize Friends, Family, Professors through HONOR WITH BOOKS

**T**he book collection at Mann Library documents the progress of agriculture, the biological sciences, and human development over the past 125 years. The library serves the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Human Ecology, the Division of Nutritional Sciences, and the Division of Biological Sciences. Whether searching for the most current statistical data available, distinctive books and articles, or rare historical materials for research, scholars likely can find what they need at Mann Library. It is a vital resource not just to Cornell, but to the nation and the global community.

Making a gift to Mann Library through the Honor with Books program lets you honor a friend, family member, or faculty member. At the same time, you help Mann maintain the collections and provide the innovative technology that makes it one of the premier libraries in the country.

Your gift will be placed into an endowment. Each year, the earnings from this endowment will provide support for Mann Library, allowing the director to allocate funds wherever the needs are greatest. In this way, your Honor with Books gift will help Mann now and far into the future.

### Honor with Books

#### Plate a book with a gift of \$100–\$999

Plate a book in Mann Library in honor of a friend, family member, or favorite professor. \$100 is the minimum gift, which plates one book, and additional books (which can have different messages) would be plated in increments of \$100. You receive a copy of each bookplate to share with the person you are honoring.

#### Plate a series of books with a limited edition bookplate with a gift of \$1,000–\$4,999

With a gift of this size, you can plate a series of 10 or more books in Mann Library in honor of a friend, family member, or favorite professor. In recognition of your generous gift, your message would be placed on a limited-edition bookplate. You will receive a copy of the bookplate with your message to share with the person you are honoring.

#### Honor with Books for a Lifetime:

##### Endow an Honor with Books Fund

Gifts of \$5,000 or more can establish separate named endowments that will ensure that books are plated in honor of a friend or loved one year after year. Different plating opportunities are listed below:

##### Enriched Collection Fund: \$5,000–\$9,999

A gift of this size would establish a named endowment that would be used for Mann Library's purchase of books. You will receive a copy of the limited-edition bookplate with your message on it to share with the person you are honoring. Each year, this limited-edition bookplate with your message will be placed into books that your fund is helping to purchase, and you and the honoree will receive a report on the selection of books this fund helped to purchase.

##### Essential Literature Fund: \$10,000–\$24,999

A gift of this size would establish a named endowment that would be used for Mann Library's purchase of books that are essential for representing the world's knowledge of a discipline. This endowment would help ensure that the full scope of important literature in a given collection is represented. You may specify a particular collection to be supported and enhanced by your fund:

- Agriculture
- Human Ecology
- Biology
- Nutrition

At the time of your gift, you will receive a limited-edition bookplate, with your message on it, to share with the person you are honoring. Each year a series of limited-edition bookplates would be created with your message on it, and you and the honoree will receive a report on the specific books your fund helped to purchase. The books plated would also have a special notification in the electronic library catalog.







### Book Rescue and Repair Fund: \$10,000-24,999

No matter how well intentioned, people are hard on books. Wear and tear are natural, and, because many books are printed on acidic paper, many books are deteriorating and are too damaged or brittle to use. Twenty-five percent of the library's holdings are too brittle to withstand normal use. Another 25 percent of the collection will reach this condition by the end of the century. Mann Library staff sort through hundreds of thousands of volumes and rescue as many as they can afford. Some are reproduced on microfilm or by scanning. Others are preserved by repairing, deacidifying, and re-binding. A gift of this size would establish a named endowment that would be used for the repair and conservation of Mann's books in the collection.

You will receive a copy of the limited-edition bookplate with your message on it to share with the person you are honoring. Each year, this limited-edition bookplate will be placed into books that your fund is helping to repair. Each year you will receive a letter reporting on a sampling of all the books repaired in Mann Library.

### Distinguished Collection Fund: \$25,000 or more

A gift of this size would establish a named endowment that would be used by Mann Library to ensure that books representing the depth and breadth of scholarly knowledge are purchased for a given discipline. You may specify a particular field of study within agriculture and life sciences, human ecology and family studies, or nutritional sciences.

At the time of your gift, we will work with you to create a custom-designed bookplate to use for books plated for your endowment. You will receive a copy of the bookplate. Each year this bookplate with your message will be placed into the books you help purchase, and you and the honoree will receive a full listing of these books. The books plated would also have a special notification in the electronic library catalog.

### Rare Book and Fine Artifact Conservation Fund: \$25,000 or more

Mann Library has an extensive collection of books that are extremely rare and valuable. Many are unique volumes that will be lost to the world if not conserved. A gift at this level would provide the funding in perpetuity for Mann to preserve these rare books and fine artifacts, such as colored plates, unusual hand-tooled bindings, hand-colored illustrations, handmade papers, and engravings and lithographs.

At the time of your gift, we will work with you to create a custom-designed bookplate, which we will send to you, to use for books plated for your endowment. Each year this bookplate with your message will be placed into the books you help to preserve, and you and the honoree will receive a full listing of the books your fund has helped. The books plated would also have a special notification in the electronic library catalog.

### Other Gift Opportunities

**\$25,000 or more**—Provide an endowment for the purchase of scientific journals in a subject related to a given department or section.

**\$50,000**—Special Collection Endowments

**\$500,000**—Be a patron of the Mann Library collection

**\$1,000,000**—Endow and name the Director of Mann Library position.

If you have made arrangements through your will or through a planned gift to support Mann Library or create an endowment to support Mann, please let us know. We will plate a book in Mann Library now for you to enjoy during your lifetime.

For more information on the Honor with Books at Mann Library Program, write to Maya Gasuk, Director of Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 272 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, call 607-255-0359, or send e-mail to [mlg2@cornell.edu](mailto:mlg2@cornell.edu)

## FACULTY PROFILE

### Jan Olsen Director of Mann Library

# Word Power

Jan Olsen uses forceful verbal arguments to get other people to follow her lead, all for the benefit of Mann Library.

In 25 years as an administrator, Jan Olsen has faced some tough challenges in arguing for what she wants. But none of these holds a candle to those of her childhood.

"By the age of 10, I had to be able to justify that what I wanted was a good thing for the present and for the long term. And I had to express my reasons clearly and convincingly," recalls Olsen of breakfast table discussions she had with her father.

"If I stumbled around, he would simply dismiss me," she explains. "Teaching me how to think something through on my own and then argue for it forcefully was a very valuable thing he did for me."

Skills learned in this homegrown executive training class as she was growing up in Adelaide, Australia, landed Olsen her first job in the United States as a half-time clerical assistant at the Michigan State University undergraduate library. But before that she had to win a fracas with the Immigration and Naturalization Service which initially refused to grant her working papers. She moved steadily up through the ranks of three academic libraries. Ten years after arriving from Australia, Olsen was testifying before Congress in defense of the National Agricultural Library's budget as its chief of public services.

Olsen's staff members at Mann Library, where she arrived as director 14 years ago, say the hallmark of her success in building the country's premier academic agricultural library is her ability to articulate her vision for change with reasons so compelling that others enthusiastically climb on board.

*"My mother taught me to think about others and not become too self-absorbed. When you're self-absorbed you don't make the effort to know your staff as people."*

—Olsen

"Jan doesn't have to do a lot of convincing," says Peter Schrempf, the library's administrative manager who has worked with Olsen for the past 12 years. "She lays out her reasons for where we should be heading so clearly that it becomes very exciting to move in that direction."

What's more, Schrempf says, Olsen actively seeks ideas from her seven-member Administrative Council, and the rest of the 52 employees at Mann, when setting goals and benchmarks. Consequently, the goals are always achievable. Once she sets the goals, Olsen assures her staff the resources (computer power, specialized training, or whatever) to reach them.

Olsen is described by many as a woman who is always thinking about her job (if you meet her on Friday, by Monday she'll have a whole new set of ideas). She admits, with a certain amount of relish, that her job is a seven-day-a-week, 52-week-a-year proposition. She is the granddaughter of Australian pioneers; long days and hard work are in her blood. Too, she admits to a Type A personality, blessed with boundless energy since childhood. And she holds allegiance to John Kennedy's paraphrase of the biblical charge: "of those to whom much is given, much is required."

While Olsen's father was her role model of an effective administrator, her mother showed her the importance of caring for others. "Worry" is the word Olsen uses in respect to herself, as in "My job as head of the library means continuously worrying about the quality of life for all my staff."

"My mother taught me to think about others and not become too self-absorbed," Olsen says. "When you're self-absorbed you don't make the effort to know your staff as people. Then they become merely chess pieces to use for your own purposes."

In the summer of 1995, Olsen had the onerous task of eliminating seven staff positions. "I'd been involved in big layoffs before where people walked in one day, got pink slips, and left. It was devastating to everybody," Schrempf says. "The openness and care that Jan took was really wonderful." Navigating through tough times is part of the territory of leadership as is celebrating the triumphs. One of the most exciting things Olsen says she's ever done was guide Liberty Hyde Bailey's plow to mark the boundaries of Mann's long-awaited, 75,000-square-foot addition. Nine faculty members acted as "plowhorses" on that overcast afternoon last June.

Olsen had fought for the \$16.7 million for



Photo by Charles Hargrave

Olsen has made Mann the nation's premier academic agricultural library.

the addition from the State University Construction Fund through 12 years of bureaucratic snarls, at times convinced that she could never pull it off.

"It was the end of a great era of struggle," she says. "What pleased me the most was that the faculty felt the addition meant as much to them as it did to me. To see them harnessed to the plow was quite an unusual testimony to an administrator's achievement!"

Melita Winer

### Olsen refers to this set of values shared by all who work at Mann Library:

- civility to each other at all times
- going the extra mile for the library's users
- supporting and encouraging each other's professional development
- generosity of spirit
- solving problems, not griping about them
- open and direct communication



## Showcase ALS '96

Alumni and friends, as well as some future alumni, enjoy the beautiful fall weather and a chicken BBQ on the Ag Quad accompanied by New Orleans-style jazz provided by the Johnny Russo Band.

Showcase ALS, held during Homecoming Weekend in September, highlighted international agriculture. Pictured are (l-r): Dave R. Teler '65, chair, Campus Events Committee; Dean Daryl B. Lund, Susan McCouch PhD '90 (plant breeding); Uma G. Lele '63 PhD '65 (agricultural economics); Barber B. Conable Jr. AB '42, LLB '48; Norman T. Uphoff, director, CIIFAD; John M. Clark '80, MBA '86, president of ALS Alumni Association.

Behind the tailgate table, Hank Parker '59 and Bill Alberta '71 cooked and served hotdogs to hungry ALS football fans.









# NEW ALUMNI

## Questions & Answers

### Question 1

If you could have done something differently during college, what would it have been?

### Question 2

As you walk around campus, what differences or changes have you observed?

### Question 3

How did Cornell help you succeed in the "real world"?

### Question 4

Who influenced you the most during your college life?

### Question 5

What is your most outstanding memory of Cornell and the college?

### Kellie Reynolds Bosenberg '87

1. If I had to do it again, I would probably have taken more classes outside of my major to expand my horizons. I wouldn't have changed much, though.

2. There are a lot of differences now from when I was in school. The buildings are a lot different than I remember.

3. Cornell helped me succeed very well in the real world. At first I had a job with Farm Credit, then I moved to New York City where I took a job with a Japanese bank. The Cornell name helped me a lot.

4. There is no one professor that I could pinpoint. There were a lot of people who helped me. If I were to identify one person, it would have to be my husband who was an undergrad the same time I was.

5. My most outstanding memory would have to be the summers I spent in Ithaca. I have a lot of great memories of Taughannock State Park.

### Margit K. Feury '94

1. I would not have taken classes just for the sake of taking them. I would have taken them to enjoy them and to learn from them.

2. Collegiate Bagels did not serve beer on tap when I was a student. Also, Central Ave. was always blocked off, but now it is very appealing.

3. Cornell helped me prepare in a social sense. I met a lot of different people and was exposed to a lot of different things. It made me open to differences.

4. A lot of people—especially my friends— Influenced me.

5. I remember Slope Day, parties, and most of all, friends. Because when you leave, you take your friends with you always.

### Michael Helms '95

1. I was very happy with the way things went. I was glad that I transferred in because it allowed me to take more classes to get a variety.

2. One thing didn't change. It was still snowing.

3. The biggest thing that helped me to succeed was the idea of "don't give up." Many of my classes challenged me. That helped me a lot because I face challenges every day to be creative to come up with different ways of helping people. The faculty taught real-world scenarios. They took us out into the field and collected real data.

4. The influence started with my grandfather who graduated in 1939, then my mother, aunt, and uncle. Involvement in 4-H got me interested in extension work. Randy Stewart helped me lay out my transfer so that it would be a less painful transition. There were so many people who influenced me.

5. I enjoyed being an ALS Ambassador. I got to meet incoming freshmen, prospective students, and alumni. It was one of the nicest organizations that I have been involved with.

### Catherine Blodgett Gaffney '89

1. I would try to fit in other classes beyond my major to get a broader education.

2. I was back last February, and there were a lot of changes in construction. The building at the end of the Ag Quad was not there when I was a student. And I saw a lot of new faces.

3. Cornell taught me how to learn. It helped me meet a lot of different people and taught me how to work with them—especially on group projects. In my work, I deal with about 12 people to get a job done.

4. Who influenced me the most? That question is easy: Professor Gene German from my Food Industry class.

5. One thing I remember was my marketing class when we were buying and selling contracts. Another memory was when I was an animal science major in my first year. I entered the livestock show and won first place in dairy cattle.

by Craig Gleller '98



## ALS Alumni Association Sets Up Home Page



The ALS Alumni Association now has a home page on the World Wide Web. The page, created last May, features a table of contents with links to several useful and informative sites for ALS alumni.

With the creation of this web page, the Alumni Association now offers several services to its members over the internet, including access to the Career Development Office's Alumni Career Link, a calendar of upcoming alumni events on campus, a handy geographical index of the association's districts and directors, a change of address form, a membership registration form, a photo gallery, and an e-mail link to the Office of Alumni Affairs. You can visit the page at the following address: <http://www.cals.cornell.edu/alumni/>

The Alumni Association hopes that alumni enjoy the new page and take advantage of the services offered. Alumni input and comments are welcome; please e-mail them to [ALSAA-mailbox@cornell.edu](mailto:ALSAA-mailbox@cornell.edu)

Dale Porter '95, student director  
ALS Alumni Association

## Outstanding Alumni Honored at Banquet



More than 260 alumni and friends attended the 20th annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet held in September. Award recipients pictured are (front row, left): Philip Coombe, Jr. '58, Grahamsville, N.Y., Outstanding Alumni Award; Robin L. Baker '85, New York, N.Y., Young Alumni Achievement Award; George J. Conneman '52, MS '56, Ithaca, N.Y., Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award co-recipient; J. Patrick Mulcahy '66, MBA '67, Clayton, Mo., Outstanding Alumni Award. (Back row, left): John M. Clark '80, MBA '86, ALS Alumni Association president; Thomas K. Jeffers '63, chair, Awards Committee; Richard T. Meister '40, Willoughby, Ohio, Outstanding Alumni Award; Richard E. Keene '57, Gilbertsville, N.Y., Outstanding Alumni Award; Bernard F. Stanton '49, Ithaca, N.Y., Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award co-recipient; Charles E. Wille '50, Montgomery, N.Y., Outstanding Alumni Award.

## Dedicated to Nature

Maja Wichtowski '97, center, received the **Mutual of Omaha Marlin Perkins Scholarship Award** for 1996 from Ted Monroe, a representative for the Mutual of Omaha. Barbara Knuth, professor of natural resources, is at right. Wichtowski's career aspirations are to work internationally on wildlife conservation issues, improving understanding of mammalian species, and integrating the needs of local inhabitants into conservation programs. Marlin Perkins scholars are an elite group of individuals, who at a young age have shown a concern for the world's natural resources and a resolve to actively dedicate their professional lives to



conservation. The scholarship is named for Perkins who was the host of the TV program *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*, which showed animals in their natural habitats and explained the importance of conserving nature.

## ALS MEMBERSHIP

If you are not a member of the ALS Alumni Association, join today. Fill in the information below, and your membership will benefit you plus future and current students, and strengthen the ALS Alumni Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class year \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical notes (Use separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Dues:  
96 graduate (fee waived) at \$0 \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduated in last 5 years at \$20 (2-year) \_\_\_\_\_  
2-year membership at \$29 \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse at \$21 \_\_\_\_\_  
4-year membership at \$54 \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse at \$38 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lifetime Membership at \$350 \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ First installment on my Lifetime Membership at \$125 per year for 3 years  
☐ First installment on my spouse's Lifetime Membership at \$88 per year for 3 years

Please make your check payable to the ALS Alumni Association or pay with a credit card:

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Mail to: Office of Alumni Affairs, 265 Roberts Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-4203

I also wish to join Cornell Federal Credit Union

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Gift Membership to the ALS Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University

To: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2** Ithaca's Mayor Targets Drugs, Racism
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- 9** Books Excite Minds at Mann

**ALS ALUMNI CALENDAR 1997**

**January 3** Lawrence Hickory (Cornell) and Get-together, St. Lawrence, Lewis and Belknap counties, contact District Director William Roddey '57 (315) 386-8447.

**January 5** Ice skating event for alumni and families in Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties, contact District Director Tyler Ezel, Jr. '78, (914) 744-8986 (h).

**February 13** Cabin Fever Relief for alumni and friends in Saratoga, Warren, and Schoharie counties, contact District Director Brothers Brew Pub in Glens Falls, 7 p.m., contact District Director Jim Ward '91, (518) 743-0153 (h).

**February 21** Cornell vs. Union Hockey Game and Get-together, Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties, contact District Director Peter J. Pankowski '74 (518) 785-3675.

**March 19** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Albany, Rensselaer, and Schoharie counties, contact District Director Peter J. Pankowski '74 (518) 785-3675.

**March 26** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Dutchess, Greene, and Columbia counties, contact District Director Dave Tetor '85 (914) 868-7796.

**April 3** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Monroe, Ontario, and Wayne counties, contact District Director Ted Mullen '85 (315) 446-2544.

**April 24** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Allegany and Steuben counties, contact District Director Burland Weale '44, (607) 359-2174.

**May 1** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties, contact District Director Geoffrey Yates '77, (315) 236-5257.

**May 6** Dean/Alumni Get-together for Cattaraugus and Chautauque counties, contact District Director Toni Nasser '85, (716) 792-4731.

**May 25** Commencement

**June 5-8** Reunion Weekend

**June 7** ALS Alumni Association Reunion Breakfast and Annual Meeting



**RETIRING FACULTY** were recognized by the ALS Alumni Association at the 1996 Reunion Breakfast.

**Pictured are (front row):** David C. Ludington '56, MS '58, David L. Call '54, MS '58, PhD '61, Shayle R. Seagle PhD '59, Robert F. Lucey, Richard D. Apin, MS '52, PhD '59, and 1995-96 alumni association president Chantelle F. Boxer '74.

**(Middle row):** George L. Gasker '50, MS '59, Gerald E. Rehkugler '57, MS '58, Olan D. Foraker, Roy T. Oglesby, Robert L. Plaited '50, Frank W. Young, MA '54, PhD '57, and Peter L. Minotti.

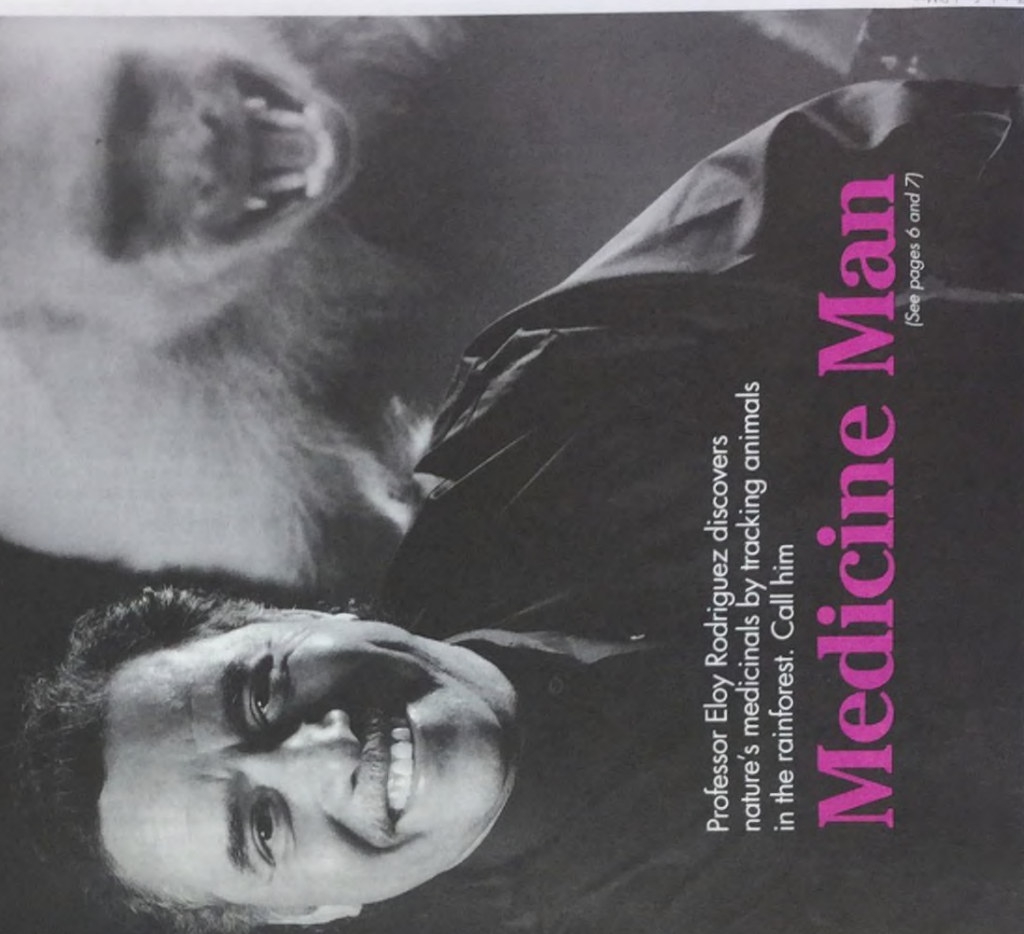
**(Back row):** alumni association president John M. Clark '80, MBA '86, Carl F. Gortzig '52, Armand R. Van Wambeke, Elmer E. Ewing PhD '59, Douglas E. Hague MS '55, PhD '57, H. David Thurston, and John W. Sherbon.

**Also honored but not pictured:** Njoku E. Awa PhD '73, Randolph Barker '53, Arthur L. Berkey, David Bouldin, Malcolm C. Bourne, Michael H. Dickson, Donald L. Downing, Ronald B. Fury '53, MS '55, Donald J. Lisk '54, PhD '56, Pamela M. Ludford PhD '71, Roger A. Morse '50, MS '53, PhD '55, Joseph D. Navak, Daniel Siler PhD '61, Don F. Spillstoeser, Gilbert S. Sloewersand PhD '64, Peter Van Soest, and William D. Youngs MS '57, PhD '72.

# ALS NEWS

## Agriculture and Life Sciences

December 1996



Professor Eloy Rodriguez discovers nature's medicinals by tracking animals in the rainforest. Call him

## Medicine Man

(See pages 6 and 7)