



## Dolphins to dairy cows: College summer programs offer diversity of experiences

*Lauren Roberts*

[Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) is well known for its world-class DVM program. But the learning doesn't stop when the school year ends; during the summer months, the College hosts educational programs that give students engaging and instructive experiences—from dolphin training, to dairy management, to workshops hosted by Nobel Laureates. "Our summer programs offer fantastic opportunities for students to engage in research and pursue career interests in greater depth," says Dr. Kathy Edmondson, assistant dean for learning and instruction at the College.

### **Diving Deep: [AQUAVET®](#)**

AQUAVET® trains both DVM students and established veterinarians in aquatic animal medicine. From fish anatomy, to water quality, to dolphin husbandry, trainees receive intensive hands-on learning in all areas of marine and aquatic animal health. Having celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, AQUAVET® is the oldest and best-known program of its kind.



"One of the biggest benefits students get out of this experience is the breadth of experts they get to meet," says Dr. Rod Getchell, research scientist in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and associate director of the program. "They get exposed to the best talent this field has to offer, and, if you're lucky, these teachers will someday be your colleagues, too." AQUAVET alums include the senior staff veterinarian at Chicago's Shedd aquarium, vice president for research and science at SeaWorld, and clinical assistant professor in the zoological pathology program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### **International Influence: [Leadership Program](#) for Veterinary Scholars**

This past summer, the College hosted a buzz-worthy event- "The Creativity Spark" a workshop with Nobel Laureates and other scientific super stars who discussed the role of creativity in science exploration and discovery. The event was put together by one of the College's most prominent and prestigious summer programs-the Leadership Program for Veterinary Scholars. For the past 27 years, top-notch veterinary students from across the globe gather to live and learn together, participating in leadership workshops and engaging in faculty-led research projects. Participants have traveled from Ireland, Australia, South Korea, and beyond to immerse themselves in science, career development, and leadership training.

### **Cream of the Crop: [Summer Dairy Institute](#)**

Cornell also hosts the number one training program for prospective dairy veterinarians—the Summer Dairy Institute. Founded 13 years ago by College faculty members Dr. Daryl Nydam, Dr. Charles Guard, and Dr. Robert Gilbert, the program has grown into the best of its kind, with the goal of "bridging the gap between what is taught in traditional veterinary curriculum, and what new graduates need to accelerate their career in providing value to sophisticated dairy farmers," says Nydam, who acts as program director.



This means trainees get in-depth training in skills that are crucial for the modern dairy industry—rigorous data-based decision-making, records analysis, and sophisticated technology-driven reproduction protocols, to name a few. "Our students want to bring these valuable services to high-level dairy producers, in addition to the traditional medical services," Nydam says.

### **Meaningful Mentorship: [Veterinary Investigators Program \(VIP\)](#)**

This ten-week program is designed to give veterinary students (most of them from Cornell) an introduction to biomedical research. Applicants identify three faculty with whom they are interested in working, along with the applicant's top three areas of interest.

"The program is structured for people with no research experience, but who may have an inkling that it's something they may want to do," says Arla Hourigan, graduate education manager. "This program gives students an excellent introduction to the world of biomedical research," adds Dr. Bettina Wagner, associate dean for research & graduate education and director of VIP. For many participants it ignites a life-long passion for scientific inquiry."

## **Summer College Program for High School Students**



- [Veterinary Medicine: Small Animal Practice](#)
- [Equine Practice: A Veterinary Perspective](#)
- [Conservation Medicine: A Veterinary Perspective](#)
- [Animal Science: Captive Raptor Management](#)
- [Animal Science: Sustainable Animal Husbandry](#)



## Upcoming Opportunities to Visit Cornell

### Annual Open House

Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm



### Spring Admissions Presentations & Tours

- May 5, 2017 (3:00-5:00)
- June 16, 2017 (2:00-4:00)
- July 21, 2017 (2:00-4:00)
- August 4, 2017 (2:00-4:00)

[Register](#)

## Cornell on the Road

### AAVMVC

*Association of American Veterinary Colleges*

#### **Career Fair**

Sunday, March 12, 2017 (2:30-5:00)

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

[Register](#)

### MANRRS Conference

*Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences*

#### **Career Fair**

March 31, 2017 (10:30-4:00)

Grand Wyndham Pittsburgh, PA (Downtown)



## Virtual Meeting with Pre-Vet Clubs

### **Skype with the Director of Admissions**

An informal presentation with lots of time for Q&A! [Contact us](#) to set up a meeting with your club.



## Earn a Master Degree in Veterinary Parasitology

Cornell University has launched a first-of-its-kind [Master of Professional Studies \(MPS\)](#) degree with a Veterinary Parasitology concentration. This program is ideal for individuals who are looking to get ahead and stand out from the crowd during their pre-veterinary gap year. Students receive rigorous specialty training in veterinary parasitology through in-depth courses and practical labs, offered in a hybrid online and residential format that allows great flexibility. For more information on the program and to apply, [visit our website](#) or [email us](#).

More about the [curriculum](#).  
[Application requirements](#).

Application deadline for Fall enrollment is June 15, 2017.

**Cornell University**  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Office of Admissions  
Schurman Hall, S2-009  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
(607) 253-3700  
[vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)

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