

# 'SCOPES

FROM STETHOSCOPES | TO MICROSCOPES | TO THE SCOPE OF THE COLLEGE

News from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine

February 2013

Cornell and  
the Community ...  
**Connections of Consequence**



Cornell University



# 'SCOPES

February 2013

CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

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**ON THE COVER:** Dr. Howard Evans BS '44, PhD '50 is a favorite visitor at local elementary schools, arriving with baskets of treasures and leaving with the respect and adoration of students and teachers. Story on page 20.

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Cornell has had an enormous impact on animal health since its founding in 1865 and continues to drive advances in the foundations and practice of medicine. Today, more than ever, our society relies on discoveries made in research universities. However, the relatively small number of institutions pursuing animal health research, as well as the threat to these programs associated with diminished state funding, expanded and costly state and federal regulations, and limited federal and foundation research funding, places these programs at extreme risk. To help remind us of the importance of sustaining our excellence, in this and subsequent issues of 'Scopes I will describe examples of what I term, "Discoveries That Made a Difference," critical advances in animal health that involved Cornell scientists.

## Ticks as a Disease Vector

SMITH, GAGE, SALMON,  
CURTICE, KILBORNE,  
AND CORNELL

Soon after the Civil War ended (and Cornell was established) the country faced a medical mystery and an agricultural disaster. In the second half of the 19th century tens of thousands of beef cattle were raised in Texas and then driven along cattle trails to Missouri and Kansas, where they were then shipped by rail to the Midwest and Northeast to supply food for a rapidly expanding population. While cows were apparently healthy in Texas, following shipment many individuals with the herds developed anorexia, anemia, bloody urine, and a high fever. Losses from what became known as Texas Fever were devastating, and federal and state guidelines were established for the quarantine of Texas cattle to prevent spread of the disease to local herds. But the cause of the disease, and the mechanism by which it was spread, remained elusive for many years.

Theobald Smith was a first generation American from Albany who entered Cornell in 1877 on a full scholarship, taking veterinary science and pre-medical courses. Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1881, Smith spent two years studying medicine at the Albany Medical College (at that time you could obtain an MD degree in two years, but a Cornell DVM required four), but interested in pursuing research, he returned to Cornell where he worked in the laboratory of Simon Gage, one of the original members of the veterinary college faculty. Gage was assistant professor of physiology, but also served as a comparative anatomist, helping to write



a book on cat anatomy. Gage's real passion, however, was microscopy, and he became one of the most influential scientists of his time in advancing the use of microscopic technology in pathology and medicine. This was the revolutionary period of the discovery of the role of bacteria in infectious disease by Robert Koch and the development of immunization by Louis Pasteur; Smith's training in microscopy and pathology at Cornell would allow him to build on their work, examining bacteria and protozoa in animal tissues.

At the time that Smith was finishing his year of postdoctoral training with Gage, Daniel Salmon, America's and Cornell's first DVM graduate, asked Gage to send him someone adequately trained for animal disease research to help him at the newly established Bureau of Animal Industry in Washington. Smith went to Washington without formal bacteriology training, but, after educating himself by reading the papers of Koch, Pasteur, Ehrlich, and others, he introduced bacterial culture and isolation techniques to the Bureau of Animal Industry, and by so doing made it the center of infectious disease research in the United States. Salmon had been exposed to the work of Pasteur as an undergraduate in France, and was convinced that the study of bacteria was essential for the control of animal diseases. Salmon set up an experiment station outside of Washington with an imported microscope, small laboratory, and a modest collection of journals, establishing the crucial elements necessary for Smith's discoveries. Two other Cornellians and veterinarians, Fred Kilborne (BS 1881, BVM 1885) and Cooper Curtice (Cornell BS, 1881, Columbia DVM, 1883) joined Smith over the next two years, sharing the routine clinical work and providing more time for research. What followed was one of the most remarkable periods of productivity in American

medicine. At the Bureau of Animal Industry Smith pioneered technical advances in bacterial culture, discovered important disease-causing agents in swine and advanced immunization protocols.

The most remarkable achievement during this period, however, was solving the riddle of Texas Fever. For many years Texas ranchers had felt that ticks were at the root of this disease, but intermediate disease vectors were unknown at that time and the notion was dismissed by the scientific community. Curtice conducted infection studies by mixing Texas and native cattle in Chicago stockyards, resulting in disease, and when Kilborne repeated the experiment with Texas cattle free of ticks, the native cows did not contract the disease. Smith meanwhile described small bodies within red cells of the infected cattle, eventually named *Piroplasma Bigeminum*. Smith and Kilborne, in a classic medical paper in 1891, described experiments in which Texas Fever was produced in healthy animals by the application of ticks, and healthy animals acquired the disease after being in fields in which ticks from infected animals had been placed. The paper also established the transmission of the infectious agent from a female tick to its offspring, a major advance in the field of parasitology. While the discovery of malaria overlapped these findings, the proof of transmission from mosquitoes to humans came after the work of Smith and Kilborne. Thus the transmission of what came to be known as *babesiosis* comprised the first proof of disease transmission by arthropods to mammals and stands as a landmark in medical discovery.

Smith went on to make many other discoveries and to contribute to the production of antitoxin vaccines to many animal and human diseases. Meanwhile, having helped to identify the basis of transmission of Texas Fever, Curtice believed that

the most effective way to eliminate the disease was through tick eradication. A persistent advocate of vector elimination, as opposed to host immunization, Curtice oversaw the eradication of cattle ticks in the South, and thus the elimination of bovine *babesiosis* from the U.S.

The elimination of Texas Fever and the identification of arthropod vectors of animal and human disease rank as fundamental advances in the understanding of infectious disease mechanisms and are arguably the earliest examples of "One Medicine" in action. The contributions and collaboration of the five Cornellians—Smith, Gage, Salmon, Curtice, and Kilborne—laid the foundation for subsequent infectious disease research in the United States and the rapid advance in medical discovery in the early 20th century.

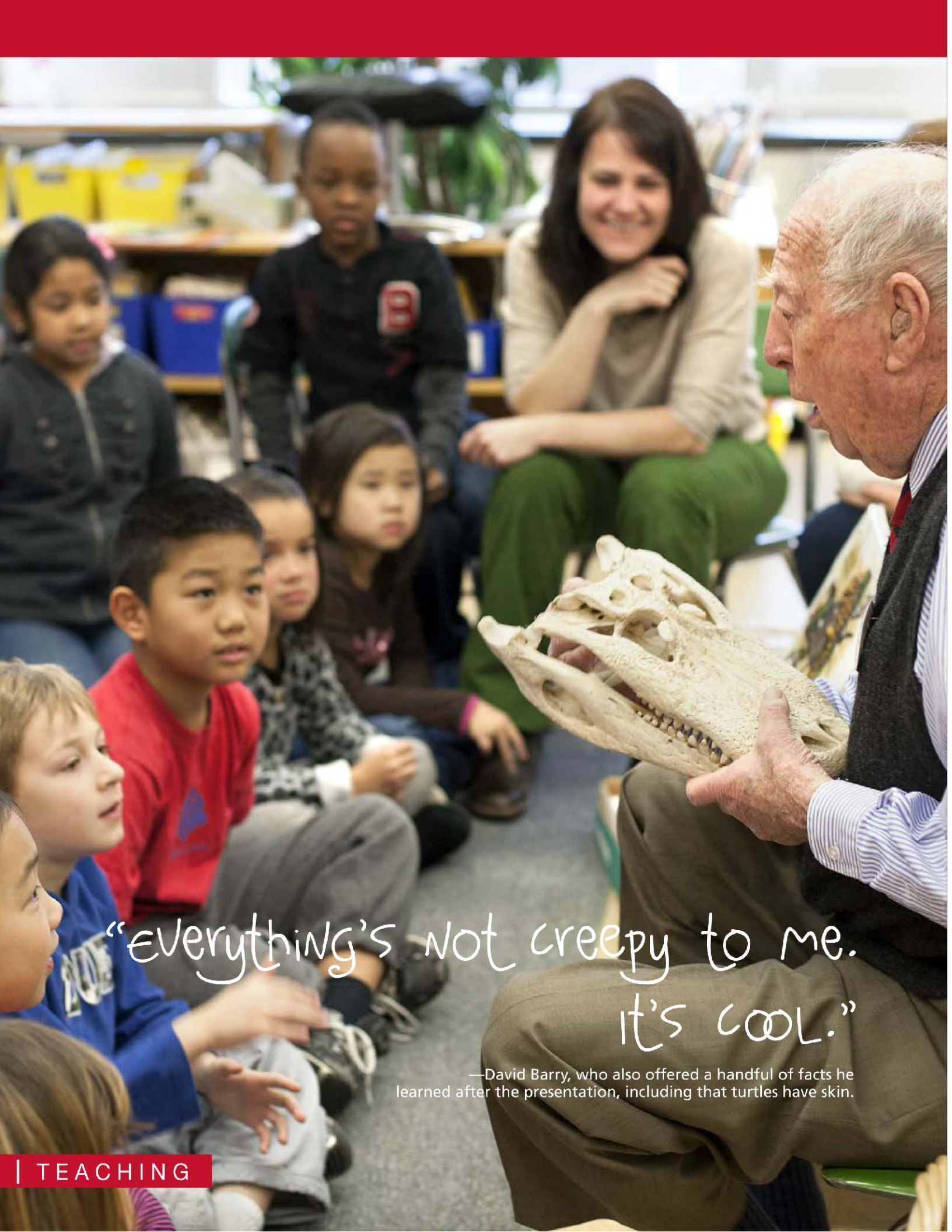
Cordially,



Michael I. Kotlikoff, VMD, PhD  
Austin O. Hooey  
Dean of Veterinary Medicine

(This message relies heavily on the following works: "Biographical Memoir of Theobald Smith 1859-1934" by Hans Zinsser, 1936, NAS; "Theobald Smith – The discoverer of ticks as vectors of disease," by Ojan Assadian and Gerold Stanek, 2002, Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift; and "Theobald Smith, 1859-1934: A Fiftieth Anniversary Tribute," by C.E. Dolman, 1984, ASM News.)





“everything’s not creepy to me.  
it’s cool.”

—David Barry, who also offered a handful of facts he learned after the presentation, including that turtles have skin.



# finger Prints encouraged

Dr. Howard Evans shares his traveling hands-on museum with local children



For a decade, Dr. Howard Evans 'BS 44, PhD '50 has shared more than his knowledge with local children. He has shared his passion, love of learning, and commitment to curiosity.

With criss-crossed legs and wide eyes, nearly 20 second graders sat at Dr. Howard Evans' feet. Nestled close together on a brown woven rug, even a casual observer could see they were pondering each of Dr. Evans' soft-spoken words about reptiles and amphibians. Although the handful of pink bows and the variety of passions screen printed on their shirts—promoting everything from video games to heavy equipment—could have belied their interest in all things scaly, their enthusiasm for the subject filled the room. They erupted in giggles when he talked about urinating toads; learned that an alligator's smile is the best way to distinguish him from a crocodile; and clearly shared Dr. Evans' inclination to wonder why with a long list of questions for the professor.

The 45-minute show and tell was choreographed purposefully by two professionals: Dr. Evans, whose subject matter expertise ranges from the number of toes on a Burmese Python (two) to the real species of a glass snake (lizard), and Mrs. Caren Arnold, a veteran teacher who knows precisely when to interject comments that will help to relate the conversation more closely to her students' own personal experiences.

"Students come to me in the fall at all stages," said Mrs. Arnold, who is determined to make each of her students independent life-long learners. "Some of them are helpless, paralyzed as they wait for an adult to make decisions for them. Dr. Evans is a brilliant role model because he personifies a love of life-long learning. I need my students to leave here in June loving school and learning. Dr. Evans helps me get them there."

For more than 10 years, Dr. Evans has shared baskets and suitcases full of treasures with hundreds of elemen-

tary school children in the Ithaca City School District. And while the animal specimens from his personal collection fascinate onlookers who are allowed to handle everything from loggerhead skulls to rattlesnake rattles, it is Dr. Evans' life stories that really add depth and impact to the experience.

"Dr. Evans is a gem," said Mrs. Arnold, who has welcomed him into her classroom two or three times a year for nearly a decade. "He is a published author, a living scientist, and a world traveler with award-winning colleagues and, despite this, he consistently engages my children in thought-provoking, respectful, and meaningful conversations that they'll remember for life. He shares much more than his animal specimens and facts with us. He shares himself, his inquisitive nature, and he makes you believe that everything can be understandable and everyone can understand."

Dr. Evans likely honed his ability to do this during his 36-year career as a veterinary anatomist and professor at the College. In Mrs. Arnold's room, the 90-year-old Dr. Evans knew when to repeat an important fact and what props and pictures would best capture his audience's attention. Clearly capable of communicating on all levels, Dr. Evans met the students in their world and gently opened their eyes to the possibilities and beauty of his.

"Our curriculum is so jam-packed, that every second is accounted for," said Mrs. Arnold. "Dr. Evans' presentations do tie to and enhance our learning in areas like life cycles and animal classification, but even if they didn't, it would be a mistake not to invite him to visit. Our school community is blessed to have Dr. Evans. He is more than a volunteer. He is the ultimate role model for all of us who believe that learning is a forever endeavor."









## A JOURNEY TO REGAIN

A retired teacher living in Scottsville, N.Y., Kathleen Broderick found a constant companion in her dog, Butterfly, a Jack Russell terrier who loves being with people.

Described by friends as “a very special duo who give joy to the many folks they visit,” the two have trekked near and far. From greeting kids at the school where Ms. Broderick taught, to visiting family across the Southern U.S., to dressing up in fun costumes for frequent visits to a local nursing home, Butterfly brings boundless energy to brighten the day of everyone she meets.

But in Summer 2011 Ms. Broderick began noticing brief troubling episodes interrupting the 11-year-old Butterfly’s usual exuberance. One minute she’d be fine, the next she was suddenly coughing or gagging, clearly fighting and sometimes failing to breathe.

“It was the strangest thing. I’d watch her play, running around in circles, then she’d suddenly fall over faint,” said Ms. Broderick. “After a few seconds, she’d get back up and seem fine. She started developing anxiety. Whenever I’d leave the house she’d act unusually nervous, and I’d come back to find everything had been chewed on. She no longer even wanted to play.”

Butterfly’s veterinarian referred them to Cornell University Hospital for Animals where clinicians realized it was a respiratory problem, and Associate Professor of Surgery Dr. James Flanders soon found that

Butterfly had a rare condition called epiglottic retroversion.

“The epiglottis is the piece of cartilage at the opening of the airway,” said Dr. Flanders. “It opens to let air in but closes during eating so food doesn’t enter the airway. Butterfly’s epiglottis was unusually flaccid, and it started flip-flopping at the wrong time, sometimes closing over the airway when she tried to breathe.”

Dr. Flanders was the first in the world to discover this previously unknown condition in dogs in 2010 and developed a surgical procedure to fix the problem. In Fall 2011 he performed this procedure on Butterfly. Combined with a follow-up surgery that fixed the flopping epiglottis, Dr. Flanders fully restored Butterfly’s ability to breathe.

“Dr. Flanders was so caring; he talked me step-by-step through the procedure and answered all my questions with perfect patience,” said Ms. Broderick. “I’m so happy to see that Butterfly’s anxiety is much better, and she loves visiting people and playing again.”

Soon after Butterfly’s surgery, Ms. Broderick’s friend’s dog needed specialty care. With Butterfly by her side, she ushered her comrade and their canine companions into her car and drove to Cornell once more, allowing her to support her old friend

and to say hello to the new ones she’d made at the hospital.

“Everyone at Cornell is wonderful—the doctors, the students, the receptionists—they sincerely care,” said Ms. Broderick. “When I first brought Butterfly in it was such a traumatic situation and that kindness really mattered. Now I recommend Cornell to my friends, and I’d be happy to make the journey again.”







# Continuing Connections

**F**ive years since fledging her alma mater's nest, Dr. Emily Walker '07 has come into her own as a veterinarian, yet still holds evolving connections with her former teachers at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. Whether consulting about patients, collaborating on cases, or finding mentorship through life's changes, those connections continue to enrich her life, personally and professionally.

When Dr. Walker was a student, Senior Lecturer in Radiology Dr. Nathan Dykes '74 taught her to read radiographs. He is also the faculty advisor for Omega Tau Sigma, the professional veterinary fraternity at Cornell. They regularly met at fraternity events and at Cornell hockey games—both are big fans.

"Dr. Dykes is a wonderful instructor and a friendly person who's great at outreach," said Dr. Walker. "He and his wife host Thanksgiving dinner for anyone left in town over the holiday, and stranded students like me would go."

Now Dr. Walker sees him every month at "Radiology Rounds," Dr. Dykes' signature continuing education sessions held at Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Local veterinarians gather in his office to interpret radiographs, discuss cases, and learn from each other while Dr. Dykes offers





his own well-practiced eyes.

"It's a great way to do continuing education," said Dr. Walker. "I always get great information. It's good to hear new perspectives on what an image could mean."

Another's perspective helps in Dr. Walker's personal life as well. When she was a student, she did work with her advisor, Dr. Richard Rawson, senior lecturer in physiology. Years later they're still in touch.

"He was always a great sounding board; now he's like a life coach," said Dr. Walker. "When I was looking for jobs, needing recommendations, having children, I'd give him a call. We'd hang out and catch up. It's nice to have someone else's perspective on what you're facing and what your options are."

In professional life, weighing options with Cornell's specialists helps Dr. Walker's patients.

"The faculty members are very open to commu-

nication," said Dr. Walker. "I've had cases where something we don't usually deal with at our clinic happens, but clients couldn't go to Cornell. I'd call in and get feedback on treatment options, so even if clients don't want a referral I can tell them what Cornell specialists think. Sometimes I do refer and we work together on cases. Being able to call people I know is a great benefit. Talking to other veterinarians who have such vast experience can be incredibly helpful for picking up subtleties. And they're always happy to help."

As she continues to draw from Cornell's close community, she is also helping it grow.

"I get students interested in veterinary medicine working for me as technicians, and they often want to get a foot in the door at Cornell," said Dr. Walker. "I give faculty a call or letter with a good reference. Now many of my quality workers end up in labs or school at Cornell. Building a community by growing connections helps everyone."



# an agricultural alliance

*Veterinary service, teaching, and research converge to benefit local dairies*

Like any seasoned dairyman, Neil Rejman CALS '97 knows how to keep an eye on the daily details of caring for cows. As co-owner of Sunnyside Farm, a 4,700-acre crop and dairy farm in Venice Center, N.Y., and manager of 3,200 cows and 3,300 heifers whose milk is sold across the Northeast, he also knows how to keep an eye on the big picture. Both eyes point him down a path his father started: a partnership that's enriched their farm, the local environment, and Cornell University's veterinary education program for nearly 20 years.

Mr. Rejman was a Cornell undergrad when his father first met Dr. Charles Guard, chief of the Ambulatory and Production Medicine Service at Cornell University Hospital for Animals. Dr. Guard presented a palatable proposal: stellar clinician-guided veterinary services and help implementing herd health programs in exchange for the opportunity to give veterinary students hands-on clinical experience on a farm. Under Neil Rejman's watch years later, that relationship has grown.

"We're very fortunate to be near one of the world's best vet schools," said Mr. Rejman. "Cornell's students and faculty give great service. They're woven into our everyday culture, doing herd checks, handling

emergencies, training our 50 employees in basic cow care, and doing research that benefits agriculture everywhere. They're part of our team."

Having students around helps Mr. Rejman keep current with new knowledge and healthcare trends. It also lends him dedicated workers, including a new intern every summer joining the crew for an immersive dairy experience.

"Interacting with students is one of the best benefits of using Cornell's service," said Mr. Rejman. "We hear about the latest and greatest healthcare practices and research. Working with interns is fun, because they're focused on dairy and love the animals. They've all been phenomenal—I even met my wife when she was a Cornell intern here!"

Sunnyside's partnership with Cornell has also produced many meaningful studies to improve animal health on Mr. Rejman's farm and beyond. One such study changed the way he and other farmers address lameness, which can cripple cows and cost farmers small fortunes.

"We already knew there was a correlation between thinness and lameness in cows," said Mr. Rejman.

"We'd assumed a cow gets lame and then loses weight. But we conducted a huge study on our farm with Cornell and proved it was the other way around. This totally changed the way we group and feed the cows to prevent lameness."

Another recent study revealed that Mr. Rejman's calf herd had more respiratory disease than estimated. He's now changing the ventilation system to address the problem.

"Research gives us a wealth of information relevant to the farm and the industry," said Mr. Rejman. "Often they'll do tests or studies we were already hoping to do, so it saves money and benefits everyone. Good service is the key to our farm, and it's wonderful that Cornell can use that access for teaching and research. It's an exciting thing to be a part of."





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Dr. Chuck Guard (left) with Neil Rejman CALS '97 (center) and Dr. Daryl Nydam '03.



# a pet owner's

Tough choices, tough decisions

# world





Shar peis have a way of giving you a look that clearly communicates what's on their mind, from puppy-like euphoria to absolute disdain if someone dares to scold. Connecticut resident Sarah Sforza has raised shar peis for 22 years and believes that this ability is one of their most endearing features. So when her current shar pei, Tank, developed a painful eye condition, it was especially hard for her to bear. Perhaps because she's a registered nurse or maybe because she knows Tank's health status, habits, and personality as well as she knows her own, she was able to spot the issue, but to fix it, she needed help.

Tank was diagnosed with an inherited condition known as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, which means he has excessively loose skin and a propensity for joints and other areas of his body to dislocate. In addition, when he was referred to Cornell University Veterinary Specialists (CUVS) by Dr. Wendy Robertson of the Trumbull Animal Hospital, the lens of his left eye was already dislocated and he had recently developed blinding glaucoma in that eye.

"Tank's glaucoma had developed secondary to luxation, or the displacement of his lens," said Dr. Seth Eaton, a board-certified ophthalmologist at CUVS. "When the lens shifts, or luxates, forward, it obstructs normal fluid flow in the eye, causing glaucoma."

After learning her options and discussing the process with a variety of trusted sources, Sarah chose to have CUVS implant a prosthetic eye in Tank's left eye and also opted to have Dr. Eaton perform a "face-lift" of sorts. In dogs, just as in people, our eyelids are supposed to protect our eyes from harmful particles. Because of Tank's syndrome, his eyelids often failed to do their job and hair frequently scratched his eyes. Now post-surgery, Tank's eyes are safe from prickly hairs and the pain in his left eye has been relieved.

"It is difficult to describe how appreciative I am," said Sarah. "Everyone is wonderful, from the receptionist who knows us and always asks how we're doing, to the technicians and Dr. Eaton himself. Their desire to connect with us on a personal level makes my day, and the gratitude I have because they empowered me to take care of Tank's needs cannot be explained. Tank has a lot of medical challenges that require me to be a vigilante about his care; I'm cautious, strict, and thorough. The people at CUVS are compassionate and respectful and, together, we made Tank's life better."

Choosing the best options for Tank's well-being motivates Sarah daily.

"I think it's his complete helplessness and reliance on me," said Sarah, commenting on the intense level of commitment that she believes Tank, and all pets, need. "He's dependent on me for everything, including finding knowledgeable and compassionate doctors to care for his medical needs. The choices I make for him have to be in his best interest. It's part of being a responsible and loving pet owner."



Shar peis have a way of giving you a look that clearly communicates what's on their mind, from puppy-like euphoria to absolute disdain if someone dares to scold.





# Case-by-Case Concerns

Consultants with the Camuti  
Service have the time to help



Joey was a perplexing case. As a newborn kitten, she was healthy, eating just as voraciously as her siblings. But by the age of just seven weeks, the tiny Tonkinese kitten couldn't keep anything down. As the kitten became increasingly skinny, breeder Jill Murphy consulted with local veterinarians, discussed the situation with other breeders, and then reached out to the Dr. Louis J. Camuti Memorial Feline Consultation Service at Cornell's Feline Health Center.

"The telephone service was fabulous," said Ms. Murphy. "Dr. [Ryane] Englar researched several rare (and all horrible) options, some that were recently identified, and then advised that I talk to my veterinarian about doing an X-ray to see if anything was blocking the esophagus.

We did this, saw the blockage, and did surgery that saved her life."

Dr. Englar '08, BS '04 (who readily says cats are one of the most brilliant species alive!) is just one of the veterinarians who staff the consultation service at Cornell, and like the rest, she is proud to help cat owners understand diagnoses and treatment plans, think through options for moving forward, and prepare for conversations with their veterinarians about next steps. The Consultation Service was established to honor the memory of the late Dr. Louis J. Camuti. Known affectionately to many as "the Cat Doctor," Dr. Camuti was the first veterinarian in the United States to devote his entire practice to cats, making house calls for his feline patients for more than 60 years.

"Joey's case was particularly rewarding to me—a feel-good moment at the Consultation line," said Dr. Englar, who owns Tonkinese cats herself. "We were able to turn a grim situation into something we could do something about—and save a life at the same time!"

Dr. Englar is drawn to the Consultation line because of positive outcomes—like Joey's case. As she says, "Our role as consultants is to facilitate discussion based on client concerns that will ultimately translate into improved patient care."

For more information, visit the Feline Health Center website at [www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc).







Dr. Belinda Thompson, senior extension associate and veterinary support specialist at the AHDC, frequently phones with veterinarians and farmers to discuss their cases and options. Dr. McDermott works with her regularly, and she sometimes joins him on client calls.

"With a big herd, every decision has to make economic sense," said Dr. McDermott. "There are many different Salmonella vaccines, they aren't cheap, and you can't use them all. The AHDC's Salmonella expert helped find the right one."

For horses, Dr. McDermott's access to Cornell's new unique Lyme disease test empowers him to handle what he calls his practice's biggest equine challenge.

"Lyme tests used to be very unclear," said Dr. McDermott. "We'd treat more based on symptoms and less on tests because you don't want to put an animal through a grueling course of antibiotics on a hunch. Cornell's new multiplex test allows us to be a lot surer. I get a sense that the AHDC is considered a gold standard for innovation."

Dr. McDermott also leverages the AHDC's most valuable asset: its human resources, especially veterinary support specialist Dr. Belinda Thompson.

"People at the AHDC are friendly, forthcoming, and thorough," said Dr. McDermott. "Whatever we're facing, Dr. Thompson will call to ask what's going on, give a list of things we need to consider, samples we need to look at, what we can learn from them, and walk us through test results."

Dr. Thompson also sometimes joins Dr. McDermott in the field for client meetings, helping owners understand disease processes and diagnostic opportunities. "It's good for our business when we can provide helpful info for our clients," said Dr. McDermott. "This outreach is very well received, and I don't think you're going to get that from a commercial lab."

# Knowledge

## AND FREEDOM TO SERVE

**When recommending how farmers care for their animals, Dr. John McDermott knows the livelihoods of all parties are on the line.**

As co-owner of Granville Veterinary Service visiting New York and Vermont farms east of the Adirondacks, he serves many clients who have upwards of 1,000 animals. That means a lot of tough financial decisions, and when he makes a recommendation he wants to make sure the diagnosis behind it is right. To find those answers, he turns to Cornell's Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) at the College of Veterinary Medicine, an organization capable of adapting to his needs.

"The AHDC's mission frees them to do things commercial labs can't," said Dr. McDermott. "They don't have to be driven by the almighty dollar. If a new test could help the state's livestock industry, they can develop it. They're more in tune with food animals and the dilemmas we face in the field. And their focus on quality control and accuracy has been a big help."

Five years ago, cows in one of his largest client's herd were getting very sick. When he sent samples and talked to experts at the AHDC, he realized he was facing a nasty Salmonella outbreak. Calf mortality shot up while milk performance plummeted. But with a proven diagnosis, he was able to find the right vaccine and management information to quell the outbreak.



# \$6M gift advances veterinary medical research

**The Starr Foundation**, chaired by Maurice R. (Hank) Greenberg, has committed \$6 million to the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. The gift will create two endowed professorships in clinical research, positions that are critical for the improvement of animal health, according to the College.

These professorships follow an anonymous gift dedicated to canine genomics research, which also supports endowed professorships and faculty startups, genetic research on cancer and other diseases, and the DNA Bank, an archive of canine DNA and medical information partially funded by the National Institutes of Health.

"The College of Veterinary Medicine's reputation as the top-ranked school in the U.S. stands on its superb teaching, research, and clinical care. These strengths make it a world leader in discovering the genetic causes of cancer and other diseases and in accelerating the development of treatments that benefit animals," said Cornell President David J. Skorton. "Given the limited availability of federal funding for animal health, private support is critical in advancing this work. We are extremely grateful to The Starr Foundation for partnering with Cornell to improve animal health around the world."

Greenberg said: "The Starr Foundation recognizes the importance of veterinary research. We rely on animals in our economy and our lives, and their diseases often are related to human diseases. This grant is part of Starr's larger commitment to human cancer and genomics research and will advance our understanding of infectious diseases that spread between animals and humans."

Relatively little funding is dedicated to better understanding and treating diseases that affect animals even though they suffer from many of the same diseases that humans do. One of the College of Veterinary Medicine's highest priorities is to establish resources that enable discoveries that make a real impact on cancer and other devastating diseases.

While the specific research to be conducted will be determined once the professorships are filled, the veterinary college has undertaken a major effort to advance canine



genetic research. It is capitalizing on strengths in clinical genetics, computational biology, and opportunities provided by the genomic and breed structure of the dog. Research is under way in cancer, liver, heart, and blood diseases applicable to treatment of animal and human diseases.

"This commitment will help us achieve our vision for clinical research, discoveries, and treatments related to cancer and other complex diseases with a genetic basis," said Michael Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "We are deeply grateful for The Starr Foundation's generosity."

"The Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Professorship and the C.V. Starr Professorship in the College of Veterinary Medicine will allow the College to recruit and retain some of the most respected minds in veterinary science, people who will drive the development of new treatments, vaccines, and therapies," Kotlikoff said. "We will all benefit from the new knowledge created by their cutting-edge discoveries in medical science."

The Starr Foundation and the Greenberg family are longtime Cornell benefactors and have given generously to the College of Veterinary Medicine and to Weill Cornell Medical College, where Greenberg is a member of the Board of Overseers.



# classnotes

## Class of 1957

**Lewis H. Berman, DVM**  
New York, NY

Dr. Berman was featured in the June/July 2012 Town & Country "Park Avenue's Pet Whisperer." For more than 50 years, one vet has been the preferred confidant of Manhattan's elite dogs and cats. Their demanding owners—from Henry Kissinger to Lauren Bacall to Cindy Adams—are pretty stuck on him too.

## Class of 1965

**James F. Peddie, DVM**  
Ventura, CA

On August 3, 2012, Dr. Peddie received the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) 2012 AVMA Award. The AVMA Award is given annually to a distinguished member of the Association who has contributed to the advancement of veterinary medicine in its organizational aspects. Throughout Dr. Peddie's career the one constant in addition to service in organized veterinary medicine has been his involvement as a mentor and educator. He has repeatedly demonstrated an enduring commitment to inform and educate about the vital contributions our profession makes to both the human and animal kingdoms. One of Dr. Peddie's proudest professional accomplishments has been delivering without mishap four baby Asian elephants, one of whom was named "JP" in Dr. Peddie's honor.

## Class of 1973

**Robert J. Adams, DVM**  
Baltimore, MD

Dr. Adams, a veterinarian, biomedical researcher, and member of Johns Hopkins University faculty for 35 years, has been appointed associate provost for animal research and resources at Johns Hopkins University. "Bob Adams is a talented veterinarian with a deep understanding of research methodology," said Scott Zeger, vice provost for research, to whom Adams reports. "He understands

how to get the job done, even under resource constraints." Adams joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1977, becoming director of the Division of Animal Services and Laboratory Animal Medicine two years later. In addition to current roles as the university's attending veterinarian and director of research animal resources, he is an associate professor in the Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology and remains an active researcher.

"I love the place," Dr. Adams said of his career-long tenure at Johns Hopkins. "I love the work; I love the research. I like the whole environment here."

## Class of 1974

**Malcolm Kram, DVM**  
Philadelphia, PA

A featured speaker at the 149th AVMA Annual Convention, Dr. Kram spoke extensively about his favorite topic—underrepresented minorities and the importance of inclusiveness. "Inclusion: the poverty of knowledge. Diversity in the workforce is an issue, but lack of inclusiveness is the problem," Dr. Kram stated. Customer loyalty relates directly to a person's comfort level. Clients and staff share more information in a safe environment. Some of the ideas he suggested, particularly relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, are welcoming same-sex partners to the practice's social activities, having a nondiscrimination clause, offering same-sex partner benefits, and sponsoring educational programs at LGBT events. "Inclusion is more than just the right thing to do. It is good business," he said.

## Class of 1988

**Dayna Wiedenkiller, DVM**  
Anaheim, CA

Dr. Wiedenkiller was installed as member-at-large of the California Veterinary Medical Association on June 29, 2012. The installation took place during the annual Pacific Veterinary Conference. "Being elected member-at-large of the CVMA is a great honor. There are a lot of issues on the horizon for veterinarians at the state and national levels. The CVMA Board of Governors is one of the most respected and informed groups to help deal with these issues," Dr. Wiedenkiller stated.

## Class of 1993

**Nelva J. Bryant, DVM**  
Mableton, GA

Dr. Bryant served as the Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) Rodeo Neighborhood Pilot Project Manager for a One Health project headed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The project focused on preventing the spread of RMSF on an Indian Reservation in AZ.

## Class of 1994

**Amy Straw McKee, PhD**  
Denver, CO

Amy McKee, PhD, an instructor of medicine at the University of Colorado Denver, is a recipient of the American Thoracic Society Unrestricted Grant. The grant will support her project entitled "Study of the intrinsic adjuvant effects of beryllium." The grant provides \$80,000 in funding per year for two years.

Chronic beryllium disease (CBD) is an inflammatory disease of the lung that may result from workplace exposure to beryllium particles. Some genetically susceptible workers develop chronic inflammation as a result of this exposure, which may lead to collateral damage and scarring of lung tissue, decreased lung function over time, and death. Dr. McKee's research will investigate the underlying biological mechanisms of CBD.

With this understanding, she hopes to identify therapeutic targets that will block the progression from beryllium exposure to disease.

## Class of 1996

**Luke Fallon, DVM**  
Lexington, KY

Dr. Luke Fallon was featured in the July 30, 2012, issue of the *Lexington Herald*.

Dr. Luke Hagyard Fallon is a fifth-generation Lexington horse doctor. What led him to keep up the family tradition? "Lack of originality," he joked. "We never learned any better," added his father, Dr. Edward Hagyard Fallon. But his mother's explanation seems more logical. It's in our bloodline," Priscilla Fallon said. That's the way it works with successful horses, so why not with the people who care for them? Luke Fallon, one of 17 partners in Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, has a pedigree that's hard to beat. The institute, which calls itself the world's oldest and largest equine veterinary practice, was founded by Fallon's great-great-grandfather, Dr. Edward Thomas Hagyard. It is considered the third-oldest family business of any kind in Lexington, after Milward Funeral Directors and Hillenmeyer Nurseries.

## Class of 1997

**Pat Erickson, DVM**  
South Burlington, VT

Dr. Erickson received the 31st Joseph E. Carrigan Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She is a senior lecturer in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Vermont. Professor Emeritus Lyn Carew described Erickson's approach to teaching as a "grab-you-by-the-collar style." What Pat Erickson can't accomplish in the classroom, she accomplishes in the world. Dr. Erickson's courses take students to the Adirondack Park to learn about conservation, to the Bronx Zoo to understand gorilla behavior, to New England Aquarium to help endangered sea turtles, to the Wolf and Wild Canid Sanctuary to



meet wolves, and to personally meet Jane Goodall. In courses that she co-teaches in the Dominican Republic, over the years students have constructed a community center, health clinic, literacy center, and several homes. They have provided veterinary assistance and HIV/AIDS education.

### Class of 2000

**Rebecca Saria, DVM**  
Trumbull, CT

Dr. Saria was featured in the June 21, 2012, issue of *Wilton Bulletin*.

Her 24-foot surgical van, brightly painted and emblazoned with her "Gold Coast Mobile Veterinary Service" logo has been making visits to Wilton lately - along with other Fairfield County towns. "My 'office' is a state-of the art surgical unit that allows us to bring the highest quality veterinary care to your door," said Dr. Saria, who travels with her assistant, Deryl Gage. The van is fully equipped with everything you would find in a typical veterinary and surgical practice, including a full laboratory that does blood chemistry, a mobile digital X-ray machine, an ultrasound machine, and all the tools for dentistry, among other medical services. "We provide high-quality medical, surgical, emergency, holistic, and spiritual care for your cat or dog with all of the benefits and convenience of a house call," said Dr. Saria.

Dr. Saria was formerly the chief of staff in her own practice for more than 10 years, but switched to the mobile veterinary concept because "one of the most critical aspects of veterinary care is the interaction between a pet and owner in a relaxed home setting," she said. Observing pets in their home often makes it easier to diagnose medical problems, according to Dr. Saria.

For more information, visit [goldcoastmobilevet.com](http://goldcoastmobilevet.com).

### Class of 2002

**Jennifer Durenberger, DVM**  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Jennifer Durenberger accepted the position of Director of Racing for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). In this capacity, she will be the operational and administrative head of the MGC Racing Division and will be responsible for executing, administering, and enforcing the provisions of the law relative to the state's racing industry. Among her duties will be the implementation of regulatory reform aimed at maximizing the safety and welfare of Thoroughbred and Standardbred racehorses.

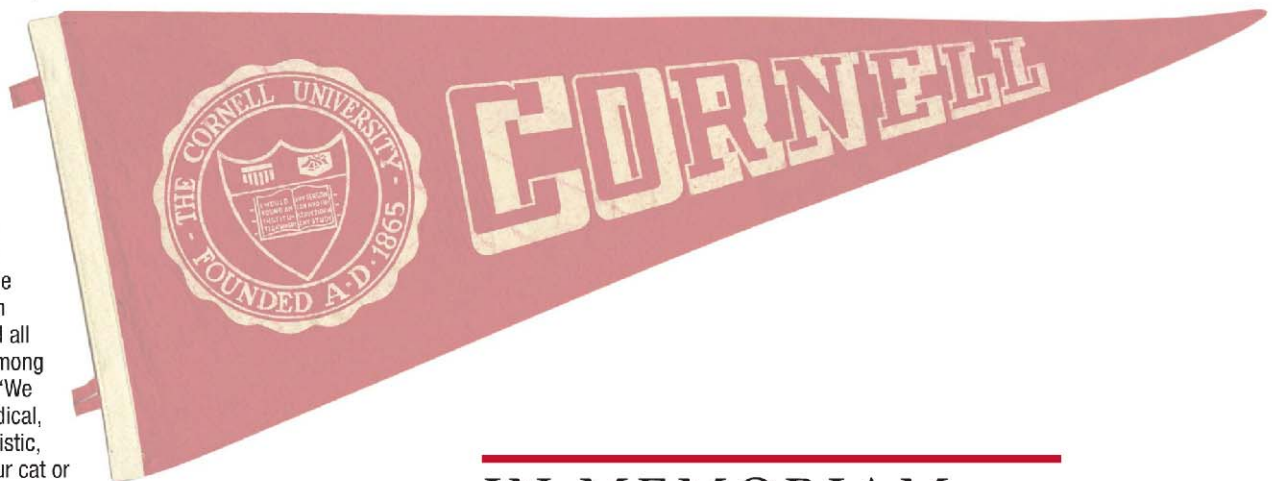
### Class of 2009

**Jennifer Olson, DVM**  
San Antonio, TX

Hi everybody! Since graduation, I've done an internship at Alameda East in Denver, worked in dog/cat general practice in Colorado and Massachusetts and as of the fall of 2012, started with a feline specialty practice at Alamo Feline Health Center in San Antonio, TX. Samson, the infamous FIV-positive black cat, whom many of you met at the OTS house, continues to thrive! The October issue of *Veterinary Practice News* featured an article about my family and our four-generation tradition at Cornell! If you want to reach me, just email ([jen\\_olson@hotmail.com](mailto:jen_olson@hotmail.com)) and let me know if you will be in the San Antonio area!

**Amanda Perkins, DVM**  
New Orleans, LA

Dr. Perkins is now the owner of Cat Hospital of Metairie, LA, where she had worked as an associate veterinarian after graduation. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Southeast Louisiana Veterinary Association. Dr. Perkins has made a permanent home in New Orleans with her new husband, John, and her family of four cats and one dog.



## IN MEMORIAM

SINCE THE SUMMER ISSUE OF 'SCOPES, THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE PASSINGS OF THE FOLLOWING:

**Dr. Benjamin P. Bonelli '47**, April 28, 2001  
**Dr. H. Fred Clark '60**, April 28, 2012  
**Dr. Stillman Clark '56**, June 3, 2012  
**Dr. David Covitz '63**, July 21, 2012  
**Dr. William A. Davidson '52**, September 27, 2012  
**Dr. Arthur E. Davis '44**, November 18, 2012  
**Dr. Robert S. Dedrick '65**, October 7, 2012  
**Dr. Pamela M. Duddy '91**, April 13, 2012  
**Dr. Morris Erdheim '39**, May 20, 2012  
**Dr. Jack G. Flint '44**, March 6, 2012  
**Dr. Charles P. Gandal '51**, July 2, 2012  
**Dr. Hiram N. Lasher '42**, October 7, 2012  
**Dr. Richard Lunna '49**, May 13, 2012  
**Dr. John B. McCarthy '52**, July 4, 2012  
**Dr. Hugo J. Nykamp '54**, April 29, 2012  
**Dr. Jerome Payton '40**, August 31, 2012  
**Dr. James E. Prier '46**, August 20, 2012  
**Dr. Daniel F. Sickmiller '60**, November 15, 2012  
**Dr. Harry N. Smith '45**, April 15, 2012  
**Dr. Everett W. Vreeland '52**, September 5, 2012  
**Dr. Harold M. Zweighaft '56**, October 18, 2012



*Want to know a secret?*

## The IRA Charitable Rollover is back for 2013 ...

And is an easy way to support the College of Veterinary Medicine.

- You must be age 70 ½
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- Gifts must be outright only
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Join your Cornell friends on campus to relive old memories and make new! Give your friends a call and make plans now to attend.

For more Reunion 2013 information, visit the College's website at [www.vet.cornell.edu/reunion](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/reunion) or watch your mail in the weeks ahead.

A number of hotels in Ithaca have reserved rooms for the College of Veterinary Medicine alumni (right). Call directly and give your DVM class year. We also have housing available on campus. Call or email Paula Aiken at 607-253-3716 or [psa2@cornell.edu](mailto:psa2@cornell.edu) or register for a room when registration opens in late March 2013.

# Reunion

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June 6-9

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**Econo Lodge:** 607-257-1400; [www.econolodge.com/hotel/ny127](http://www.econolodge.com/hotel/ny127)

**Hampton Inn:** 607-277-5500; [www.ithaca.hamptoninn.com](http://www.ithaca.hamptoninn.com)

**Holiday Inn:** 607-272-1000 or 800-315-2621; [www.hiithaca.com](http://www.hiithaca.com)

**Homewood Suites:** 607-266-0000; [www.ithaca.homewoodsuites.com](http://www.ithaca.homewoodsuites.com)

**La Tourelle:** 607-272-2734; [www.latourelle.com](http://www.latourelle.com)

**Ramada Inn:** 607-257-3100;  
[www.ramadainnithaca.com](http://www.ramadainnithaca.com)

**Super 8:** 607-273-8088; [www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com)





# SHARE YOUR NEWS

We will include Class Notes in the July 2013 issue of 'Scopes Magazine. Please let us know what you'd like to share with your classmates in our Class Notes section by April 15, 2013, for inclusion.

NAME

(MAIDEN IF APPROPRIATE)

CLASS YEAR

ADDRESS

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Please tell my classmates that...

**PLEASE RETURN TO:** Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 39, Ithaca, NY 14853. Alternatively, share your information with us via email ([vetfriends@cornell.edu](mailto:vetfriends@cornell.edu)) or complete the online form at [www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/ClassNotes](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/alumni/ClassNotes).

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