



College News

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Cornell student wins essay contest



Shira Rubin DVM '13 earned top recognition in a special essay contest recently sponsored by the Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation. The contest was held in honor of the centennial of the graduation of the first two known women veterinarians: Dr. Florence Kimball from Cornell and Dr. Elinor McGrath, a Chicago graduate. Rubin will present her paper and be presented with her award at this year's American Veterinary Medical Association annual conference in Atlanta in August.

According to Rubin, "When I entered veterinary college in the fall of 2009, I took for granted my right, as a woman, to study veterinary medicine. After I began researching the history of women in veterinary medicine, I was struck by how little I knew about the subject. I stand on the shoulders of women who were giants in this field, and now I know some of their names and stories. I am also more aware of the obstacles that remain and prevent women from achieving full equality. Although much progress has been made, there are still areas which will challenge my generation."

Rubin has spent the last eight years in the San Francisco Bay area. Before moving to California, she attended Amherst College. She worked for several years as a veterinary technician in a small animal emergency hospital and has also been involved with wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife conservation and ecology research. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors and is a runner. She is interested in sustainable living and protecting and restoring natural habitats.

Read Rubin's [award-winning essay](#) here.