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From the Dean



Dear faculty, staff, and students,

I would like to share the following letter with you for your information. It has been sent to all of the College's alumni. The letter details progress that we've made toward realizing the goals outlined in the strategic plan and mirrors the information that I shared with the College community at the State of the College in December. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Mike Kotlikoff

January 20, 2010

Dear Alumni,

We begin the New Year and the new decade in Ithaca with lots of snow and with some relief that 2009 is behind us; the veterinary students have returned and are once again fully engaged in classes and rotations after a brief break for the holidays. Please accept my wishes for healthy, happy, and prosperous times and allow me to share an update on the progress the College has made toward realizing initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, a guiding document that reflects input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external stakeholders. Despite an enormously challenging financial environment and major restructuring within the College over the past year, it is vital that we continue to make progress toward the priorities outlined in the plan to ensure the College's leading role in advancing our profession. I am enormously proud of the way that the College has pulled together to meet the challenges of the past year. Looking forward, our major goal is to

transition Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine from its current position as a national leader in veterinary medicine to a global leader in the profession. We will do that by realizing the initiatives in the strategic plan, all of which are focused on strengthening our research, teaching, and clinical programs.

We have identified five major goals:

- Strengthen our premier DVM and postgraduate teaching program through innovative and collaborative initiatives that will best prepare a diverse student body to meet the challenges of animal health in the 21st century
- Improve the recognition of our clinical programs by strengthening the Cornell University Hospital for

Animals and establishing complementary programs that enhance teaching, philanthropy, and our clinical profile

- Enhance Cornell's position as the top-ranked veterinary College in biomedical research by building on existing and emerging strengths to foster the understanding and treatment of disease
- Link basic research strengths to translational/clinical activities through investments in clinical research facilities and personnel
- Foster diversity of faculty, staff, and students, and ensure student access and minimize student debt loads by increasing financial aid

We will move toward realizing these goals by accomplishing six key initiatives that I have outlined below. The information is presented as a snapshot. While some of the initiatives may be considered complete, most are in progress. As such, many decisions and in some cases even directions are not final.

1. Increasing the College's class size from 90 to approximately 120

The workforce shortage of veterinarians, particularly food animal and regulatory medicine veterinarians, has been well-documented. With encouragement from elected officials in Albany, the College is pursuing plans to increase the number of students in each class by approximately 30, with half of this growth dedicated to students who have expressed an interest in food animal/regulatory medicine. Currently, representatives from the architectural firm Ballinger Inc. are working with a faculty committee to develop a long term capital plan, which will include a specific plan for the larger class size. We are at a unique opportunity in the College's history, with core space becoming available for teaching when the new diagnostic center opens later this year. The larger class size initiative is based on two assumptions: we will receive additional funding from the State, and we will be able to dedicate the space formerly used by the diagnostic center to teaching. The initial planning ideas are quite exciting, and I look forward to sharing what will become our blueprint for the future.

2. Strengthening our DVM clinical preparation

Based on feedback from students, stakeholders, and employees, the College has embarked on a number of efforts to strengthen the clinical competency of our graduates. One such initiative started in June 2009 with an enhanced partnership between the College and Ithaca's Shelter Outreach Services, led by Dr. Leslie Appel, from the Class of 1994. Through this collaboration, students assist in providing high quality, high volume spay/neuter services to animals in the region. To date, more than 60 students have completed a rotation with SOS and have performed more than 300 supervised surgeries. The program has substantially increased the amount of surgical experience these students receive and we expect this trend to continue.

In April, the College expects to continue discussions with the Tompkins County SPCA to explore the feasibility of another primary care teaching activity: an expanded collaboration between the College's Community Practice Service and the Tompkins County SPCA. Preliminary conversations have suggested that a collaborative clinical program between the College and the SPCA could result in an educational and business model that would enhance our students'

clinical preparation, expand our training for and role in shelter medicine, improve practice management and business experience for students, provide additional support for the SPCA's clinical operation, and serve clients who are not financially able to secure medical care for their animals. In the proposed model, students would provide medical and surgical care to shelter animals and provide primary clinical care for animals from means-tested families.

3. Gaining national/international recognition and achieving financial stability for clinical programs

The College's third initiative is the establishment of a single offsite referral hospital in the Metro New York area to be known as Cornell University Veterinary Specialists (CUVS), as well as assisting international partners to enhance the standard of animal health care globally.

CUVS

With the help of a realtor, we are currently considering two Southern Connecticut locations for CUVS, with the identified site in Stamford looking particularly promising. We have discussed many sites and have

consulted with many people – both Cornellians and non-Cornellians. CUVS will not engage in general practice, but will rather seek to support existing general practices in the area. Specialties offered initially will include orthopedic and soft-tissue surgery, emergency care, internal medicine, and imaging, with other specialties determined following input from local practices. While many of the logistics and details for CUVS have not been finalized, it is clear that establishing CUVS will meet a number of significant needs for the College and for the profession.

- CUVS will expand Cornell's role in specialty medicine by creating an integrated veterinary medical center that provides the highest level of specialty medicine, facilitates clinical research, and expands the educational experience for residents and students.
- CUVS will be a financially independent unit and will not receive New York State support. In addition, CUVS will be staffed by non-faculty boarded specialists recruited especially for this practice.
- The strongest veterinarians are those who have had access to a broad spectrum of experiential opportunities. Cornell's educational program will be enhanced by the additional opportunities afforded by a high volume specialty caseload. We envision that CUVS will strengthen some of our residency training programs, serve as an additional opportunity for DVM student externships, and allow Cornell to effectively deliver continuing education programming to veterinarians in the New York metropolitan region.
- CUVS will provide clinical investigators at the College with additional clinical case material for their studies.
- Cornell is deeply committed to operating CUVS in an efficient and service-oriented manner. Positive aggregate net revenue will support clinical programs on the Ithaca campus.
- Establishing an off-site clinical presence will allow Cornell to reach a broader base of clients and supporters, while further enhancing the College's regional and national recognition. Referrals to CUHA from the New York metropolitan area have declined sharply over the past two decades, as the number of specialty practices between Ithaca and Metro New York has grown.

International initiatives

The College remains in discussions with the Qatar Foundation to establish the Cornell Veterinary Program in Qatar. We have proposed a program that includes clinical, teaching, continuing education, diagnostic and research components that would ultimately lift the standard of veterinary medical care in that region to be housed at the soon-to-be-opened finest equine-only facility in the world. Currently our partners in Qatar are continuing to discuss and negotiate the cost and scope of this program. While I am hopeful that we can come to an agreement, we will only proceed if the program meets the College's programmatic and long-term financial needs.

The College is also engaged in discussions with representatives from City University of Hong Kong to establish the first AVMA-accredited veterinary program in Asia. The program will be taught in English with a critical food animal component in mainland China. We view this effort as having enormous potential to positively impact the standard of animal health care in Asia and to raise the profile of our profession in this region of the world. City University has funded us to fully define the academic curriculum and the College's personnel and capital needs. We will complete this report within 6 months and negotiate a collaborative agreement.

4. Enhancing biomedical research

In July, we welcomed Dr. Maurine Linder as chair of Molecular Medicine. Linder—whose responsibilities are divided between research, teaching, and service—is leading the department of approximately 45 faculty and staff who participate in veterinary education primarily in the pre-clinical curriculum and pursue cutting edge research in cell signaling, cell biology, and cancer biology. As the chair, Linder is enhancing the department's interdisciplinary programs with Cornell's new Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology and Weill Medical College, and is revitalizing the graduate field of Pharmacology. We are currently recruiting for the chair of Microbiology and Immunology, the director of the newly merged Baker Institute for Animal Health and Cornell Feline Health Center, and making additional investments in the College's research office, all of which will support four critical research areas outlined in the strategic plan: infectious disease control, comparative genomics, comparative reproductive medicine, and cancer research.

5. Linking basic and clinical research

Our efforts to link basic and clinical research will grow from the development of a clinical research center that will house the College's DNA Bank, imaging and surgery operations for research animals, and will be the engine for clinical trials and activities. This initiative, along with increased DVM financial aid, is the highest priority development focus for the College.

6. Continuing to attract a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff

For many years, Cornell has been among the leaders in recruiting underrepresented minorities to the College's student body. We will continue to make access for all students of promise and purpose a priority and are working strategically to mirror this commitment in our recruitment efforts for new faculty and staff. Dr. Linder is a wonderful example of our success, and I look forward to an equally promising result to our search for a chair of Microbiology and Immunology. Additionally, we are continuing to stress student financial aid as a vital mechanism to blunt the increase in student debt and ensure access for those with the greatest financial need.

I hope you are as excited by the College's progress and plans as I am. I appreciate the long-standing and loyal support this College has enjoyed from you, our graduates, and look forward to your continued support as we implement initiatives that will make your alma mater and the profession stronger. Please look for future updates in forthcoming publications from the College. If you would like to discuss our efforts as they relate to the strategic plan, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael I. Kotlikoff, VMD, PhD

Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine



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College faculty named fellows

Two College faculty are among a list of thirteen Cornell faculty members who were named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. The 13 Cornell faculty members are among 531 researchers chosen to receive the prestigious award this year.

The fellows will be recognized Feb. 20 at the annual AAAS meeting, held this year in San Diego.

"These individuals have been elevated to this rank because of their efforts toward advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished," according to the AAAS news release.

The new fellows from the College and their AAAS citation are as follows:



Richard A. Cerione, Goldwin Smith Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology: "For distinguished contributions to the field of signal transduction, particularly in the area of biochemistry and cell biology of Ras-related G-proteins."

Maurine E. Linder, Professor and Chair of Molecular Medicine: "For distinguished contributions to our understanding of the enzymology of palmitoylation, a reversible posttranslational modification that regulates localization and trafficking of signaling proteins in cells."



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New DVD resource for cat owners debuts



At some point, most pet owners are faced with a cat that has a poor appetite or other signs of gastrointestinal upset. With so many possible causes, knowing how to handle these issues can be confusing. Now cat owners can find expert advice and answers to their questions online, thanks to a newly released video series developed by Cornell University's Partners in Animal Health program. The videos, made possible with a gift from Nestle Purina

PetCare, provide cat owners with information on a variety of gastrointestinal topics.

Veterinary specialists at Cornell University Hospital for Animals offer insight and advice on topics ranging from how to decide when your cat needs to go to the veterinarian to options for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of many common gastrointestinal conditions in cats. Specific segments focus on food allergies, dietary sensitivity, inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhea associated with diet changes, antibiotic-induced diarrhea, and gastrointestinal parasites.

Also included in the series is a convenient GI History form that can be printed, completed, and taken to your cat's veterinary appointment- giving your veterinarian more time to focus on your pet during the appointment.

View the [free online video collection](#) at your convenience.
[Order your personal DVD](#) copy now.



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Students receive their coats



White coat ceremonies have become a tradition at many schools of medicine and at veterinary colleges across the country. At these ceremonies, students receive the ultimate symbol of professionalism and empathy in the practice of medicine – the white coat. Cornell adds special meaning to this “rite of passage” in two ways. During the ceremony, veterinarians and faculty who have provided mentorship to students along the way are asked to participate in the ceremony by enrobing their students. Similarly, family and friends who have provided considerable support and special encouragement are asked to pin their student. (A sampling of pictures from the event are below.)

At this year's event, Dr. Jonathan May, a graduate of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and a member of the College's Class of 1980, offered words of encouragement to the class. He is the president of the alumni association, which is the organization that was instrumental in bringing this ceremony to Cornell in 2001 and continues to provide support.

Dr. Katherine Feldman offered the afternoon's keynote address. She is the State Public Health Veterinarian and Chief of the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Feldman was awarded her veterinary degree from Cornell University and a Master of Public Health degree with an emphasis in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. She is a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and recently earned her certification in the Epidemiology Specialty of that College. Dr. Feldman has completed two fellowships in applied epidemiology, one with the California Department of Health Services and one with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, she was a Fellow in the CDC's Preventive Medicine Residency Program. Currently, her responsibilities include the surveillance, investigation, and control of zoonoses and vector-borne diseases in Maryland. Her professional interests include public health issues that arise at the human-animal interface; vector-borne diseases; and policy development.

Mary Bellosa, from the Class of 2011, presented three faculty members with awards recognizing excellence in teaching and community service. Dr. Korona Stipetic was honored with the Basic Science Teaching Award of Excellence; Dr. Patty Kirch earned the Clinical Science Teaching Award of Excellence; and Dr. Dwight Bowman earned a new award offered this year that pays tribute to those who are leaders in

service to the community.

In December 2009, members of the Class of 2011 received their white coats at a ceremony that has become a tradition at many schools of medicine and at veterinary colleges across the country. At these ceremonies, students receive the ultimate symbol of professionalism and empathy in the practice of medicine – the white coat. Cornell adds special meaning to this “rite of passage” in two ways. During today’s ceremony, we will ask veterinarians and faculty who have provided mentorship to our students along the way to participate in the ceremony by enrobing their students. Similarly, family and friends who have provided considerable support and special encouragement will be asked to pin their student.

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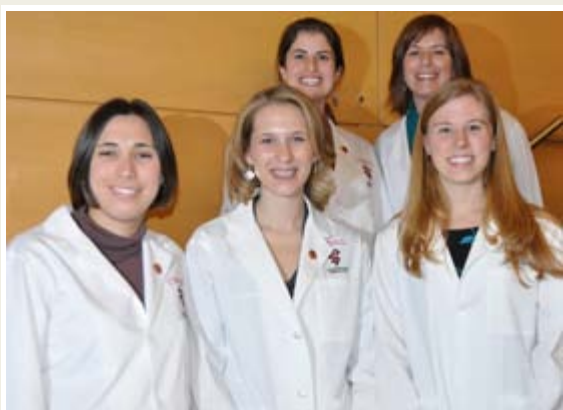
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Clients never forget!



Mr. Robert Ingersoll of Vernon, NY, brought his cat Annie to the Companion Animal Hospital to be treated for hyperthyroidism in 2002. No one would have thought that eight years later, he would make a gift that could eventually be used (at Mr. Ingersoll's death) in the radiology and imaging section. Bob made certain that the gift honored his relationship with Dr. Nathan Dykes, Class of 1974, and the personal attention he and his wife, now

deceased, received over the years.

"We've talked on the phone several times since, and he is always very thankful - but I had no idea that money would come from it," said Dr. Dykes when he learned of the gift.



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Meza: "Follow your bliss."

by Jenna Abbott



Getting to know staff and faculty may seem like a challenge, especially in a fast-paced and exciting environment. People have their own unique stories and adventures that have made them who they are today. Making Rounds had a chance to sit down with Steve Meza, who plays a vital role in every student's career at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine.

What office do you work in and what are your everyday responsibilities?

I am an Administrative Assistant in the Student and Academic Services Department. I work firsthand with students' transitions into the college and all of the ups and downs associated with that. I also work with student organizations and help coordinate events and meetings while they are here with us. My favorite part about working with the students is getting to know them on an individual level. I believe every student I work with is exceptional and works hard for the future they have ahead of them.

Any recent projects you would like to share?

I recently prepared for the third-year DVM White Coat Ceremony. This ceremony took place on December 5 in the James Law Auditorium. At the ceremony the third-year veterinary students received their "white coats" before starting their clinical experience.

Outside of work, what are your hobbies or interests?

I love to spend my extra time reading; one of my favorite books is *100 Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel García Márquez. I also enjoy painting, gardening during summer, and cooking. My favorite Mexican dish to cook is empanadas.

What are you most proud of?

I am most proud that after having brain surgery I was able to go back to school and finish my degree. I decided that "life won't weigh me down," life is way too important to allow obstacles to get in the way of my future. After finishing my degree I ran a marathon, to yet again prove to myself that I can achieve great things.

What words do you try to live your life by?

I have two quotes that I try to live by. One of them, by Joseph Campbell is this: "Follow your Bliss." The second quote by Carl Gustav Jung is, "Who looks outside dreams; who looks inside awakes."

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College Email Migration

This is an update and reminder of the upcoming college-wide email migration (February 8-18).

1. Outlook Training is available starting January 25 in the Wiswall (Dry) Lab.
2. The schedule for CVM departments is listed below.

1. OUTLOOK TRAINING

Outlook Training is available January 25, January 28, and February 1 in the CVM Wiswall Lab (Dry Lab).

Session times each day are 8:30-10, 10:30-12 and 1-2:30.

Please go to <http://cornell.veplan.net/Education/course.aspx?sched=1&c=7658> to reserve a spot if you are interested in attending one of these sessions.*

If these times don't work for you, you can sign up for any of the courses open to all of Campus: <http://cornell.veplan.net/Education/course.aspx?sched=1&c=7207> .

Or you can teach yourself, using the information at

<http://www.cit.cornell.edu/training/exchange/> > and in the "help" menus of Outlook, Entourage, or Apple Mail.

(*Please note that the CIT course registration system is not tied to the Net ID system. If you do not remember your username, please contact Julia Leonard (jsl76@cornell.edu).

2.MIGRATION SCHEDULE

Starting February 8 through February 18 we will make the transition College-wide to the Outlook or Entourage (or Apple Mail) email applications.

Below is the schedule of our College-wide deployment plan, in order to make the transition department by department.

DATE / DEPARTMENT

2/8/2010 AHDC
2/9/2010 POPMED
2/10/2010 ADMINISTRATION
2/10/2010 CARE, LAS
2/11/2010 LIBRARY
2/11/2010 MOLECMED
2/11/2010 MICRO
2/15/2010 BIOMED

2/16/2010 BIOMED
2/16/2010 BAKER
2/17/2010 CUHA
2/17/2010 DCS
2/18/2010 DCS
TBD QMPS (to be scheduled by Belinda Gross)

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns by emailing Darryle Lee (drl2@cornell.edu) or me (slk9@cornell.edu) directly, or by emailing your VMIT IT support provider.

You will receive another update next week with specific instructions regarding your department's email transition, along with a link to a CIT migration survey which take only a few minutes to fill out, and will help expedite the migration of CVM's 993 email accounts.

Thank you,
Shari Kearn

Director of Information Technologies

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Relief for Haiti

As a follow-up to President David Skorton's email message, we would like to remind everyone at the College about the [Cornell University page](#), which provides the latest updates and ways to help with the relief effort in Haiti if you wish to do so. In addition to the relief efforts for the people of Haiti, we would also like to provide information for some ways in which you can help the animals in Haiti.

Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH):

"ARCH was created to address the needs of animals in Haiti in this time of crisis. The coalition is headed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), and in addition to the ASPCA, consists of a number of animal welfare groups, including American Humane, Best Friends, the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International....There are an estimated 5 million head of livestock in the country (mostly goats), a large stray dog population, and an untold number of companion animals and native wildlife all adversely affected by the earthquake." -ASPCA

If you would like to contribute to these efforts, please visit these websites:

[International Fund for Animal Welfare \(IFAW\)](#)

[World Society for the Protection of Animals \(WSPA\)](#)



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When your neighbors ask ...

The College's front door to the Internet -- www.vet.cornell.edu -- is going through a reorganization, based on input from a steering committee. Watch for reorganized and some new content next month.

The Cornell University Hospital for Animals will begin a radio advertising campaign on WYXL and WQNY within the next few weeks, an initiative that will complement a direct mail effort to veterinarians in New York State and the northern counties of Pennsylvania.

Many Cornellians are engaged in a University-wide effort to streamline operations. [More information](#). The sixth in a series of events focused on strategic planning and discussion of the task force reports submitted to the Provost's office last fall will be held in February. [More information](#).

The cover story in the November/December 2009 issue of the Cornell Alumni Magazine highlights the documentary, *The Philosopher Kings*, which explores the personal and professional lives of university custodians, including the College's very own Gary Napieracz. [Read World Wise](#).

The College released the 2009 annual report this fall, sharing mission-driven stories about the College, our faculty and students. [Read the issue online](#).

Dean Kotlikoff offered the State of the College in December, offering an update on the budget and progress made toward realizing strategic plan initiatives. [Listen to the presentation](#). (You will need to log in to access the College network. Please be patient. It is a large file and loads slowly.)



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Mark your calendars

In addition to the many seminars, lectures, [continuing education](#) opportunities, and public events sponsored by the College, please note the following:

Professor Steven Gal, of Cornell's Johnson School, will present a session introducing entrepreneurship to scientists on January 27, 2010. [More information.](#)

The second annual [Zoonotics Symposium](#) is scheduled for March 5-7, 2010.

The 44th annual Open House is scheduled for April 10, 2010. [More information.](#)

The second annual Pedal for Pets bike-a-thon has been scheduled for April 24, 2010. This year's event will benefit the Patient Assistance Fund at CUHA. The event is an excellent opportunity to support our College and members of the community who might not otherwise be able to afford medical care for their pets. Organized by SCAVMA, students are looking for riders and volunteers. [More information and registration form.](#)

Soup and Hope is an event that will be held every other Wednesday (except for Feb. 17) at noon in Sage Chapel. The free winter series invites you to bring a bowl and come inside for some steaming soup with hearty bread--and to listen to stories of hope. These stories come from individuals in our community whose bold and compassionate efforts toward lasting social change promise to nurture and sustain us through the cold days ahead. The schedule is as follows:

February 3 - Paula Younger
 March 3 - Kate Speizer
 March 17 - James Casey
 March 31 - Edward Arnold
 April 14 - Kathleen Rourke

This series is co-sponsored by Cornell Dining, Cornell United Religious Work (CURW), the Center for Transformative Action, CU Wellness, the Department of Music, Division of Human Resources, the Employee Assembly and Gannett Health Services.

