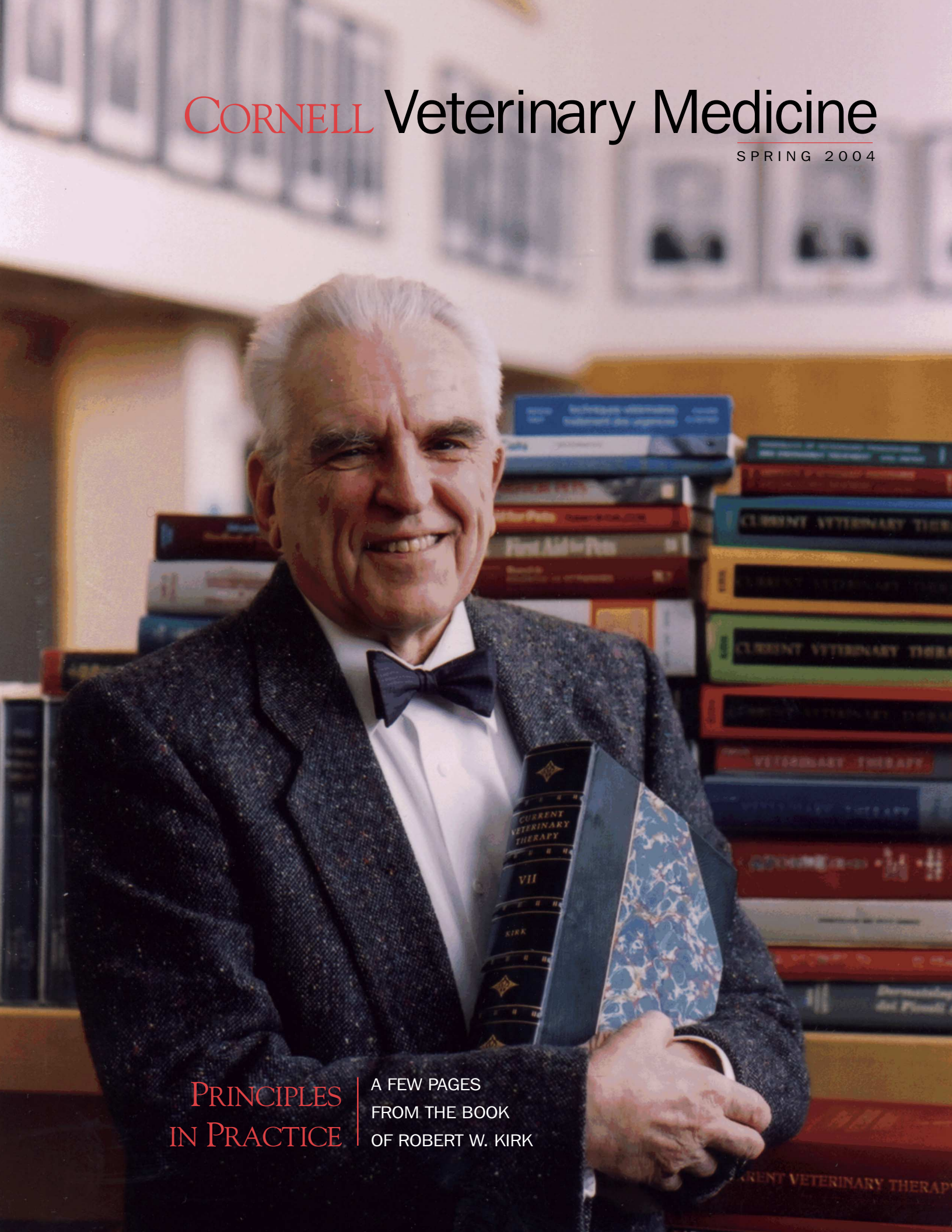


# CORNELL Veterinary Medicine

SPRING 2004



PRINCIPLES  
IN PRACTICE

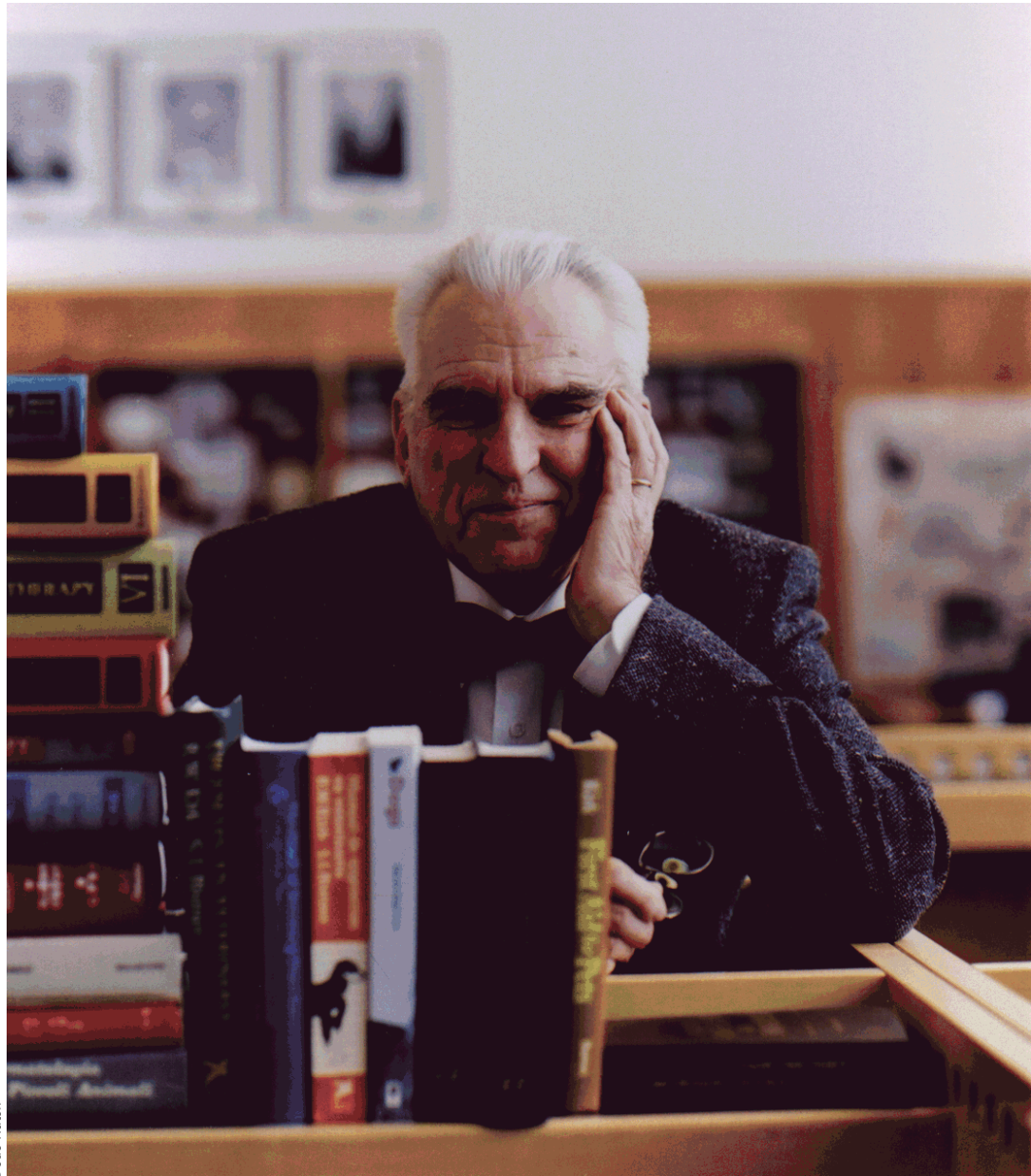
A FEW PAGES  
FROM THE BOOK  
OF ROBERT W. KIRK



# PRINCIPLES

## contents

- 9 Don't Forget the Horse Doctor
- 10 A Case of Mistaken Memory
- 15 Auxiliary
- 18 Torres Testifies
- 18 CVM People
- 24 Endnote



Dede Hatch

# IN PRACTICE

Robert W. Kirk, DVM '46 was out standing in a field — a potato field, to be exact — when Dean William Hagan called in 1952 to invite him to interview for a position at Cornell. Hadley Stephenson, DVM '20 was retiring from the Small Animal Clinic, and Ellis Leonard, DVM '34 needed to replace him. Kirk had also been offered a position in the recently established veterinary college at the University of California, Davis, but he opted for the known quantity.

The “quantity”, he knew, would not be much. “Bob Kirk and E. P. Leonard were the faculty in small animals, let’s face it,” says Mark Morris, Jr., DVM '58.

From such an unpromising start grew one of the most prolific careers ever seen in veterinary clinical practice. Kirk would do as much as anyone of any generation before or since to elevate the standards of small-animal practice, not only at Cornell, but throughout the profession.

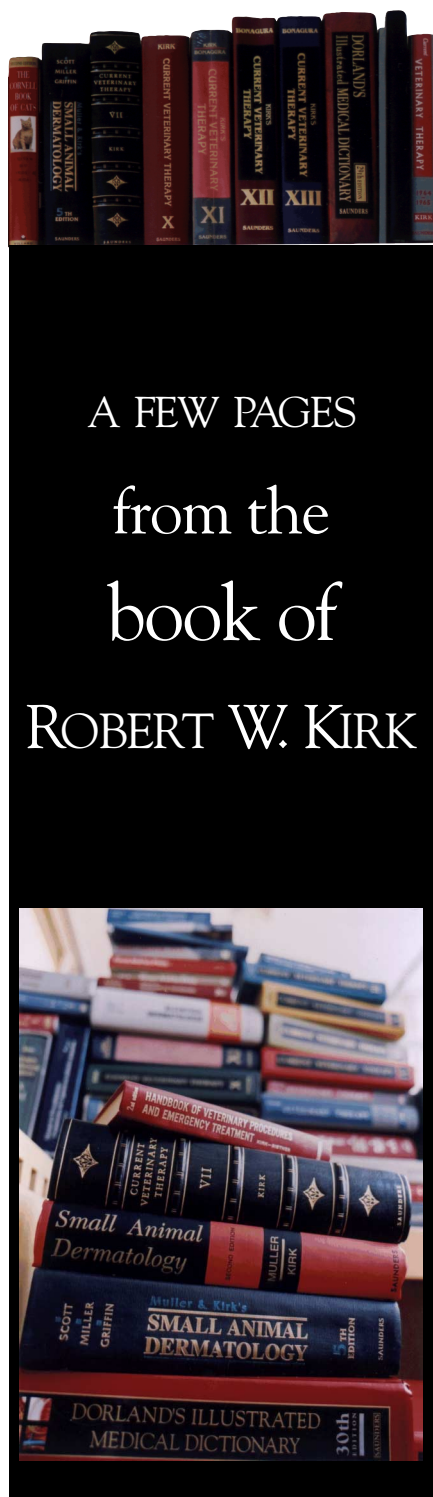
Dean Hagan had tracked Kirk down, or up, in Presque Isle, Maine, where he was finishing his tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force Veterinary Corps. Captain Kirk was picking potatoes because the farmers neighboring the base were short of labor, and he thought he’d go help. Bob Kirk is like that. He has spent his whole life working as hard as he can to be as helpful as he knows how to be.

Born and raised in Stamford, Connecticut as the older child of a Depression-era banker, Kirk has all the Yankee virtues: enterprise, thrift, ingenuity, fairness, honesty, simplicity, charity, dignity, humility, stoicism, and a formidable work ethic. An Eagle Scout with three palms, he was an industrious teen-

ager with a love of the outdoors. His work on a nearby Guernsey farm inspired him to major in dairy and animal husbandry at the University of Connecticut, and he graduated with high distinction. The student’s interest in cattle was serious enough that he won the beef-cattle category of the judging competition at the 1941 International Livestock Show. That summer he worked on another dairy farm, Judd’s Bridge. While there, he first glimpsed his future — or thought he had.

Judd’s Bridge Farm was home to the top Brown Swiss herd in the world. When a daughter of the most famous Brown Swiss of all, Jane of Vernon, developed *hydrops amnii* of the uterus, of course the top veterinarian in the region was called in to save her. “They invited Myron Fincher [DVM '20], this very famous veterinarian from Cornell, to come down and try to solve this cow’s problem and get a live calf out of her,” remembers Kirk. “He spent almost the whole day on the farm, and I was one of the lucky guys who was assigned to help him. I was totally impressed by what he could do and what he showed me.” Fincher encouraged the young man to apply to Cornell. “I came to Cornell as a cattleman,” says Kirk, enjoying the irony.

Before he could go to veterinary college, Kirk had to join the Army, the year being 1943. Fortune continued to smile on him, however. “Strangely enough, the service sent me to Cornell,” he says, and, like many in his class, he entered through the Army Specialized Training Program. “After I got here,” he continues, “I got to see what was possible with small animals. I sort of shifted gears.” He decided to enter



Dede Hatch

mixed practice after graduation and went to work for David Hopkins, DVM '30 in Brattleboro, Vermont.

"That was a tremendous experience," says Kirk. "He was a practitioner who believed in service, and I learned how important it was to support people." But the young practitioner also realized how much more work there was to be done for small animals. After a year or so in Vermont, he took a staff position at the ASPCA Hospital in New York City. "I spent a year and a half there doing nothing but surgery, five or six hours a day," he recalls. "It was a real production-line thing. Many of the cases that a solo practitioner would see once or twice a year I'd see once or twice a month. I got a lot of experience."

Kirk wanted to take that experience back into general practice, and he asked his good friend Harmon Leonard, DVM '44, who was practicing in Cheshire, Connecticut, if he knew anyone who was hiring. Leonard pointed him ten miles down the road to the Kensington practice of John P. McIntosh, DVM '28. McIntosh gave him a job.

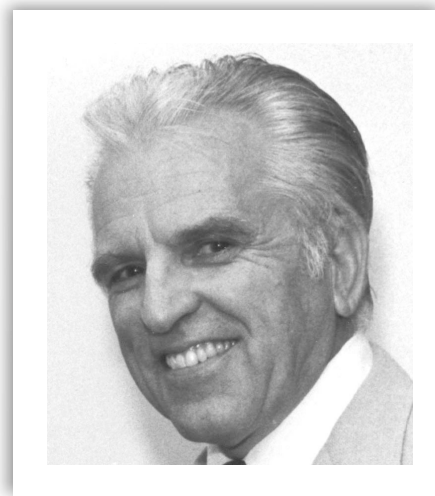
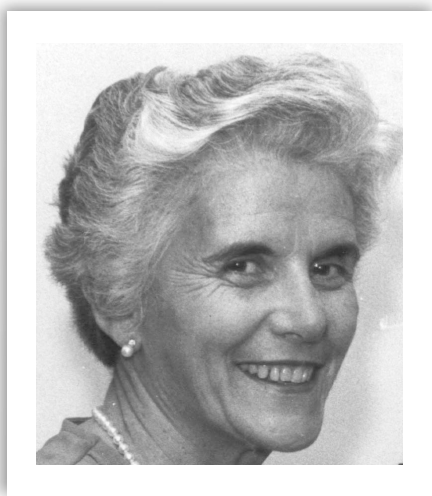
Kirk remembers the next two years as happy ones, even though they included frequent trips home and to the hospital to visit his dying mother. On one such trip he encountered a nurse named Helen Grandish on the sidewalk outside the hospital. The young veterinarian remembered her as a woman he had met at a beach party the year before. He proposed that they go horseback riding. "And from then on we dated a lot," he says. His mother lived long enough to see them marry.

Happy though he was in general practice, Kirk felt the burden of some unfinished business. "I began to feel that I had not done as much for the United States Government as I should have," he explains. "They had sent me to school for a year, so I volunteered and enlisted in the Air Force as a first lieutenant." And so he came to be based in Presque Isle, where he spent two years "jiggering around the state of Maine,

looking at packing houses and herds and dairies," and got promoted to captain.

Kirk the assistant professor arrived at Cornell in 1952, a pivotal time for small-animal medicine. Cornell's Veterinary Virus Research Institute, directed by the brilliant virologist and bacteriologist James A. Baker, DVM '40, PhD '40, was just introducing the first major vaccine — for canine infectious hepatitis — to be developed for dogs since the rabies vaccine. Baker and his associates, who in the earliest years included future professor and dean George Poppensiek and future profes-

DVM '26 of Summit, New Jersey to head the Department of Therapeutics and the Small Animal Clinic, and he arrived determined to turn things around. "Before E. P. Leonard, Cornell was way behind the times in small-animal veterinary medicine," asserts George Abbott, DVM '45, who graduated from veterinary college six months before Kirk. "When I graduated, when Bob graduated, we were all quite proficient in large-animal medicine. Small-animal was another story," Abbott continues. "Like most veterinary colleges, we were still using ether, a highly



**Helen and Bob Kirk, photographed at his retirement party in 1985.**

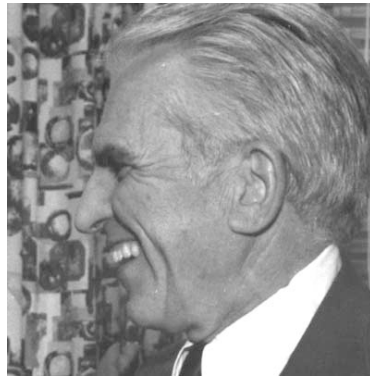
sor and department chairman James Gillespie, were also doing definitive work on canine distemper and other viruses that would give practitioners the first effective means to protect their canine patients from the serious infectious diseases of the time.

In contrast, small-animal clinical medicine had historically been downplayed at Cornell, as it had been at most veterinary colleges, because tradition and the marketplace favored large-animal medicine. In 1948 Ellis Leonard had been recruited from private practice in association with Joseph Engle,

dangerous anesthetic that goes way back to rudimentary veterinary medicine. E. P. Leonard came up here and instituted sterile surgery and improved anesthesia, and he revamped and upgraded the whole small-animal curriculum."

"Leonard ran the hospital like a very good practice," recalls Kirk. "He wanted to make it pay. He raised the prices enough that he could hire technical staff and interns, which we had never had before. He built the program on that. Shortly after I came there were Leonard and myself and two interns — we didn't have residents in those days.





**Kirk and his mentor, Dr. E. P. Leonard. Leonard introduced sterile technique to academic veterinary medicine and upgraded Cornell's small-animal curriculum.**

Leonard was very anxious to get in people who were high-quality — smart, hard workers.”

“E. P. Leonard was relatively strict and tough,” says Abbott, “but Bob picked it all up and went into the small-animal department with that approach. They completely changed small-animal veterinary medicine in a matter of a very few years, and gained preeminence.”

“Leonard was a practitioner at heart and had the practitioners’ needs at heart, which certainly rubbed off on me,” reflects Kirk. “So our emphasis was to try to help the people in the field.” Soon he was sharing what he had learned about small-animal medicine with veterinary groups throughout the nation and around the world. He was keen to spread the word about the vaccine work being done at Baker’s institute on Snyder Hill. “I piggybacked a lot on the things that they did in the talks that I gave,” says Kirk. “I would try to explain the things that they’d done, and how important all those new vaccines were. I’ve always been very grateful for those guys up at the Baker Institute and their great cooperation.” In 30 years of active public speaking, Kirk delivered approximately 400 continuing-education lectures in addition

to the scientific presentations he made at major meetings.

Leonard’s influence and the six years of real-world veterinary experience that Bob Kirk brought to Cornell shaped his entire approach to teaching. “The most important thing that Kirk did,” says Abbott, a retired practitioner and lifelong friend who often returned to watch him teach, “was to instill an appreciation of outside medicine in students while they were still in school. He told them the situations they were going to face and the compromises they were going to have to make.”

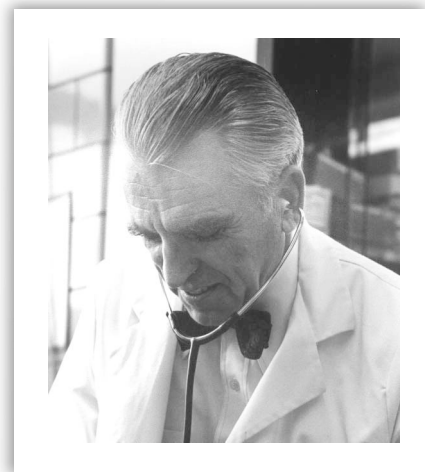
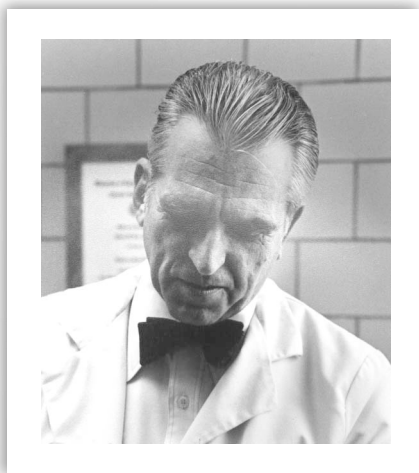
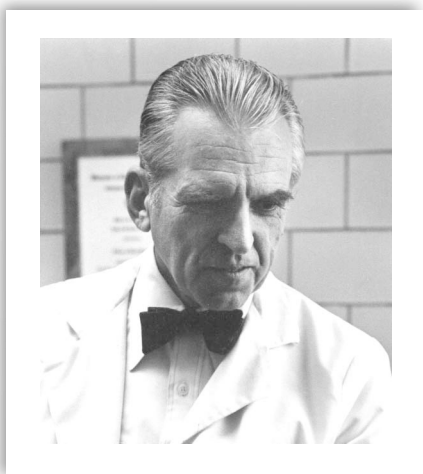
Mark Morris, Jr., the developer of Hill’s Science Diet® and other animal-nutrition products and another of Kirk’s close friends, had his first contact with the young professor as a third-year student in a course called *Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. “Because of his prior practice experience, we got an extremely beneficial course in small-animal medicine,” recalls Morris. “It ended up being for many of us one of the most useful and educational courses that we took in veterinary school.”

Stephen Ettinger, DVM ’64, a foremost small-animal cardiologist and internist who is currently preparing the sixth edition of his authoritative two-

volume *Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine: Diseases of the Dog and Cat*, was intending to pursue a research career in comparative medicine when he entered Kirk’s classroom for the first time. He walked out with a completely different focus: “One hour in his class convinced me that I should become a small-animal veterinarian, and the entire direction of my career has been based on the excitement, enthusiasm, and verve of having him as a teacher. He displayed all the characteristics of a fine teacher, a fine practitioner, and a fine human being.”

Kirk’s range as a teacher and clinician was by all accounts fantastic. “In those days there was no such thing as oncology, cardiology, neurology... Bob was medicine,” says Cornell neurology and neuroanatomy professor Alexander de Lahunta, who graduated with Morris in 1958. “He taught the entire pharmacology that we took in veterinary college; he taught all of small-animal medicine, every system,” he says admiringly. “He’s an excellent teacher, and he taught right from his experience, including what he had just seen downstairs in the clinic.”

Michael Lorenz, professor and interim dean at Oklahoma State



University's College of Veterinary Medicine, met Kirk as an intern in 1969. He writes, "Dr. Kirk was one of the best diagnosticians I have worked with in my career. He was a magician at symptomatic therapy of dermatological diseases and light years ahead of most everyone else in this discipline. I left Cornell with a tremendous background in internal medicine, dermatology, and neurology. I am amazed how much I remember about my three years at Cornell. Strong mentors make lasting impressions. Suffice it to say that I consider Dr. Kirk to be among a select few academicians who brought small-animal medicine into the twentieth century."

Professor Kirk was also considerably more approachable than his faculty elders. De Lahunta, who is himself one of the greats of veterinary medicine, wipes tears of laughter as he fondly remembers the dour faces on some of the great academics of the time: "Some people were very straightlaced, like Leonard, or P. P. Levine in poultry — fantastic lecturer! His lectures were so good, so precise, and so organized, and you learned so much microbiology. But oh, you talk about straightlaced! You didn't ask him a question. Pete Olafson was sort of the same way. Pete Olafson had a heart of gold, but on the outside it was crushed stone! And then we had "Smilin' Bob" Habel, who ultimately was one of my mentors. Fantastic guy, but he never cracked a smile. But Bob

Kirk was just the opposite, very outgoing, and would encourage questions, and really interacted with the students in a very congenial way."

As a boss, Kirk inspired respect and devotion. "As an intern, resident, and graduate student," remembers Ronald Riis, a professor of ophthalmology who came to Cornell in 1971, "I knew Bob as the almighty last say in how this place was going to be run, how this place would look, and the reputation it would have. You didn't want to do anything that would make Dr. Kirk feel like you didn't understand what he wanted. He expected you to know what was supposed to be done, he expected you to pull your own, and he expected you to share with others. It was impressed in everybody's mind that this was an institution that was going to keep going forward."

Dermatology professor Danny Scott, who was trained by Kirk and later shared a clinical service with him, remembers him as a man who always had time to give attention to his staff. "He might not be on service; he might have a full plate of administrative stuff; but it seemed like almost every day he would be walking through the clinic and making personal contact with every faculty member. He really cared about the quality of the work environment; he really cared about each individual and how we all got along. There's never been an administrator here at any level that I'm aware of that gave that much. I don't

know where he found the time."

Kirk, though, remembers the administrator who taught him the value of personal attention. "Hagan as the dean was tremendous. As a boss, he was outstanding. One of the things I really remember very well and treasure was, you'd be operating — and in those days, you know, there were no gloves and masks; it was a little crude — and somebody would come put his hand on your shoulder, and Hagan's head would appear. He'd say, 'How are you doing this morning, Bob?' and then he'd disappear. And you knew that the boss knew you were alive, and that was wonderful. Although he was a hard man and wanted things done right, he got a lot of cooperation from his groups, I thought. He did from me."

Although gentler in his approach than Hagan, Kirk nonetheless expected a high degree of professionalism from his clinicians, including students. In addition to shouldering their responsibilities and cooperating with their colleagues, he expected them to dress in a manner he deemed professional. "I was

pretty hard on students,” admits Kirk. “Everybody had to wear a necktie and be well groomed.” Kirk himself favored a bow tie and a crewcut. “They used to have competitions for Rotten Tie Day on Friday when they had the senior seminars. I won for weeks without knowing I was even entered.”

Despite the humor it inspired, Kirk’s dress code delivered a powerful and effective message. Says Morris, “That was really important in commu-

nicated the pride that he had in his profession, and a way of teaching us to be professional people. That has stuck with me all of my life, and I have always worn a coat and tie whenever I’ve made a presentation to a professional group, because of what I learned from him.”

Lorenz braved the wit of his colleagues for several years (very capably, to be sure) after carrying the Kirk standard home to the South. “At Georgia,” he writes, “I was teased for looking like

an ice-cream salesman, but I continued to wear the white shirt, tie, white coat, white pants, and white shoes for many years. I even gave the bow tie a try for a while, but it clashed with my big ears.” More seriously, he adds, “I still wear a long white coat when I lecture and consult on neurology cases in our hospital. I wear it out of respect for my teachers and my profession, and to honor Dr. Kirk.”

Danny Scott arrived at Cornell in the same intern class as Ron Riis. “When I got here,” he relates, “Bob was director of the Small Animal Clinic, head of the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, and a service chief in small-animal medicine. There were two faculty people in medicine, two faculty people in surgery, a surgery resident, a medicine resident, an ophthalmologist, an ophthalmology resident, and four interns. That was the entire Small Animal Clinic. I look back on that decade or so from 1971 on as the golden years insofar as most of us were just getting our start, aside from Bob Kirk. In terms of small-animal medicine and surgery, we were kind of the ‘Avis’ of veterinary schools, second or third or fourth or twentieth, whatever we were. We were trying awfully hard with no names, the No-Name Defense.”

But Kirk was, in fact, beginning to make a very big name for himself and Cornell. “Bob was on the cutting edge of change,” says Riis, “of modern veterinary medicine the way we see it now. He embraced it.”

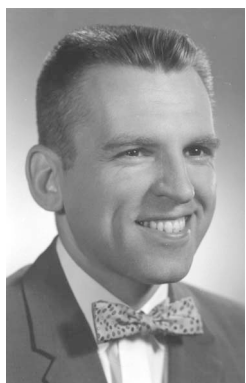
By the close of the 1960s, Kirk had produced *Small Animal Dermatology* in collaboration with George Muller, *Handbook of Veterinary Procedures and Emergency Treatment* with Stephen Bistner, and the first three editions of *Current Veterinary Therapy*, a ground-breaking series that is currently in its fifteenth edition under new editors. Kirk was sole editor of the first ten volumes and collaborated with John B. Bonagura on Volume XI. Each edition was a new book rather than a revision; Kirk be-



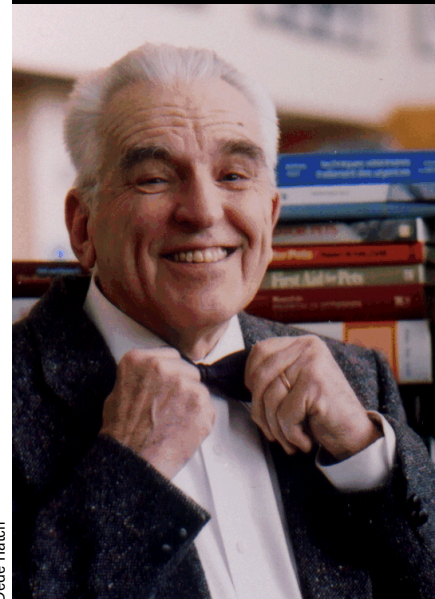
C. Hadley Smith

Kirk in 1954, teaching veterinary wives how to assist their husbands in practice.





**Kirk (above, in 1962) was a stickler for professional dress. He expected his clinicians and students to wear a necktie and be well groomed. Kirk himself favored a bow tie and a crewcut. "They used to have competitions for Rotten Tie Day on Friday when they had the senior seminars. I won for weeks without knowing I was even entered."**



Dede Hatch

lieved that it had to be in order to justify its title. The series has sold nearly 300,000 copies to date, which may be a record in veterinary publishing.

As the sales figures and the numbers of revised and translated editions attest, Kirk's books filled a great, unmet need among the practicing community for specialized information. In order to become specialized himself in dermatology, he had taken a sabbatical leave to train as a National Science Foundation fellow with the physician dermatologists at Stanford University's School of Medicine. On an earlier sabbatic funded by Morris Animal Foundation, he had sought experience with renal diseases and with hemodialysis and ultrasound — very new technologies in 1960 — at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The need for specialty training in veterinary medicine seemed obvious to him, so he did something about it. He became instrumental in the formation and governance of several specialty boards within the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Kirk began by forming the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine with a group of other leading practitioners in 1970. He went on to serve that organization in various posts, including the presidency and the chairmanship of its board of regents. In 1988 the ACVIM recognized his contributions by making him the first recipient of an award created in his honor, the Robert W. Kirk Distinguished Service Award.

Ten years later he became a founding diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, an organization he served as secretary/treasurer and president. Two years after that he helped found the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, which he also served in a variety of offices including president.

Concurrent with his efforts in founding these organizations, Kirk served two terms on the AVMA's Council on Education. He also became involved in 1970 with the Seeing Eye Foundation, on whose board he served for 21 years. "That's something I was quite proud of," he says. "It was an in-

teresting experience, because the other people on the board were Wall Street bankers and attorneys and all kinds of people who were big in business. I think they liked having me on the board because I had experience with dogs and animals, but I also wasn't afraid to tell them where the bear got in the buckwheat." As a member of their building committee, Kirk helped oversee construction of two dog facilities and a \$5 million veterinary hospital. As a monument to his hard work and unerring good sense, the Seeing Eye dedicated the Robert W. Kirk Canine Health Library in 1997.

"To me," says Danny Scott, "to this day, I don't know how one person accomplished all of that and accomplished it well, not only with expertise, but with graciousness and joy and integrity. From editing the books to working in the clinics to speaking around the world, he literally knew more, I believe, than any small-animal veterinarian in the world."

Kirk formed deep and lasting connections with many people. (He still exchanges Christmas greetings with his long-ago boss, "Doc" McIntosh, who is closing in on 100 years of age.) "He doesn't just meet people and drop them," observes Harmon Leonard. "He follows up on their friendship. When I think about Bob, I just overflow with enthusiasm and respect for him, and admiration. I don't know of a truer friend you can have than Bob Kirk. If he thought you were wrong on some issue, he'd tell you so. Bob is just one of the most straightforward, honest individuals that I've ever known. I've always treasured our friendship."

"I admired the fact that he was so deeply academic," says Riis, "but so uncommonly calm, and so common. Sure, he could tell you about any disease; he had the scope of the whole field of small-animal practice. But on the other hand, it wasn't beneath him to sit and chat with you. It was never his desire to be thought of as better than everybody else. You could tell him anything you wanted to, and if he knew it shouldn't go anywhere, it didn't. That's exactly the way it was."

For Scott, Kirk was "the single



greatest teacher that I ever had in veterinary medicine, the single greatest role model for being not only a veterinarian but a good person, and my father figure, my dad-away-from-home for years and years and years."

Morris, who had a stellar professional role model in Mark Morris, Sr., DVM '26, still says of Kirk, "Except for my own father, he has been my father in veterinary medicine. He's the man I have most tried to emulate in my professional career." The senior Morris, a pioneer of enlightened small-animal practice, started the specialty of veterinary clinical nutrition with his development of Prescription Diets, a brand manufactured by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

Professor William Hornbuckle, head of the community practice service in Cornell's Companion Animal Hospital, works every day under the portrait of Kirk that he had hung alongside Leonard's in the treatment pod where he teaches students how to practice in the real world. "Kirk was *the* veterinarian in the profession when I was entering it. He's the veterinarian I always wanted to be, although not at his level of national prominence. I just wanted to be as good as he was... He's probably the greatest influence in my life."

Hornbuckle is particularly proud to

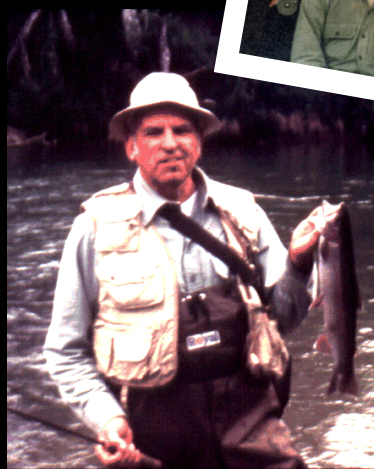
be forever linked to Kirk through the Gentle Doctor Award, which is given each year to a fourth-year veterinary student who exemplifies dedication to the delivery of excellent veterinary patient care. Hornbuckle created the award in 1979 by donating his prize money from the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. Bob and Helen Kirk showed their support for Hornbuckle's idea and ideals by contributing the funds to endow the award permanently. It was, is, and always will be for Hornbuckle a very special honor.

Kirk himself has received many honors in his career. In addition to the ACVIM's Kirk Award and the naming of the Seeing Eye's Robert W. Kirk Canine Health Library, he is especially proud of his election to honorary associate membership in the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (as the only American at the time to hold that distinction), and his selection as the second recipient of the Mark L. Morris, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1985, at age 63, Kirk decided to step off the fast track. "I remember going to his retirement party," says Hornbuckle. "Man, every veterinarian in the country seemed like they showed up for that."

In a culture where it is not unusual for emeritus professors to keep coming to the office for a good 10 or 20 more years, this most prolific author, tireless world traveler, progressive clinician, committed administrator, engaging teacher, and visionary organizer surprised nearly everyone when he retired. He left. Kirk went home.

He comes back to visit, but not often. The offhand explanation he gives is that he has not wanted to be the sort of old-timer who stops busy people in their tracks to talk. While it is very difficult to imagine Kirk wasting anyone's time, it is true that he has no desire to stand in the way of progress, whether on an individual or an institutional scale. More importantly, though, he recognized when he retired that he had already done two or three ordinary lifetimes' worth of work and had lost family time in the process. His "day job" aside, he notes that he and his wife, Helen, who handled many of the production tasks, put many thousands of hours into producing the eleven volumes of *Current Veterinary Therapy* plus all the editions of his other books. He



Kirk traveled the world fishing with his friends. Above, in Quebec: BACK ROW, L TO R.: Bo Jackson, Bud Wright, Mark Jackson, George Abbott. FRONT ROW: Bob Kirk, Warren Parker.

traveled a lot, taking his wife when he could, but often leaving her behind to raise their three daughters. His clinic and teaching duties placed heavy demands on his time, particularly when his daughters were young, and he regrets the time that he didn't spend with them. "I was a workaholic, and I think

the board. After moving into Kendal at Ithaca, a local retirement community, he joined their board of trustees. He was also appointed by the state governor to a six-year term on the New York State Life Care Communities Council, which oversees and regulates all the retirement communities in the state. And Kendal

great dedication and skill for many years as a way to enjoy the outdoors with his friends. "I fished with him many, many times," says Harmon Leonard, "up in Alaska and Canada, and in New Zealand; he's been out at the ranch fishing with me in Colorado many times." He and Ron Riis used to go deer hunt-

ing every November. "Without a doubt, Bob would always get his deer right off the bat, because he was a very good shot," remembers Riis. George Abbott, who looks like he has told a few fish stories in his life, gives this poker-faced assessment: "He took fishing seriously, and he was a good fisherman... fairly good. Not as good as I am. He was a bird hunter, within reason — not near as good as I am, but he was a bird hunter." Unprompted, Kirk says of Abbott: "He's a super fisherman. Not too good a hunter yet. He's great with birds, but he doesn't know much about deer, and you can tell him I said that." What are friends for?

"There were a half dozen of us who traveled all over the world, fishing," says Kirk. "We've been to Australia, New Zealand. We went to Norway one time for ten days and nobody caught a single fish. Nobody had a single strike, even, but everyone had a wonderful time." Kirk adds that he and

his wife traveled together as much as possible when he had meetings to attend. Together they visited Spain, England, France, Norway, Luxembourg, Holland, South America, South Africa, Austria, India, Yugoslavia, Greece, Iceland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan.

It is not surprising, then, that travel becomes Kirk's metaphor for everything he has seen and done in his extraordinary life.

"Anyway," he concludes, "it's been a good tour."



Dede Hatch

**Kirk pitched the idea of starting a woodworking shop at his retirement community and helped equip it with his own power tools. Now he assists some of his fellow residents with their woodworking projects. "If you don't get involved in things, you miss half the fun."**

that's terrible. I think your family should come first, or the Lord first, and that will keep the other things in perspective. It's very difficult to achieve balance in one's life, but I think it's very important to do. Work hard at your job, but it shouldn't be the first thing in the world."

Bob Kirk is a deeply devout Christian, and he and his wife were very active in their church for decades. It could probably go without saying that he has done everything for his church from delivering meals to shut-ins to chairing

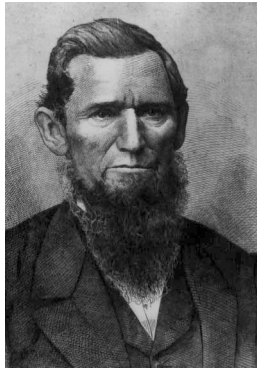
now has an expansive, superbly equipped woodworking shop in the basement. That was Kirk's doing, of course, and many of the power tools came out of his own basement. Now he assists some of his fellow residents with their woodworking projects. "You see something that needs to be done and you do it," he explains as though this was really simple. "If you don't get involved in things, you miss half the fun."

Kirk has had to concede two beloved hobbies to advancing age: hunting and fishing. He pursued both with



# DON'T FORGET THE HORSE DOCTOR

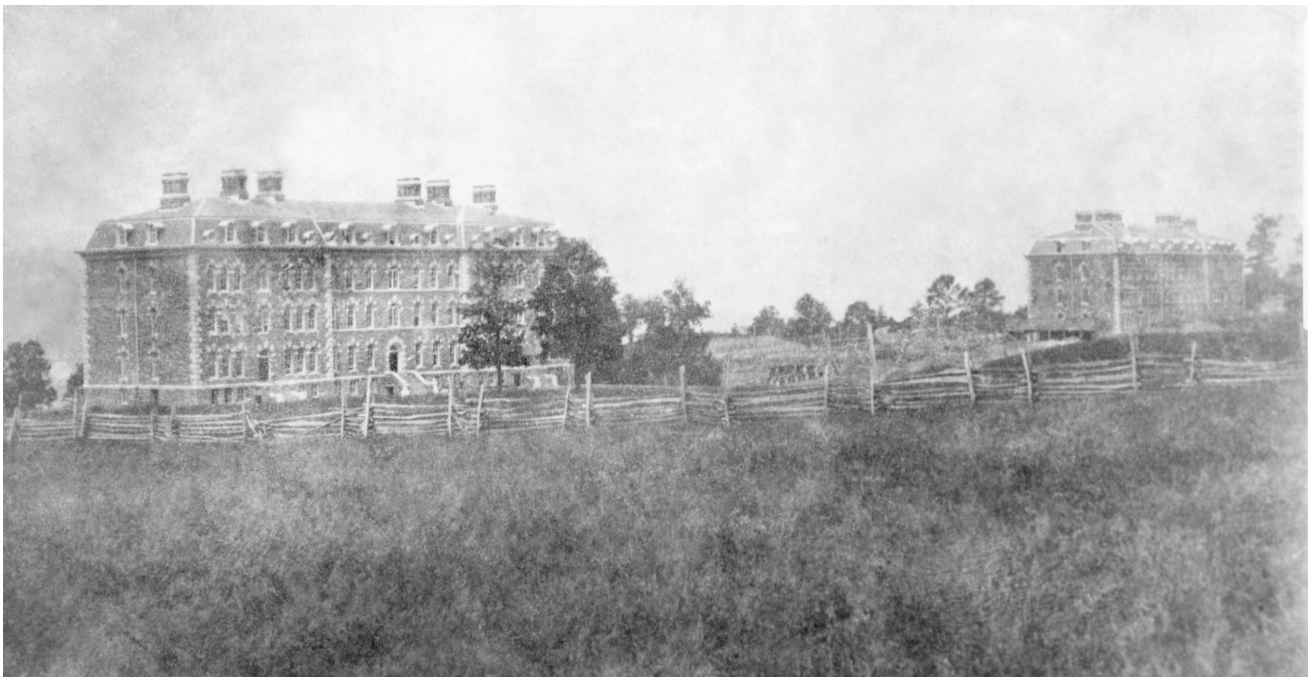
Ezra Cornell's  
veterinary dream,  
135 years later



Adapted from Dean Donald F. Smith's Founder's Day address  
to the Cornell Alumni Association of Greater Rochester

Ezra Cornell, who endowed this university with his name, his land, his wealth, and his social philosophy, was a practical soul. Although he made his fortune building a telegraph network for Samuel F. B. Morse, his roots and his heart were in farming. When he walked away from the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1855, weary of the infighting, he finally had the financial means to buy the land he had long wanted — a broad, relatively flat hilltop expanse with the most precipitous boundaries in the Ithaca area, the gorges formed by

Cascadilla and Fall Creeks. This majestic tract at the crown of East Hill had earlier belonged to Simeon DeWitt, surveyor-general of New York. Cornell had already bought and forfeited the land nearly two decades earlier as his fortunes rose and fell. It was also from this hilltop prospect that the 21-year-old Cornell, trudging to Ithaca from Homer in search of work, had first viewed the tidy geometry of the village of Ithaca and beyond it the craggy outline and deep, blue waters of Cayuga Lake.



Photos: Cornell University Archives

**Rooted in agriculture:** Cornell University's newly erected South and North University Buildings (Morrill and White Halls) in 1868. Ezra Cornell's cow pasture was still waiting to be transformed into the Arts Quad. The founder of the University is pictured above.

Cornell bought back his land in 1857 and was soon raising prize-winning purebred cattle and experimenting with crops. He organized a farm club, provided Ithaca with an agricultural reading room, and cultivated the agricultural leaders of the state. He became increasingly aware of the dearth of sound knowledge available to farmers, never moreso than as he tried desperately to save a sick heifer, to no avail. "Ignorant of the disease I did not know what remedy to apply," he is quoted as having regretfully explained. But Cornell was a problem-solver; lacking a short-term solution, he set his sights on the long view. He learned as much as he could about agriculture. He got elected to the New York State legislature and was appointed chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. In the same year he was elected president of the New

York State Agricultural Society. As he gained experience, his thinking progressed, until at last he had his remedy: he would found a university.

Being thoroughly rooted in the realm of practical science, Cornell wanted his university to give men and women of all races and circumstances access to an education that would make them useful to society. It would take the scholarly influence of Andrew Dickson White, Cornell's first president, to add the notion of liberal, or theoretical, education and ensure that the university would "afford an asylum for science — where truth shall be sought for truth's sake." At the inauguration of Cornell University on October 7, 1868, George William Curtis, a leading literary figure and social reformer, recalled the dream that White had revealed to him ten years earlier as a professor at the Univer-

sity of Michigan: "...in central New York there should arise a university which ...should take hold of the chief interest of this country, which is agriculture; then it should rise — step by step, grade by grade — until it fulfilled the highest ideal of what a university should be."

When Cornell's university opened its doors to students, those doors opened out onto his pasture. Cows still grazed from time to time outside Morrill Hall, which was then called South University Building. Working inside the building — and sometimes out in the pasture as well — was a young professor of particular importance to our college of veterinary medicine, and indeed to the entire veterinary profession. He was, of course, Dr. James Law of the British Royal Veterinary College, a Scotsman of clear vision, profound intellect, and indestructible resolve. A. D. White had

## a case of mistaken memory

**C**herished legend has it that Ezra Cornell accompanied Andrew Dickson White to New York in 1868 to see him off for Europe. White was embarking in search of books, equipment, and two special professors whom he and Cornell

hoped to recruit for their new university: Goldwin Smith, Regius professor of history at Oxford University, and James Law of the Royal Veterinary College in London. The famed reminder that still rings in our minds' ears is Cornell's shout from the pier: "Don't forget the horse doctor!"

If only he had said that.

**Andrew Dickson White, first president of Cornell University**



Donald Smith has invoked this line, like other deans before him. But something caused him to wonder, as he prepared his remarks for this year's Founder's Day observance in Rochester, whether he ought to verify its authenticity before invoking it again. Perhaps it was the equivocal way in which Ellis Leonard presented the story in *A Cornell Heritage*, his history of the Law years. Leonard said that the legend had been so often recounted that "today it is often taken as factual." He cautioned that "in all probability Cornell did not escort White farther than the Ithaca train station."

Leonard took his information from a footnote in Morris Bishop's immensely readable *A History of Cornell*, which was published in 1962. There on the bottom of page 84 Bishop writes:

*According to an oft-repeated anecdote, told in White's Autobiography, Ezra Cornell saw White off in New York, and as the ship drew away from the pier he cupped his hands and shouted across the gap: "Don't forget the horse-doctor!" But it seems certain that Cornell was not in New York for the leave-taking. Probably White's memory transposed the circumstance from the Ithaca station to the ship's pier.*

Bishop then cites correspondence from Max Farrand to George Lincoln Burr that began on 27 October 1913.

At this point Laura Finkel, veterinary college archivist, entered the hunt. She pulled the Burr papers out of the vault and found that the cited correspondence began with Farrand's question to Burr, a professor of medieval history and





gone in search of a gifted veterinarian at the behest of Ezra Cornell, but the man he found in London also embraced the highest aspirations of true science.

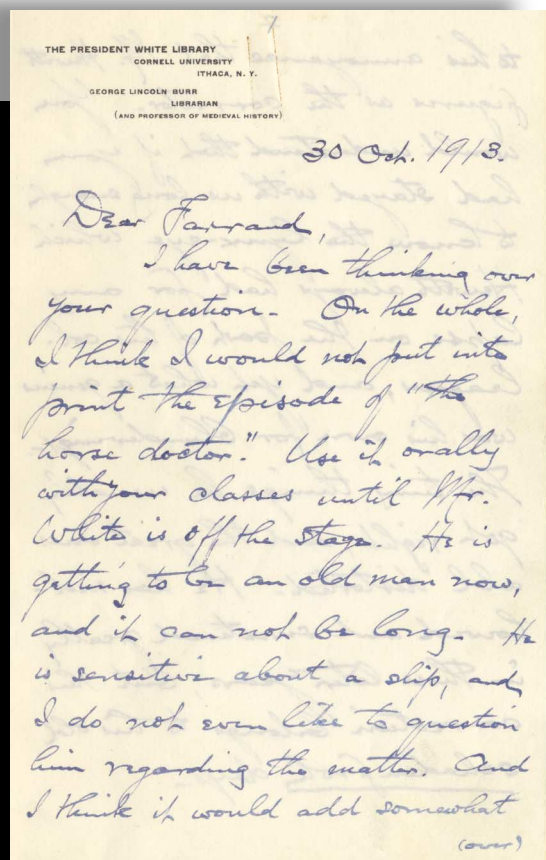
Law arrived intent on establishing a science-based veterinary curriculum and uniform high standards for the training and licensing of veterinarians in the state. After a protracted and sometimes painful gestation of 26 years, the New York State Veterinary College was granted a charter in 1894 and welcomed its first classes in the fall of 1896. Albany broke new legislative ground in establishing this state-supported college at a private university. The founding of the agriculture college ten years later would follow this precedent.

The academic standards established by Law and his small team of fac-

ulty moved the veterinary profession in the United States "from empiricism and superstition to a sound scientific base," as stated in a centennial proclamation from Governor Mario Cuomo. Whereas most U.S. veterinary colleges had their roots in animal husbandry, Law insisted that veterinary medicine as it was to be studied at Cornell would be more closely allied to medicine than to agriculture. This defining concept was endorsed by Cornell's third president, Jacob Gould Schurman, and served to stave off a hostile attempt by Liberty Hyde Bailey, dean of the new agriculture college, to subsume veterinary medicine. Not until 1908, as Law's long and arduous labors as principal and dean were drawing to an end, would the matter be resolved. Finally, Cornell's vet-

erinary faculty was assured the continued freedom to pursue progress in animal health within the broader domains of comparative medicine and public health.

Even prior to the founding of the veterinary college in 1894, Law's early students had transformed animal agriculture and public health in fundamental ways. Daniel Salmon, Law's first DVM graduate, identified the food-poisoning organism that bears his name — *Salmonella*. He later founded the Bureau of Animal Industry, the forerunner of the USDA. Another student, Cooper Curtice, demonstrated that ticks carried Texas fever, one of the greatly devastating cattle diseases of the subtropics. Curtice's Texas fever work led to the discovery of intermediate hosts for the germs of malaria, sleeping sickness, yellow fever, spotted fever, and bubonic



Burr wrote to Farrand: "On the whole, I think I would not put into print the episode of 'the horse doctor'. Use it orally with your classes until Mr. White is off the stage. He is getting to be an old man now, and it can not be long. He is sensitive about a slip, and I do not like to question him regarding the matter."

librarian of the President White Library, about the truthfulness of the anecdote. Burr replied to Farrand, a professor of history at Yale, that he would not advise putting the story in print. Burr wrote of the elderly president emeritus:

Mr. White, though his memory is often at fault as to details, is a perpetual wonder to me for the vividness and the general faithfulness with which he remembers scenes, episodes, characters — everything that has in it life and personality... He is a raconteur rather than a statistician, and his reminiscences pay the penalty of much narration — gaining in dramatic effectiveness at the cost of minute accuracy: it is like the experience of an anecdote retold by a succession of narrators.

The story got started, or more probably given wide currency, when A. D. White related it during his Founder's Day address, My Reminiscences of Ezra Cornell, on

January 11, 1890. The University printed his speech for the program, so his words are preserved:

*It was a cold, raw morning in March when Mr. Cornell went with me to the dock, and gave his last kind assurances. He had felt strongly the importance of having the Agricultural department fairly equipped, and he had been told of an eminent Professor of Veterinary Surgery in England who might possibly be secured: the last words that I heard from the shore were from Mr. Cornell, who called out to me in a jocose way, "Bring back that horse-doctor!"*

Burr wrote further that, after his Founder's Day talk, Mr. White had had to endure the supreme annoyance of being corrected by Waterman Thomas Hewett, apparently a notoriously avid knuckle-rapper who would later publish a four-volume history of Cornell Uni-

*continued on next page*

plague. Law and other of his students worked creatively and tirelessly to control other threats to livestock, such as bovine pleuropneumonia and hog cholera. But more importantly they tackled diseases that could be transmitted to people: rabies, anthrax, and the enormous scourge of tuberculosis.

James Law stood for three principles that are fully alive today: the necessity for rigor in science, education, and veterinary care; the confluence of animal and public health under the rubric of comparative medicine; and the concept of Cornell as one university. As it has from the beginning, our college continues to disseminate and apply knowledge of practical benefit to society while raising the spires of scholarship ever higher.

As it was in Law's time, Cornell remains the most selective veterinary

college in the world, in a profession that is widely regarded as being uniquely discerning in its academic selection criteria. A veterinary degree from Cornell is valued above all others, and we have been consistently ranked among the premier veterinary colleges in the world throughout our history. For the past two three-year periods, *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked Cornell's veterinary college number one in the nation.

The Cornell University Hospital for Animals is renowned not only for its first-rate facilities and equipment or the excellence of its clinical instruction,

but for the very high quality of medical and surgical care offered to animals of every description, whether companion, production or sport animals, or wild, exotic, or endangered. For example, horses, which are in some ways our most fragile patients, are assured exceptional care from neonatal intensive care for the premature foal, to diagnostic imaging for the diagnosis and treatment of airway problems, to emergency management of the colic patient, to the finest equine orthopedic surgery available anywhere. On the small-animal side, the Companion Animal Hospital offers

versity. This was a touchy subject for White, one that Burr did not wish to raise with the old man. "You would understand that," he writes to Farrand, "if you had stayed with us long enough to know the lynx-eye which Hewett always had for any lapse on the part of his colleagues, and yet what a genius was his own for blundering... He has mellowed and sweetened greatly in these later years, but his correction belongs to his old *scha-denfreude* days." The important point that Finkel gleaned from these letters is that White did not publish the horse-doctor anecdote in his 1905 autobiography as stated in Bishop's footnote. He dropped it, Burr supposes, "in deference to Mr. Hewett's correction."

White kept detailed journals throughout his life, and his correspondence with Cornell was already ensconced in the library. But Burr did not wish to rub salt in his wound by researching the ques-

tion during White's lifetime. It had seemed to him "too petty to look into" after Hewett's charge of inaccuracy, but Burr promised that he and Farrand would "go to the bottom of the matter after both [White] and Mr. Hewett are gone." It seems doubtful that they ever did. Farrand replied to Burr:

*The reason I brought the question up was because I thought I remembered Mr. White's telling the story on himself as an interesting case of mistaken memory. I think that I heard you use it orally in one of your classes. Accordingly it occurred to me as*

*an excellent illustration of the unreliability of memory.*

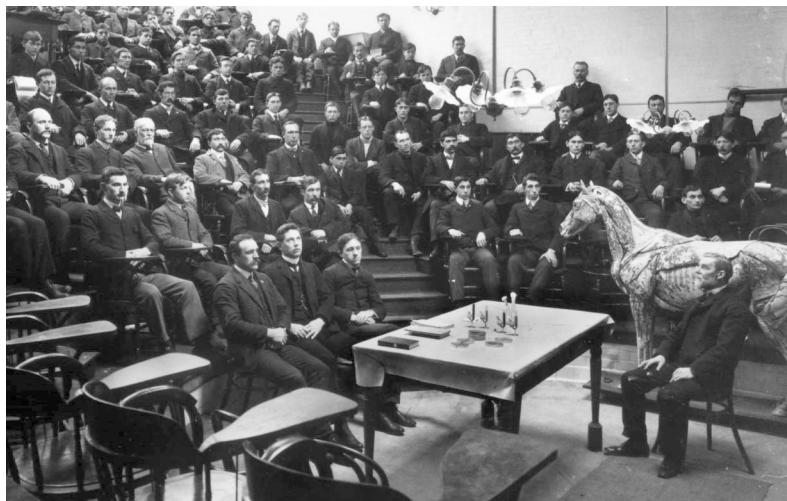
"White probably did a little checking on his own," concludes Finkel, "and, finding no solid evidence to support his memory, decided that his storytelling had gotten the best of him."

We may never know what Ezra Cornell said, or when he said it, or where. But we should take A.D. White at his word in stating to the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, as reported in an *Ithaca Journal* article unearthed by College librarian Susanne Whitaker, that "it had been a main desire of

Ezra Cornell to have in the heart of the university a veterinary college which would be of great worth." We can also believe the words he did write in his autobiography as he remembered the acquisition of James Law:

*Never was there a more happy selection. From that day to this, thirty-six years, he has been a tower of strength to the university, and has rendered incalculable services to the State and Nation.*

Without a doubt, that was precisely what Cornell had had in mind all along.



Cornell University Archives





Dede Hatch

**Equine medicine, then and now. OPPOSITE PAGE: Professor James Law delivers a lecture with the aid of the Auzoux horse, a 97-piece model in papier mâché. A. D. White acquired both the model and the professor during the same tour of Europe in 1868. THIS PAGE: Students, technicians, and residents from radiology and anesthesiology wheel an anesthetized patient toward the CT scanner.**

broad and deep expertise in internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, surgery, and many other areas, all of it supported by our outstanding anesthesiologists and radiologists. And the compassion and competence of our nursing team are second to none.

Veterinary medical expertise is as critical to the preservation of the public health now as it was in Professor Law's era. One need look no further than the recent spate of avian influenza deaths in Asia or the discovery of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) — popularly known as “mad cow disease” — in a cow in Washington state to acknowledge our dependence as a society on an organized network of veterinarians who are trained to respond in a crisis.

The federal government provides much of that network through the Veterinary Services Division of the USDA. But selected veterinary colleges, Cornell key among them, are playing an increasingly significant role. In addition to the

broad spectrum of public-health-oriented research undertaken in our college and in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the veterinary college is home to one of the premier animal health diagnostic laboratories in the country. Long regarded as setting the standard for the profession, the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell has recently gained even greater prominence and potential through the recruitment of Alfonso Torres, laboratory director and associate dean for veterinary public policy, who joined our faculty two years ago after heading the Veterinary Services Division of the USDA.

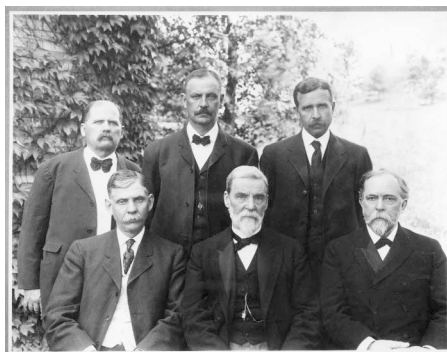
Under Torres's leadership the AHDL has been awarded a contract with the USDA to test for scrapie and chronic wasting disease, two TSEs — transmissible spongiform encephalopathies — that are related to BSE. Our expansion capabilities in this area free the federal diagnostic laboratories to concentrate on BSE testing. In addition, ours is one of 12 laboratories in the U.S. to

be designated a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network created and funded by the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security. In the event of an outbreak of foreign animal disease, Cornell could be called upon to help with testing.

The Zoonoses Research Unit, a new program being established at Cornell through a \$6.6 million contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, will bring scientists from the AHDL and the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences into closer collaboration with investigators in two departments — Food Science, and Biological and Environmental Engineering — in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The researchers will study food- and waterborne diseases common to animals and humans, develop on-site diagnostic methods and an Internet database for exchange of data, implement cost-effective intervention strategies, and develop an emergency response team.

Rigor is also evident in the depth of our research focus. Throughout the history of this college, our faculty members have made major contributions to the advancement of biomedical science, often with discoveries that offer direct benefit to domestic or companion animals as well as having important implications for human health. Cornell has remained a leader among veterinary colleges in the quality and productivity of our research programs, which are grounded in disciplined study and underwritten by highly competitive, peer-reviewed grant funding.

Biology is a strong unifying force in medicine, whether we are talking about mice, dogs, or people. As Law



**The original veterinary faculty on the occasion of James Law's retirement in 1908. SEATED, L. TO R.: Veranus A. Moore, Law, Simon H. Gage; STANDING: Walter L. Williams, Pierre S. Fish, Grant S. Hopkins. BELOW: Liberty Hyde Bailey breaks ground for the agriculture college in 1905.**



Photos: Cornell University Archives

recognized in his day, veterinary medicine is not that distinct from human medicine, and veterinary education is steeped in the study of comparative medicine.

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell is home to the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research, a nexus for the integration of basic and biomedical science with the clinical practice of human and animal medicine. Directed by clinical oncology professor Rodney Page, the Sprecher Institute's purpose is to drive discovery throughout Cornell University toward

advancement of new methods for cancer prevention, diagnosis, and therapeutic intervention. Approximately 40 research programs on the Ithaca campus are vigorously pursuing answers to basic and far-reaching questions about the nature of cancer. It may seem surprising to some, but the National Cancer Institute funds almost twice as much research on Cornell's Ithaca campus as at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

The availability of animal models for research makes it possible for the College's cancer program faculty to test

novel approaches that would not be readily testable in humans — and to do so rapidly. This is one reason why some of the very best biomedical scientists find such a welcome home in the veterinary college at Cornell. To quote Professor Richard Cerione, "Because we are a veterinary college on what is truly an exceptional research campus, we have unique opportunities for implementing novel approaches that are emerging from a diversity of scientific disciplines including chemistry, physics, and engineering."

This emphasis on research at Cornell supports the precepts of James Law and his original students. Law saw the key to the future of medical discovery in the biological union between human and animal health. That's why the Schurman decision of 1908 was so precious to him. The clarity of Law's vision is apparent in this excerpt from his 1878 report to the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture:

*Now that veterinary medicine has been established on a scientific basis, the time has come when the bonds that unite the students and practitioners of human and veterinary medicine should be knit more closely, and the two branches be brought into more intimate relationships...Both branches of medicine suffer from separation. Each is necessary to the rapid progress and highest advancement of the other.*

During the past few years this college has pursued with vigor the culture of interdisciplinary activities that the University propounded in creating the New Life Sciences Initiative. We have purposefully lowered the barriers for interdisciplinary research and teaching and increasingly demonstrated our value as the center for comparative medicine on the Ithaca campus. Our future lies in the pursuit and application of knowledge for both present and future benefit and for both animals and humans, just as it did in the time of James Law. Cornell and White would recognize the full embodiment of their ideals in the mission and goals of this college. I daresay that both men would be very pleased to see who we are and where we are headed.

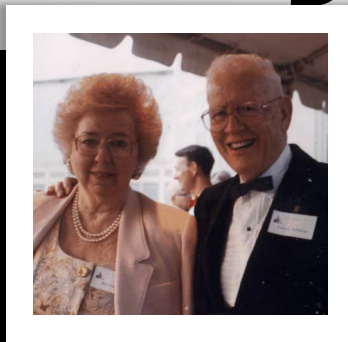
# number, gender, and the **FUTURE** of the **auxiliary**

## Bea Schimoler: a tribute

The Auxiliary lost one of its leading ladies on May 14, 2003 with the death of Bea Schimoler of Glen Head, New York. Mrs. Schimoler served for many years as the group's historian, saving every record of their activities and photographing every event. In the mid-1970s she held every office in turn from treasurer through president of the group and was also the parliamentarian who swore in new officers.

"She kept track of everything," remembers Doris Smith. "She was a teacher and a member of the Cedar Swamp Historical Society. She was very interested in history and in making sure that everything was preserved." She organized all of the material she had compiled into a series of scrapbooks that now reside in the College library.

"She was a very gracious lady, very helpful, always supportive, and always willing to do a little extra," recalls Cully Fox, herself an Auxiliary stalwart and a past president of the group. "I can't say enough nice things about her. She was always there to greet anyone and everyone." These sentiments are universally shared. "Bea Schimoler was one of the great ladies; she just made you feel so good. She did this for everybody," says Smith. Carroll Manning, another long-time member and past president, says, "She was Steady Eddie, to say the least. She was always faithful to the profes-



Bea and Lou Schimoler

sion and the Auxiliary. She was a quiet supporter and mover, and a real role model. My biggest impression of Bea was that she was very much a lady, a very lovely lady. I think that that's unique."

"Bea's great love was day-to-day charity," says her husband, Lou Schimoler, DVM '47. In addition to her work for the Auxiliary, he says that she ran the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the Nassau North Conference. As part of her work for that organization she established a food pantry 25 years ago. Two weeks after her death it was dedicated to her memory.

Schimoler notes, too, that his wife was always looking for ways to build up interest in the Auxiliary. "She worked hard to bring in men, to broaden the base of the Auxiliary," he says, adding that it was she who recruited the group's first male officer, Scott Campbell.

In tribute to his wife, Dr. Schimoler made a generous gift last summer to the Auxiliary Scholarship Fund and followed it with another in December. Auxiliary president Ann Hancock encourages others wishing to honor Bea Schimoler's memory to consider contributions of their own to the scholarship fund.

**W**hen the Auxiliary to the New York State Veterinary Medical Society met last October in Saratoga Springs, president Ann Hancock asked the assembled members the question she has asked every year since 2001: should the Auxiliary continue to function? No one leaped to her feet with a ready answer, but after some subdued discussion the consensus was that it should, at least for the time being. There were eleven women present, out of a membership that on paper looks robust: more than 350 people paid dues last year.

Those dues and the Auxiliary's fund-raising activities — which have included the assembling of three excellent cookbooks, exceptional quilts, accomplished artwork, and many other creative projects — have meant a lot to the College and its students over the years. In the 50 years from 1948 to 1998, the Auxiliary donated \$178,000 for scholarships, fellowships, emergency student loans, furnishings in the Hagan Room and the James Law lobby, hospital equipment, and library books. Since 1998 they have contributed in excess of \$50,000 more, including a gift for the linear accelerator that was matched by the Kresge Foundation. In addition to their Cornell giving, the Auxiliary has worked to promote responsible pet ownership and secondary science education. They also lend financial support to the State Society's Political Education Committee.

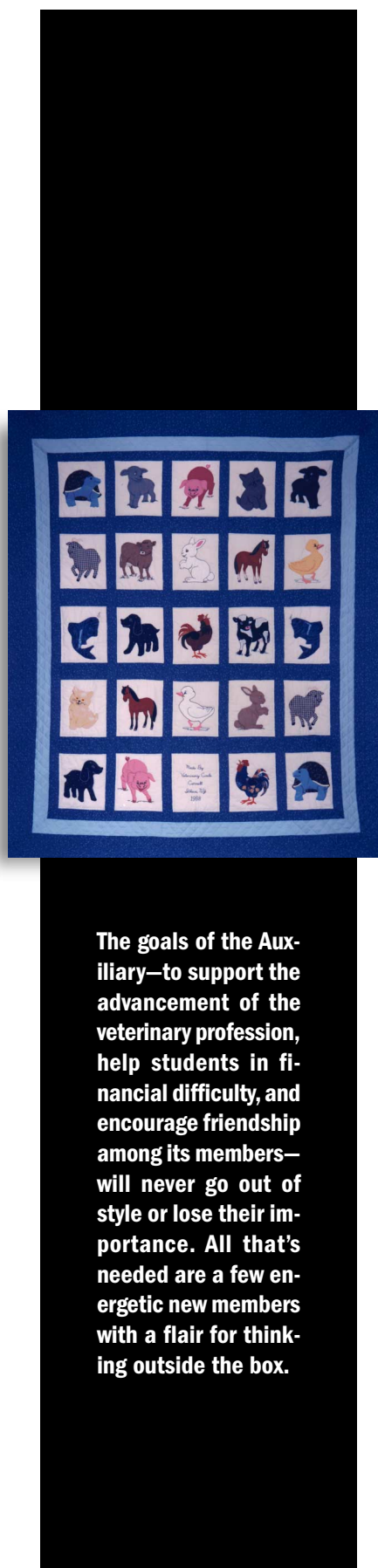
But this year no one was interested in coordinating the silent auction that had been a fixture of the annual meeting of the State Society. Motions made last year were never followed through



on, because no one volunteered to do the work. Hancock spoke for several of the women present — Doris Smith, Carroll Manning, Hannah Cook, Dee Dee Warriner, Lucille Saunders, Rae Hart, Mary McCarthy, Bertha Guild, Heidi Kallfelz, and Kitty Mancuso — when she said that she had already taken on all she could handle herself. She has a family and a demanding job in special education. Many of the members who were there, like many of the members who were not there, could tell much the same story. Still, Hancock and her fellow officers have agreed to serve in their posts for a third year. If they do not, it is not clear who will.

It used to be that officers rotated annually through all the posts in the same order from treasurer to past president. “That way there was always somebody who knew the position you were going into and could help you through it,” recalls Doris Smith, wife of Dean Donald Smith. The vice-president used to be in charge of organizing a yearly raffle, which Smith remembers as a very popular and successful fund-raiser. “For the women who did it, it was a lot of fun,” she says. But fewer and fewer wives were interested in running for office or taking on such a time-consuming project. “It got to be that the same people were doing it over and over, and that’s when it stopped being fun.” Smith, who works as a reference assistant in Cornell’s management library, served for several years as the Auxiliary’s treasurer and liaison with the College.

When the Women’s Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association was formed at the Kansas City Veterinary College in 1917, it was the first auxiliary established in connection with any of the healing arts, and it shook up the status quo. While some veterinarians had always taken their wives along to the annual convention, many felt that women had no place at a men’s meeting. As is still true today, however, many of the women who joined the national and state auxiliaries worked in their husbands’ practices, and they were confident that they belonged at their husbands’ sides. They stood up to vocal opposition and even



**The goals of the Auxiliary—to support the advancement of the veterinary profession, help students in financial difficulty, and encourage friendship among its members—will never go out of style or lose their importance. All that’s needed are a few energetic new members with a flair for thinking outside the box.**

some intimidation to meet at the 1918 convention, by which time five state auxiliaries had formed. The next year there were fourteen, and by 1921 the national organization was well established, although attempts to dissolve it would continue for several years.

By the time the Ladies’ Auxiliary to the New York State Veterinary Medical Association, as the members used to refer to themselves, was established in 1948, the national auxiliary had long been fully accepted. New York was one of the later states to form an auxiliary; by 1950 only four of the contiguous states — Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Montana — had not organized on the state level. Auxiliary membership grew steadily, and the annual meeting of the New York State Society became a much-anticipated vacation destination for the wives and children of the state’s veterinary practitioners, and an opportunity to form and nurture lasting friendships.

But traditional conceptions of women and their roles in the workplace and American culture were stood on their ears amid the societal transformations of the 1970s. Women’s auxiliaries began to be seen by some as vestiges of a narrowly prescribed past. In response to changing realities, in 1979 the New York group dropped “Ladies” from the name of the organization and began referring to their meeting activities as the “spouse program”. By then three of the four veterinary classes attending Cornell were composed of equal numbers of men and women; the balance would soon begin to tip significantly in favor of women. (The current DVM classes are approximately 80 percent female.) Auxiliary membership peaked at over 600 in the mid-1970s but by 1990 had declined again to something over 400. On a national level the trend was much the same; membership stood at 10,000 in 1976 but had declined to less than 7,000 by 1985. According to Bev Richardson, secretary to the Auxiliary to the AVMA and a member of the Kansas auxiliary, membership was tallied at only 1,340 last year, with approximately 25 state auxiliaries still in existence. Two of those are in the process of merging.

The New York auxiliary has had one male officer in the past and currently has at least three male members. The number of dues-paying members has been bolstered in recent years by the addition of an Auxiliary check-off to the dues form for the State Society. No one knows how many dues payers consider themselves part of the Auxiliary, but there is no doubt that it still has broad financial support.

"I think people are voting with

"People are beginning to feel extremely isolated all the way around. We're stuck on a computer. Our holidays and spare time have to be organized around our children's school schedules," she points out. "In the cycle of things, I wouldn't be surprised if the organization starts figuring out that people who go to professional meetings want to go with their families and have some time together. It's going to cycle again. I'd be surprised if the Auxiliary continues to take the

form it has, but I still think that the husbands will be there with their veterinarian wives, and they'll be interested in the other husbands, and people will just start enjoying each other again. That need is still there; it doesn't matter if you're male or female."

"We are currently looking for ways to change our organization," Richardson concurs. "To be truthful, we haven't determined just what changes to make. If the Auxiliary is going to be an organization of the future, we must become an organization in which the male spouses will be more comfortable. At this point, we are looking for 'a few good men' who are willing to come in and help make changes in an effective way."

Its concept may have to evolve, but the goals of the Auxiliary — to support the advancement of the veterinary profession, help students in financial difficulty, and encourage friendship among its members — will never go out of style or lose their importance. All that's needed are a few energetic new members with a flair for thinking outside the box.

So how about it, men?

their money," observes Smith. "People like the idea and they want to support it, but they don't want to lead it." Ironically, this financial support creates an increasingly difficult bind for the core membership; as long as the Auxiliary continues to bring in dollars for its favorite causes, there have to be officers to manage the money and decide how to disburse it. Recognizing that the burden might become untenable, in 2000 Smith recommended the creation of an endowed scholarship that would serve as a lasting tribute to the Auxiliary. "We designated the money for the scholarship fund, knowing that even if we folded that day, we would have enough dues support to fulfill our commitment to the endowment," she explains.

Smith sees hope for the Auxiliary in the same social forces that have brought it to its present crossroads.



**ABOVE: A gathering of presidents in 1986. SEATED, L. TO R.: Anita Laurie, Bea Schimoler, Pearl Zimmerman, Linda Yartz, Bonnie Glendening. Standing: Becky Holden, Carroll Manning, Lucille Saunders, Marge Lopez, Florence Grossman. BELOW: Officers for 1961. L. TO R.: Mrs. Donald McKown, president-elect; Mrs. Myron Fincher, membership chairwoman; Mrs. Thomas J. Love, president; Mrs. Henry Grossman, treasurer; Mrs. DuBois Jenkins, secretary.**



## FACULTY

**Alexander de Lahunta**, DVM '58, DACVIM, DACVP (hon.), PhD '63, the James Law Professor of Anatomy, was honored last October with the New York State Veterinary Medical Society's Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine Award.

Throughout his 40 years as a member of the anatomy faculty, de Lahunta has stood out as an exceptional teacher, clinical neurologist, and scholar in a field he helped estab-

lish, veterinary neuroanatomy. Among more than 200 publications he has four books, all of them classic texts in use worldwide. He has identified numerous novel syndromes or diseases and diagnosed and documented thousands of cases.

In addition to being a founding diplomate in the subspecialty of neurology within the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, de Lahunta was named in December, 2002 as an honorary diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.



de Lahunta

**Robert B. Hillman**, DVM '55, MS '61, DACT was recognized in September, 2003 with the David E. Bartlett Lecture Award. Given jointly by the Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists, the award honored Hillman's extensive contributions to the field of theriogenology as a large-animal clinician, researcher, and teacher.

After graduating from Cornell, Hillman served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and spent a year in private practice before returning for an internship in the ambulatory clinic and for master's degree study in reproductive pathology as a Public Health Service research fellow. He joined the

## Torres: Mandatory animal identification system needed

by Roger Segelken, Cornell News Service

If all cattle in the United States carried identification, tracking of herds exposed to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or "mad cow" disease) or other animal diseases would be easier and faster, according to a Cornell animal-disease and public-policy expert.

Alfonso Torres, executive director of the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, made the suggestion during his testimony Jan. 27 on BSE before the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

Torres recommended "... that Congress in collaboration with the USDA [U.S. Department of Agriculture] needs to make this national animal ID system a mandatory program." He also described two other measures to help relieve the trade embargoes imposed on the United States because of mad cow disease: a more equivalent and proportional trade policy, based on the degree of BSE risks with trade partners; and stepped-up enforcement of bans on the use of certain high-risk materials (such as brains, spinal cords and intestines)

from non-ambulatory cattle or any cattle over 30 months of age. He noted that the BSE agent (the misfolded proteins, called prions) is known to accumulate in those tissues of infected cattle. "These materials should not enter the human food chain or the animal feed chain," Torres stated.

At Cornell, Torres also serves as the associate dean of veterinary public policy. He is a former chief veterinary officer of the USDA and former director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

Torres said during the Senate committee hearing: "While I recognize and appreciate the many efforts of the USDA and the animal industries in developing and implementing a national animal ID system, the weakness is that such a system is a voluntary effort at this time."

The hearing to discuss food safety, livestock marketing and international trade was called as a result of the discovery last December of a BSE-infected dairy cow in Washington state. If a uni-



Torres

versal identification system had been in place last year, Torres suggested, American and Canadian officials could more readily have traced the diseased animal and others in its herd.

Torres commended the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration for what he called effective actions following the BSE finding in December, adding: "These actions have maintained consumer confidence in our beef products. While the trade embargoes were to be expected in a situation like this, I hope that, with the implementation of further actions as suggested, we would continue to enhance the defense of our nation against BSE and sustain domestic and international confidence in our animal industries and the safety of our food and feed supply."

The full text of the Torres testimony is at the veterinary college Web site: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/publicresources/pr-torresTestimony.htm>.

Also testifying at the Senate hearing, which was chaired by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), were USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman and U.S. Food and Drug Administration Deputy Commissioner Lester M. Crawford.

Photo: U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

faculty in 1961 and was granted emeritus status in 1995.

Hillman developed several original teaching programs and was recognized with the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in 1974 and a Centennial Commendation from the New York State Veterinary Medical Association in 1990. In addition to other professional service, he has chaired committees of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the Genesee Valley Breeders Association, and the National Association of Animal Breeders.

**Francis A. Kallfelz**, DVM '62, DACVN, PhD '66 was unanimously selected as 2003 New York State Veterinarian of the Year. Kallfelz, the James Law Professor of Medicine (Nutrition) and a past president (2001) of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, was honored at the State Society's annual meeting in October, 2003.

Kallfelz has been a member of the Cornell faculty since 1966. From 1990 to 1998 he served as director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, which was renamed the Cornell University Hospital for Animals during his tenure. He is a member of the New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine and was elected by the AVMA House of Delegates to serve from 1983 to 1988 on the Council on Research.



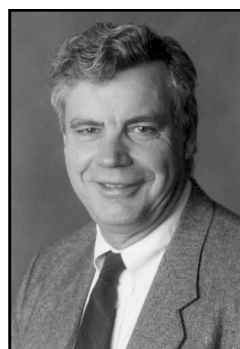
**Kallfelz**

In addition to his many contributions to organized veterinary medicine, Kallfelz was cited for contributing to the understanding of urolithiasis and advancing the clinical use of radioisotopes and other radiological techniques through his studies of mineral metabolism and minerals in the diet.

**Donald H. Lein**, DVM '57, PhD, DACVP, retired director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory and former chairman of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Science, was elected president of the United States Animal Health Association at their an-

nual meeting in October, 2003.

Lein spent eight years in a group mixed practice in Machias, New York before returning to his alma mater in 1965. Working as a research associate with professor Kenneth McEntee, DVM '44, a reproductive pathologist who headed the Large Animal Clinic at the time, Lein studied and subsequently eliminated



**Lein**

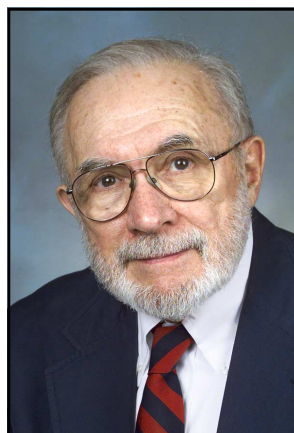
*Campylobacter venerealis*, a then-common venereal disease in bull studs. That work prompted him to pursue PhD studies at the University of Connecticut. After earning a degree in pathology, he returned to Cornell in 1974 as an associate professor of theriogenology with a joint appointment in pathology. He retired in 2001 but stayed on as director of the AHDL until the arrival of Alfonso Torres the following year. Lein has held

office and served on national advisory boards and committees for many organizations and government agencies.

---

## In Memoriam

**T. Richard Houpt**, professor of veterinary physiology, emeritus and husband of Professor Katherine Albro Houpt, also a veterinary physiologist, died unexpectedly on October 7, 2003, two days before his 78th birthday. A member of the Cornell faculty since 1971, he had spent the day in his laboratory, as usual, and went home pleased to have concluded his latest research project.



**Houpt**

After receiving a VMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1950 and a master's degree in veterinary pathology from the University of Illinois in 1953, Houpt joined the Duke Desert Expedition to Algeria. The team found that camels do not store water in their humps. Rather, they conserve water by raising their body temperature and conserve nitrogen by recycling it. This experience led to graduate studies of urea recycling in ruminants and horses at the University of Pennsylvania. After receiving his PhD in medical physiology in 1958, he joined the faculty at Penn, where he remained until coming to Cornell. In 1960 he and colleague Ted Hammel traveled to Lapland, where they found that reindeer have difficulty keeping cool when they are physically active and must pant, even in winter, to dissipate heat.

More recently, Professor Emeritus Houpt had been studying the physiological controls of feeding and drinking in ruminants and pigs; he found that osmotic pressure in the gastrointestinal tract is a cause of satiety, and that water is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract much more quickly than expected after an animal drinks. In addition to his research, Houpt continued to lecture in the veterinary curriculum and gave demonstrations of rumen function to both high-school and veterinary students. He published over 60 scientific papers as well as book chapters. In 2000 he was honored by the University of Pennsylvania with the Alumni Award of Merit for Teaching and Research.

Dean Donald F. Smith said of Houpt that he was "one of those rare individuals whose breadth of knowledge matched his depth of understanding. He could speak with authority and precision on topics ranging from ruminant metabolism to animal husbandry to acid-base balance." He added, "Dr. Houpt's many students and colleagues were charmed by his equal measures of charm, wit, and humility."

---



USAHA is an organization of state and federal animal-health officials, practicing veterinarians, research scientists, and livestock producers. More than 1,000 of them attended the weeklong meeting in San Diego, where 30 resolutions were passed to address a variety of national issues of importance to animal and public health.

Cornell's Student Chapter of the AVMA presented their 2003 Teaching Excellence Awards to lecturer **Paul Maza**, DVM and senior lecturer **Linda Mizer**, DVM, MSc, PhD, both of the Department of Biomedical Sciences.



Maza



Mizer

Maza, a graduate of the University of Washington and Ross University, has taught at Cornell since 2000, participating in Blocks I, II, and VII, *Management of Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders*, *Anatomy of the Carnivore*, *Surgery III*, and *Junior Surgery*. Maza also assists practitioners and cat owners as a consultant for the Feline Health Center.

Mizer received her DVM with honors from the University of Guelph and her graduate degrees from Ohio State University. She joined Cornell's faculty in 1991. In addition to her teaching duties, Mizer has been active in writing and editing cases for study, compiling the tutor guide, arranging comparative laboratories, and overall curriculum design for Block I: *the Animal Body*. She has been responsible for BioAP 313, a histology course that is required campus-wide in the Field of Physiology. She has also served as head of the course *Comparative Anatomy: Patterns and Functions*.

Professor **Douglas D. McGregor**, MD, DPhil received a surprise honor during the First Annual Biological and Biomedical Sciences Symposium sponsored by the College's Office of Graduate Education.

David Russell, professor and chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and former interim associate dean of research and graduate education, announced that the symposium's keynote presentation will henceforth be known as the Douglas D. McGregor Research Lecture. The inaugural keynote address was made by Professor Jorge Galán of Yale University School of Medicine, a world-



McGregor

renowned expert on host-pathogen interactions, particularly those involving species of the food-borne bacteria *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

McGregor, an immunologist whose own research focused primarily on *Listeria monocytogenes*, came to Cornell in 1977 from the Trudeau Institute to head the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health. Director there until 1991, he also served from 1988 to 2001 as the College's first associate dean of research and graduate education. Among various initiatives, McGregor created the Summer Leadership Program, a highly select and successful program designed to encourage outstanding veterinary

## In Memoriam

**Isidor I. Sprecker**, DVM '39 died January 10 in Boynton Beach, Florida at the age of 90. With his wife, Sylvia, Dr. Sprecker was a Foremost Benefactor of Cornell University who lent his support and his name (in its original spelling) to the College's Flower-Sprecher Library, the Frank and Rosa Rhodes Presidential Scholarships in Veterinary Medicine, and the recently endowed Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research. The Spreckers also created Presidential Scholarships for undergraduates in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and an endowment for Jewish studies that honors his parents, Morris and Elizabeth Sprecher.



*I. Sprecker*

"Dr. and Mrs. Sprecker have been extraordinarily generous towards Cornell in general, and the College of Veterinary Medicine in particular," wrote Dean Donald F. Smith in announcing his death to the College community. "Dr. Sprecker's love of education, music, poetry, students, and libraries defined his philanthropic ideals." Smith also remarked that Dr. Sprecker was "a bright and engaging man with a sharp wit and analytical mind."

Bonita Voiland, assistant dean for hospital operations, remembers Dr. Sprecker as being an engineer and inventor at heart, noting: "He invented techniques, tools, and treatments to improve the flow of life both within and outside of veterinary practice." She added that he was also a clockmaker and a woodworker with a meticulously organized shop in his garage.

The Spreckers spent their professional lives in Waterbury, Connecticut, she as a teacher, reading specialist, and consultant and he as a small-animal practitioner. During World War II Dr. Sprecker served in the Air Corps and the Veterinary Corps.

Financing a college education during the Depression was very difficult, and Dr. Sprecker was grateful for the assistance he received from Cornell. He often said that the three most important things in his life were his family, his studies at Cornell, and meeting Sylvia. His beloved wife of 58 years survives him.

students to pursue careers in biomedical research. In the 14 years since its establishment, the program has drawn 379 students from 53 veterinary colleges on four continents.

**James R. Richards**, DVM, director of the Cornell Feline Health Center, assumed the presidency of the American Association of Feline Practitioners in October, 2003. Richards, who received his DVM *cum laude* from Ohio State University, has been a member of the AAEP Executive Board since 1994. In addition to serving as the organization's official spokesman, he has served as their alternate delegate to the AVMA and has co-chaired AAEP practice-guidelines panels on feline vaccines, retrovirus testing, declawing, and feline senior care.



Richards

At Cornell, Richards serves as editor-in-chief of *CatWatch*, a subscription publication of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. He lectures on feline health issues within the veterinary curriculum and sits on several advisory panels serving industry. He is author of the *ASPCA Complete Guide to Cats* and numerous chapters and articles in veterinary texts and lay publications.

The eighty-fourth annual meeting of the Conference of Research Workers, held in November, 2003, was dedicated to **Alexander J. Winter**, DVM, DACVM, PhD, the James Law Professor of Microbiology, Emeritus.

Winter received his veterinary training at the University of Illinois and pursued graduate study of uterine defense mechanisms at the University of Wisconsin. He came to Cornell in 1963 after four years on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and devoted his career to studying immunity to infections of the bovine reproductive tract. For two decades his laboratory did leading research on mechanisms of immunity and virulence factors associated with *Campylobacter fetus*, the reproductive-tract pathogen responsible for

## NEW DIPLOMATES

### American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care:

**Teresa DeFrancesco**, DVM '91, **Justine Lee**, DVM '97. DeFrancesco was also honored in 2003 with the Carl J. Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award at North Carolina State University.



Farrelly

### American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine:

**Georgina Barone**, DVM '97 (neurology); **John Farrelly**, DVM '98 (medical oncology); **Peter J. Brofman**, DVM '98 (internal medicine — small animal); and **Jean A. Ferreri**, DVM '97 (internal medicine — small animal). Farrelly is currently an instructor in the Department of Molecular Medicine at Cornell and a resident in radiation oncology. After receiving his DVM, he went to the Animal Medical Center in New York for an internship and stayed on there to complete his residency in medical oncology.

### American Veterinary Dental College:

**Thomas P. Chamberlain**, DVM '78.

bovine genital vibriosis. Winter then turned to the study of host-pathogen interactions in bovine genital mycoplasmosis and brucellosis, garnering international recognition for his expertise in mechanisms of protective immunity in brucellosis.

Winter was a founding diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. Other honors include election as a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award from the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists. He retired in 1995.

## STAFF

**Kim Baldwin**, LVT, the Companion Animal Hospital's manager of nursing services, has become one of only four veterinary technicians in the state to earn specialty certification from the Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT). Her professional designation is now Veterinary Technician Specialist (Emergency and Critical Care). The AVECCT is the first specialty organization to be recognized by the North American Veterinary Technicians Association.

## STUDENTS

**Paige Adams**, DVM, a doctoral candidate in the laboratory of Professor Douglas Antczak, took first place in the graduate-student abstract presentation competition at the annual meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. Her poster, entitled *Interspecies matings: Lack of T cell modulation at the fetal-maternal interface?* detailed alterations in the maternal immune responses of horse mares carrying mule conceptuses.

## ALUMNI

**Martin Fettman**, DVM '80, MS '80, PhD, a professor and associate dean at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, was recently named Veterinarian of the Year by the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association.

Cited as one of the Association's most outstanding members, he currently advises their student chapter and chairs the CVMA Commission on Education, where he is instru-



Fettman



mental in recruiting faculty to Colorado State. The state association recognized him in 2001 with the President's Award, which he received for "reinforcing and refreshing the valuable partnership between CVMA and CSU."

As associate dean, Fettman has responsibility for administering the professional veterinary medical programs at Colorado State. As such, he oversees the veterinary curriculum and guided the creation of North America's first combined DVM/MBA program. A clinical pathologist and clinical nutritionist, he also conducts research on the pathophysiology of nutritional and metabolic diseases, particularly on adjunct nutritional therapy for cancer patients and management of fluid and electrolyte metabolism.

In 1993 Fettman became the world's first veterinarian-astronaut when he flew as a payload specialist for the Spacelab Life Sciences-2 mission aboard the shuttle Columbia. He remains active in space-sciences research as a special advisor to NASA and as chairman of the Space Station Biological Research Project Science Working Group.

**Franklin M. Loew**, DVM '65, PhD, former dean of veterinary medicine at Tufts and Cornell, was honored posthumously on November 7 with the AVMA Animal

Welfare Award. The annual award, which was announced at the AVMA Animal Welfare Forum in Chicago, is presented to a member of the AVMA who has advanced animal well-being, shown exemplary dedication to animal care, and contributed to the community and to society.

Loew, one of the first veterinarians to author a paper on the welfare of large animals, was cited for raising awareness internationally about the relationships between people and animals.

Loew was a national leader in animal welfare. He belonged to the boards of directors of the Humane Society of

the United States and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which named him Veterinarian of the Year in 1989. He was also honored in 1983 by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and in 1994 by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare. While at Tufts, Loew created the Center for Animals and Public Policy. He also chaired the board of trustees of the Boston Zoological Society and served on the advisory boards of Harvard University's Primate Research Center and of the National Reference Center on Bioethical Literature within Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

For Loew's many contributions as dean at Tufts, an anonymous donor gave the university the means to honor him in 1994 with the dedication of the Franklin M. Loew Veterinary Medical Education Center. Loew died on April 22, 2003.

The late **Jack L. Mara**, DVM '51, DACVN was recognized in January for his "unrivaled and exemplary lifetime of service" with the 2004 Mark L. Morris, Sr. Lifetime Achievement Award. Mara was nominated by a "veritable who's who in the veterinary profession," according to the release, including twelve deans, six of the eight living pre-



Loew



## John Huntley in Iraq

New York State's chief veterinarian, **John Huntley**, DVM '80, has spent the past year commanding the Army's 414th Civil Affairs Battalion in Baghdad, Iraq. Colonel Huntley and his team of Utica, New York-based reservists have led Iraqi construction crews in renovating more than 200 primary and secondary schools, according to a feature story in the November 3 edition of the *Albany Times-Union*.

"A lot of the schools had been badly damaged in combat and then looted. They stole everything that wasn't nailed down," Huntley is quoted as saying. The article also notes that school buildings were allowed to deteriorate for many years under Saddam Hussein's regime.

On each project Huntley consults with sheiks, tribal leaders, and local government councils; operation of the reopened facilities is handed over to the local leadership. "The Iraqi people really care about their kids, and they've made reopening schools a top priority," he said.

Huntley, who heads the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, has been a reservist for 21 years, according to the article. He and his wife, Susan, a computer interface specialist for General Electric, have two grown children.

To read the entire article, check the newspaper's website at <http://www.timesunion.com>.



**Mara**

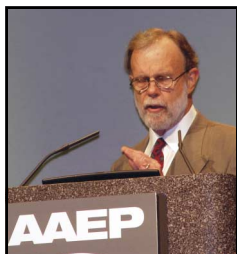
vious Morris Award recipients, fourteen associate deans or department chairs, past presidents of every major veterinary organization, and many others.

This extraordinary nomination drive was spearheaded by Professor Emeritus Robert W. Kirk, DVM '46, a lifelong friend and a former recipient of the award.

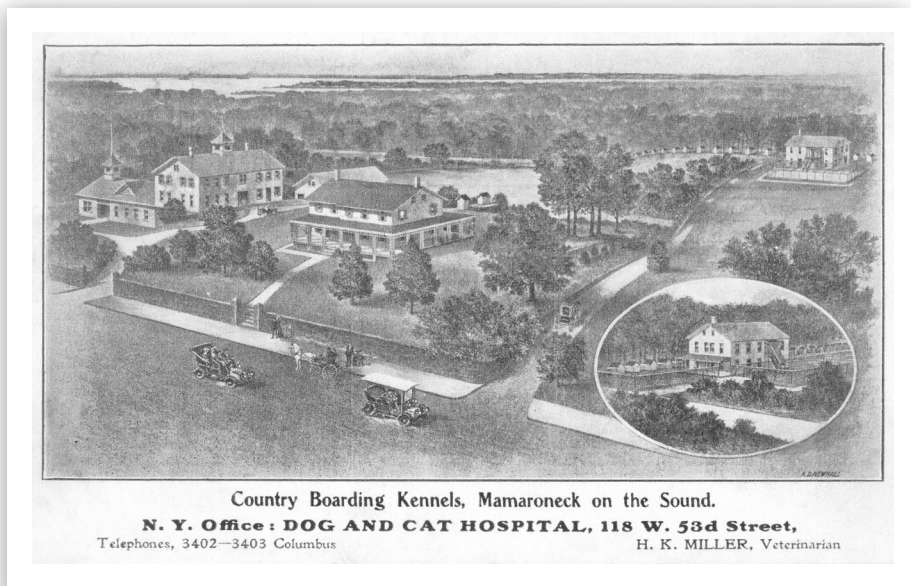
Mara, who died in March 2003, was lauded by his nominators as extraordinary, visionary, a tireless advocate for the proper nutrition of pets, and one of the veterinary profession's greatest ambassadors, an icon in the veterinary community. After graduating from Cornell he spent 28 years in private practice in Huntington, New York before joining Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. in 1979. In the earlier years of his career he made frequent appearances on radio and television to share anecdotes and healthcare advice with pet owners. While at Hill's he directed his efforts toward educating the veterinary profession about the essential role of good nutrition in promoting health and longevity.

The Morris Award, which Hill's presents annually at the North American Veterinary Conference, is named for the 1926 Cornell DVM who developed the Prescription Diet line of foods manufactured under the Hill's label. In connection with the award, the company donates \$20,000 to Morris Animal Foundation in the name of the honoree.

**Alfred M. Merritt**, DVM '63 is this year's recipient of the Frank J. Milne Award of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Merritt, who is the Appleton Endowed Professor in Equine Studies at the University of Florida, was honored for his



**Merritt**



Cornell University Archives

## Miller-Clark celebrates centennial

As reported in the *New York Times* on September 21, the Miller-Clark Animal Hospital of Mamaroneck, New York celebrated 100 years of caring for animals in 2003. The veterinary practice is named for the partnership formed in 1953 between Cornellians Walter Miller, DVM '26 and Robert Clark, DVM '52, but its roots extend back 50 years earlier to the establishment of the Country Boarding Kennels by Miller's father, veterinarian H. K. Miller.

The elder Miller had started one of the nation's earliest small-animal practices in a Manhattan brownstone at 118 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, near Sixth Avenue, in 1901. He built the kennel on his farm in Mamaroneck because he was taking so many clients' pets home with him on the train. In 1925 he sold the Manhattan practice to his partner, C. P. Zepp, DVM '19 and moved his entire operation to Mamaroneck. His son Walter joined him the next year after graduating from Cornell.

The younger Dr. Miller retired in 1967, two years after the arrival of Ellsworth Thorndike, VMD from the University of Pennsylvania. John Pinckney, another Cornellian (DVM '72), joined the practice in 1973. Clark retired in 1999 and moved to Ithaca; Paul Amerling, a Ross University graduate, came on board that same year. Through the years they have built up a client base that keeps them occupied with 7,000 patients.

Some of those clients have been with them for 40 or 50 years. The *Times* article quoted one of them, Gloria Crowley Markuson, as saying, "They take wonderful care of the animals; they treat them like humans. And what's also very nice is they also take good care of the owners."

contributions to the understanding of the equine stomach. As the awardee, he was invited to deliver the conference's Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture, which he devoted to a discussion of the physiology of the equine stomach and of equine gastric

ulcer syndrome and the potential role of intense exercise and stress in causing the disease. He recommended changes in horse management, feeding, and housing practices in order to reduce the animals' stress and risk of developing disease.

# endnote

Alexis Wenski-Roberts/Image Lab



**T**he cost of college and professional education is high, and getting higher. In times of economic stress, preserving public funding for higher education may seem an unaffordable luxury to some. Cornell President Jeffrey Lehman views it as a necessity, as he recently explained in an address to the members of the State Senate Finance Committee and the State Assembly Ways and Means Committee. In addition to noting that educated people contribute to economic progress and “enable the continued evolution of civil society,” Lehman asserted that the state reaps many times the returns from investing in the greatness of New York’s university system that it

would from funding it at a level that was only adequate.

The excellence of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals is a source of great benefit to the State of New York. In addition to providing a wide range of specialized clinical services to the people of the state and a fertile environment for advancing knowledge of animal health care, the hospital and its activities form the basis for our entire veterinary medical teaching program.

The outstanding physical plant, provided through generous state funding and opened in 1996, is peopled by some of the profession’s most gifted and talented faculty and staff. We have increased the hospital’s specialty offerings in recent years to include a full-service oncology unit, exotic animal medicine, dentistry, alternative therapies, and significantly expanded sections of cardiology, large animal surgery, small animal surgery, and small-animal emergency and critical-care medicine. Under the able leadership of Assistant Dean Bonita Voiland, the hospital has revamped its administrative structure and heightened efficiency and customer service. These improvements in breadth and quality, achieved through long years of planning and gradual implementation, have resulted in a nearly 50-percent increase in caseload over the past six years. Cornell’s veterinary students, whose education is our fundamental concern and purpose, are extraordinarily well served by the experience they gain in this finest of referral teaching hospitals.

Excellence is expensive, however, particularly in an era of burgeoning technological advances and unprecedented competition for top clinical faculty. The cost of clinical programs and equipment has increased even more rapidly than veterinary education in general. At the same time, unfortunately, the economic challenges that have faced the State of New York, particularly since 9/11, have had widespread impact. For Cornell University, the state’s budget woes have brought a substantial decrease in operating support. Even with maximized efficiency and a strategic narrowing of focus, the

quality of our programs will suffer in the next decade unless some measure of funding is restored.

For our part, we continue to build on efficiencies and good management practices that started with the amalgamation of departments several years ago. To achieve better decision-making at the level of the end user, we have also put resources, as well as the responsibility for managing those resources, into the hands of individual departments and units. In partnership with the University, we have instituted procedures to reduce overlapping administrative efforts at various levels of the institution. These changes have not been easy, but they have positioned the College to take advantage of clinical and research opportunities that align with other university priorities.

Along with cost-cutting, we have been working to develop long-term solutions for increasing revenue, particularly in the area of fundraising. The financial support of individuals who value the work we do has always been vital not only in addressing immediate needs but in providing stable income in perpetuity. Long-term investment provides an essential buffer in times of economic retrenchment, and we will be working to increase our endowment substantially.

Thanks to the great generosity of the Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Foundation, we are closer to realizing the purchase of the magnetic resonance imaging equipment that is so critical to our neurology and oncology services. Our outlook has also been brightened in the past year or so by the exceptional philanthropy of Isidor and Sylvia Sprecker, Patricia Cornwell, the estates of Eleanor Gillis, Ethel Phipps, and Edna Emerson, and several others. We are deeply grateful for their generosity, as we are for the sustaining support of all of our contributing alumni and friends. They are the foundation on which we are building our future.

*Donald F. Smith*  
Dean of the College



# coming events

## **MARCH**

26-28 96th Annual Cornell Veterinary Conference

## **APRIL**

17 38th Annual Open House

## **MAY**

29 CVM Hooding Ceremony

30 Cornell University Commencement

## **JUNE**

1-5 Smith Kilborne Program

9-12 American College of Veterinary  
Internal Medicine (Minneapolis, MN)

10-12 Reunion Weekend

## **JULY**

24-28 AVMA Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA)

30 16th Annual Fred Scott Feline Symposium

## **SEPTEMBER**

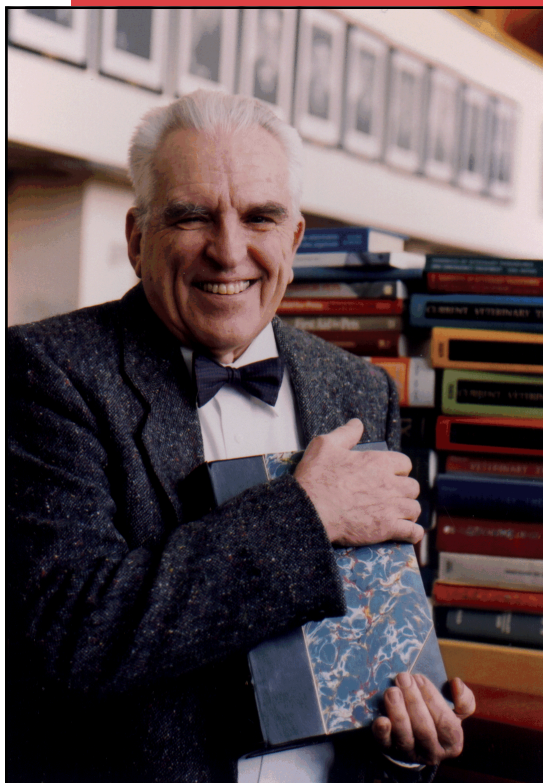
23-25 American Association of Bovine Practitioners

*Cornell Veterinary Medicine* is published three times per year for friends and alumni of the College. Visit our World Wide Web site: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu>

College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 39  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-6401  
E-mail: [cvmerm@cornell.edu](mailto:cvmerm@cornell.edu)

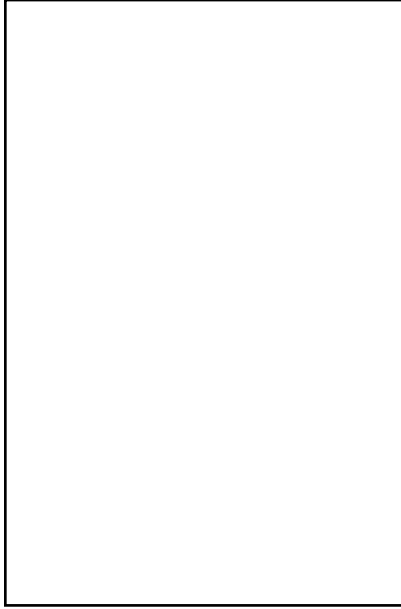
Dean: Donald F. Smith  
Editor and writer: Jeanne M. Griffith  
Designer: Mo Viele  
©2004, College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Cornell University. All rights reserved.

Cornell University is an equal-opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer.



Dede Hatch

Charles Harrington/CU Photography



# CORNELL Veterinary Medicine

College of Veterinary Medicine

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK 14853-6401

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Ithaca, NY 14850

Permit No. 780