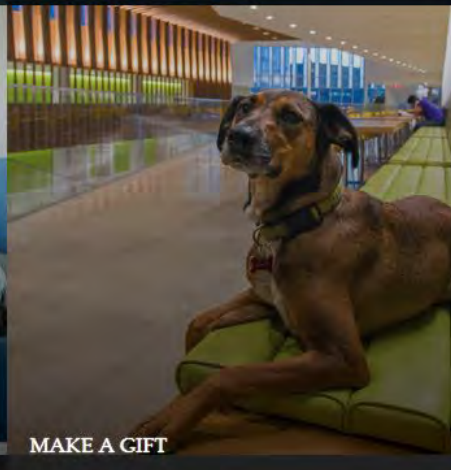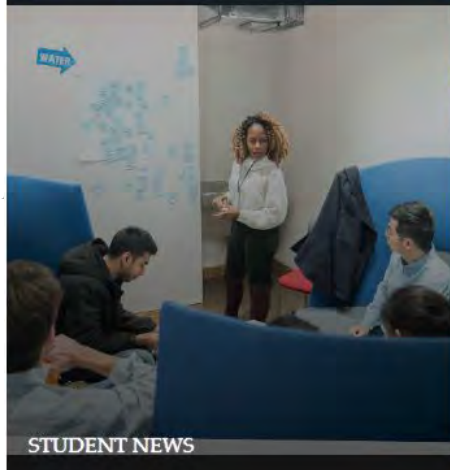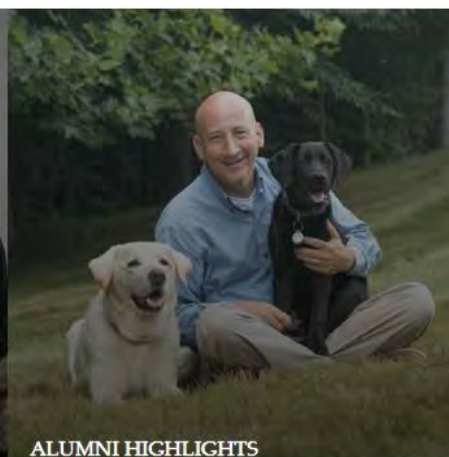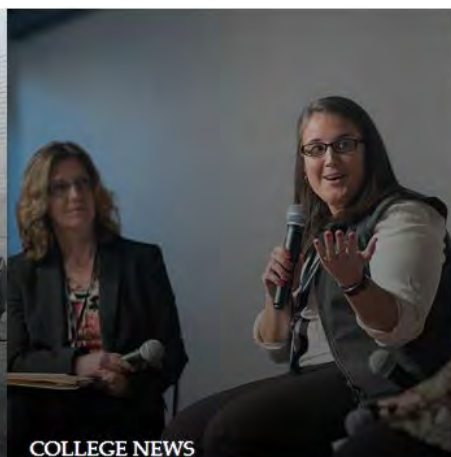**Cornell University**
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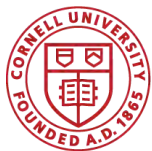
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eVETS February 2018

February 2018

News for alumni of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Salmon Award

Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service

Established by the Alumni Association in 1986, the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service honors Cornell Veterinary College DVM graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities or to the College.

The award is named in honor of Cornell's first DVM graduate, who is remembered for his pioneering work in controlling contagious animal diseases in the early 20th century. D.E. Salmon was one of Dr. James Law's first students when Cornell University opened its doors in 1868. He received the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree in 1872 and entered practice in Newark, NJ. He continued his advanced research at Cornell and in 1876 he was awarded the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. This was the first DVM degree to be awarded in the United States of America.

*   *   *   *   *   *

Help us honor our graduates by nominating a Cornell graduate. Nominations are accepted throughout the year until May 1. Should a nominator wish to re-nominate an alumnus/a from the previous year, a   revised nomination form must be completed for the candidate to be considered   . The recipient of the award is notified by September 1.

Submit your Nomination Online

Paper Nomination
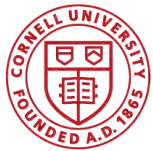
Nomination should not exceed 1000 words in total.

Nomination form and supporting materials must be postmarked and received by May 1, 2018   to be considered for 2018.

Previous Award Recipients

Click on name of recipient to read article

Year Received	Name
1986	Arthur Gordon Danks* '33, Ellis Pierson Leonard* '34, Frederick O. Wright* '41
1987	John D. Murray* '39
1989	Stephen J. Roberts* '38
1991	Robert E. Clark* '52
1994	Richard C. Grambow '57, Robert W. Kirk* '46, Richard A. Smith* '51
1996	Stanley M. Aldrich* '50, Louis C. Schimoler* '47
1997	John J. Brennan '52
1998	Francis H. Fox *'45
1999	Robert V. Manning* '55

2000	Robert E. Lynk '61, Harold W. Zweighaft* '56
2001	Robert B. Hillman '55
2002	John D. Shumway '56
2003	George W. Abbott* '45
2004	Robert F. Kahrs '54
2008	Alexander de Lahunta '58
2009	Fredric W. Scott '62
2010	Stephen J. Ettinger '64
2011	N. Joel Edwards '64
2012	Jeanne A. Barsanti '74
2013	James F. Peddie '65
2014	Lila T. Miller '77 (CALS '74)
2015	Paul D. Pion '83
2016	Robert R. Marshak '45
2017	Ann E. Dwyer '83, Donald H. Lein '57
* - deceased

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Careers

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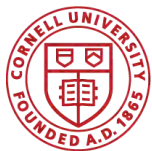# Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

eVETS February 2018: College News

Giving Day is March 20!

Inspiring innovation: College alumni provide insight, expertise, to Animal Health Hackathoners

Careers

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Giving Day is March 20!

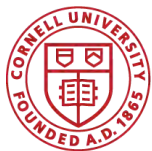Join Cornell and the College of Veterinary Medicine for this year's Giving Day. Mark your calendar for March 20.

In just one day, we hope to encourage as many alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff as possible to make a gift to Cornell, and I hope you will participate by directing your gift to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Gifts to the college support our ability to provide incredible opportunities for students that set them on a lifelong course for a fulfilling and gratifying profession in service to animals and people. I want to personally encourage our Veterinary College alumni to join us on this day.

Be a part of the fun by first making your gift and then watching our progress on the leaderboard. These links will be active on March 20. More information will be coming your way in the next few weeks.

#CornellGivingDay

Sincerely,

Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

eVETS - Inspiring innovation: College alumni provide insight, expertise, to Animal Health Hackathoners

Keynote speaker Ted Sprinkle '66, DVM '69

Here's the pitch: college alumni who love to stay engaged and get involved travel from around the country to meet in Ithaca, N.Y., where they inspire students to create the most innovative and effective business ideas possible.

That's exactly what happened at the second-annual Animal Health Hackathon, co-hosted by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and Entrepreneurship at Cornell, which united students in computer science, engineering, design, business, and veterinary medicine to develop innovative solutions to issues in animal health. Nearly two-dozen enthusiastic alumni participated as speakers, panelists, and mentors throughout the weekend, helping student teams puzzle through potential innovations.

The event kicked off with keynote speaker Ted Sprinkle '66, DVM '69, CEO of Pet Partners LLC, who spoke to the crowd about his long and varied career in both veterinary medicine and business.

"Don't let your degree get in the way of your thinking," he said. "Don't be pigeonholed into going one way when your heart is telling you to go another."

Repeatedly, Sprinkle stressed the importance of human relationships over technology. "We can't expect innovation to come in and take over relationships," he said. "We need to use innovation to intersect relationships and connect the dots in improving them."

Sprinkle also shared how he faced his share of hardships during his career. "You can't fear failure," he said." You have to look at it as another fork in the road in the pursuit of the end goal."

Sharing stories

Several alumni also shared their entrepreneurial ups and downs during the Founders' Stories portion of the event. Rodrigo Bicalho PhD '08, associate professor of dairy production medicine at the college, shared his experiences

Rodrigo Bicalho PhD '08

in founding the start-up companies Fera Animal Health and Bactana Corp. The crowd laughed as he described picking a leadership team for a company. "When you are about to found a company with people, think about if you want to marry these people," he said. "With a business team, there isn't really any dating going on—you just get married."

Jody Sandler DVM '88

Jody Sandler DVM '88, president and CEO of BluePath Service Dogs, shared the story of his career path—from starting multiple varied businesses—some of which failed. "Failure isn't the opposite of success, it's part of success," said Sandler. "You have to learn what doesn't work to learn what does work." Sandler's current company, a non-profit organization, raises therapy dogs for children on the autism spectrum. As he showed the crowd photos of children paired up with their canine friends, he noted, "Everyone should do something remarkable in their lives."

Filling the gaps

Many alumni participated by joining panel discussions on the future of veterinary medicine and the current pain points facing animal health.

Michele Barrett DVM '09, a veterinarian with Zoetis Dairy Technical Services, spoke about the challenges facing the dairy industry. "We are trying to produce food products for an ever expanding population and we're doing this in a market that is reducing our labor supply," she said. "We need technology that will help farmers do that while maintaining the health of animals—all with less labor to do that work."

For Carole Richards DVM '07, co-owner and veterinarian at Caring Hands Animal Hospitals, the biggest gaps lie in new graduates' understanding of business and communication. "New veterinarians need to learn a bit more about how a business works," she said. "I think a lot of students may have gone to veterinary school because they loved animals, but veterinary practice is actually all about constant interaction with clients."

Michele Barrett DVM '09 speaks on the Animal Health Innovation panel.

Carole Richards DVM '07 speaks on the

Andy Eschner '87, DVM '90, northeast regional director of field veterinary services at Boehringer Ingelheim, encouraged the students in the room to think broadly when brainstorming. "Don't limit yourself to thinking it has to be a product. Think about the number of strays in need of homes and healthcare; think about mental healthcare in the profession … think globally--there's lots of gaps," he said.

Pitching the big picture

After alumni and others shared their experiences and views, the students got down to business creating teams and 'hacking'— brainstorming and developing innovative new solutions to problems in animal health. "The energy and the passion in that room were palpable," said keynote speaker Ted Sprinkle. "Normally, at this stage of their journey, it can be hard to get students to sit down and take in the big picture—but the students at this event were definitely seeing the big picture." Panelist member Carole Richards agreed. "It's so great to see a group of enthusiastic students working together to move the veterinary industry forward," she said.

 After over 24 hours of researching, creating, strategizing, and pitching, the event culminated in the announcement of the winners in each market category. The innovation spanned the spectrum of industries and ideas, from an online survey tool to capture pet owner personality types, to smartphone-controlled humane animal traps, to a dairy cow tracking device. The grand prize went to Hygena Pet, a non-toxic spray to prevent stool from sticking to long-haired dogs' backsides.

The level of innovation and creativity had alumni talking. "It's been a great experience to see these teams of young people collaborate and create some very marketable ideas," said Ken Rotondo DVM '75, president of Mind Genomics Advisors. "I've been really impressed."

"This event has been a blast," said Sylvester Price DVM '84, director of therapeutic evaluation at the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. Price served as a mentor both at this and last year's hackathons. "It's been fascinating to watch all these ideas maturing into a reality in a very short period of time."

Alumni Association Executive Board President and private practice owner Susan Ackermann DVM '86 thoroughly enjoyed the event and is excited to return to next year's hackathon. "What an amazing opportunity to participate in the 2018 Animal Health Hackathon. I can personally attest that it was quite the humbling experience for this cat doctor! Such a rich exchange of knowledge and inspiring energy with teams of students hailing from all facets of Cornell University," she said of the 24 teams who worked with the group of 41 professional mentors. "I come away from the event with even greater respect for the magnificent inventive learning institution that is my beloved alma mater, as well as the brilliant and talented staff that keep her vibrant and ever evolving. A true breath of fresh air in the middle of winter--and I am already looking forward to next year's event!"

Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

A compassionate career: Jody Sandler DVM '88 shares how he founded a non-profit to help children with autism

Jodi Sandler DVM '88 speaks at the 2018 Animal Health Hackathon.

Jody Sandler DVM '88 has been through his share of successes and failures during his professional career. He shared his experience as both a veterinarian and an entrepreneur as a guest speaker at this year's second Animal Health Hackathon co-hosted by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and Entrepreneurship at Cornell. The hackathon tasks teams of students to devise innovative solutions to gaps in the world of animal health and veterinary medicine. Sandler shared how he established a fulfilling career by connecting some very important dots.

Matchmakers

During his time as the director of veterinary services at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Westchester County, Sandler noticed that many of the puppies raised at the center just didn't qualify to become guide dogs.

Then his wife, Caroline McCabe-Sandler, a certified dog trainer at the facility, came up with an idea: Why not retrain these dogs so that they could work with children on the autism spectrum? She began to match trained service dogs with children with autism in the tri-state area, eventually placing 90 dogs.

In 2016, after Guiding Eyes for the Blind ended its dog training program for children with autism, Sandler left the agency and created his own nonprofit organization, BluePath Service Dogs, Inc. The nonprofit is now preparing to graduate its first class of service dogs next fall and will assign them to children on the autism spectrum who are between the ages of 3 and 11.

"Autism is so prevalent in the world today," said Sandler, president and CEO of BluePath Service Dogs. "One in 68 children in the U.S. will develop autism. The dire need for those dogs is to keep these children safe and help them to become independent over their lifetime."

Protecting the human-animal bond

In recognition of his work with children with autism and the blind and visually impaired, Sandler was named the Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year for 2016 by the American Veterinary Medical Association last January. The award, named for the late veterinarian Leo K. Bustad, recognizes outstanding work of veterinarians in preserving and protecting the human-animal bond.

While using dogs to work with children with autism was fairly new when Sandler and his wife began training them nearly a decade ago, they were able to devise a tether system that would allow the dogs to keep a child safe when walking outside. The tether is connected to a vest worn by the dog and to a nylon belt on the child.

"Many children on the spectrum have bolting tendencies, where they try and run away from a caregiver," Sandler said. "They can do it quite suddenly where they run into a street. They have no fear. They may run into a body of water even when they don't know how to swim."

A trained service dog can prevent the child from bolting because the dog is taught to either drop to the ground or stand and brace itself. "With a 60 or 75-pound Labrador or golden retriever attached to them, the children really can't get away, giving the parent or caregiver time to react," Sandler said. "That's the primary role of the service dog."

Sandler notes that one family he worked with that had adopted a service dog for their autistic son was able to take a trip to Disney World with their black Labrador in tow. It was the first vacation the family had been able to take together.

"The child, his two siblings, and the parents — all of them were in need of this dog," Sandler said. "That's the difference that we see with the families that we've worked with, and that's the difference we know the dogs can have with children they're paired with."

When Sandler was a student at the College of Veterinary Medicine, the practice of using service dogs to work with children with autism was not taught because the field had not yet been developed. Sandler, however, credits his professors at Cornell, particularly Dr. John Randolph, with teaching him how to work with clients and their pets in the animal clinic.

"Dr. Randolph really taught me how to interact with clients and also how to logistically work through the process of diagnosing and treating pets coming through the small animal clinic," Sandler said. "He was really just an amazing teacher."
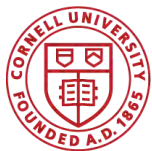
Next steps

After matching its first group of dogs next fall, BluePath Service Dogs plans to launch a capital campaign

to raise money so that it can purchase its own building. Currently, the staff picks up the dogs at foster homes two or three times a week and trains them in classrooms, malls, and outdoor environments. With its own facility, Sandler said the staff will be able to offer additional indoor training.

"Our goal is to have our own facility, but ultimately we want to get our service dogs out to families that are waiting for them," Sandler said. "That's a big threshold for us to cross."

-By Sherrie Negrea

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Careers

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Veterinary students return for more creative opportunities at the Animal Health Hackathon

🐾 Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - 8:26am

Nearly two hundred people gathered for the 2018 Animal Health Hackathon in January. In this photo, a student talks to others before the opening remarks. Photo by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the Brooklyn-style lofts that overlook Collegetown, students from across Cornell University competed this January to see whose idea could be the next big breakthrough in animal health at the second annual Animal Health Hackathon. Teams tackled everything from doggy goggles to cow finders.

Many of the students who participated in the 2017 hackathon returned to eHub in Collegetown for this year's event, including third-year veterinary student Rachel Hilliard. Hilliard attributes the amount of returnees to the hackathon's creative and energetic atmosphere. "It's a great practice in cooperative teamwork," she said.

In his welcome address, Lorin D. Warnick Ph.D. '94, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, encouraged groups to find team members from multiple disciplines in order to give their ideas scope. Students came from every college on Cornell's Ithaca campus, and competed alongside students from Binghamton University, Georgia Tech, New York University, and Tufts University.

Of the 128 students who participated, over 50 pitched their original ideas on Friday night, hoping to attract team members. From those pitches, 24 teams emerged to compete, each comprised of students from multiple colleges.

"The hackathon was refreshing – and essential in providing veterinary students with the reminder that there is so much more out there than our particular area, that much can be gained by collaborating with other professionals," said Nicholas Walsh '16, a third-year veterinary student who also returned to compete.
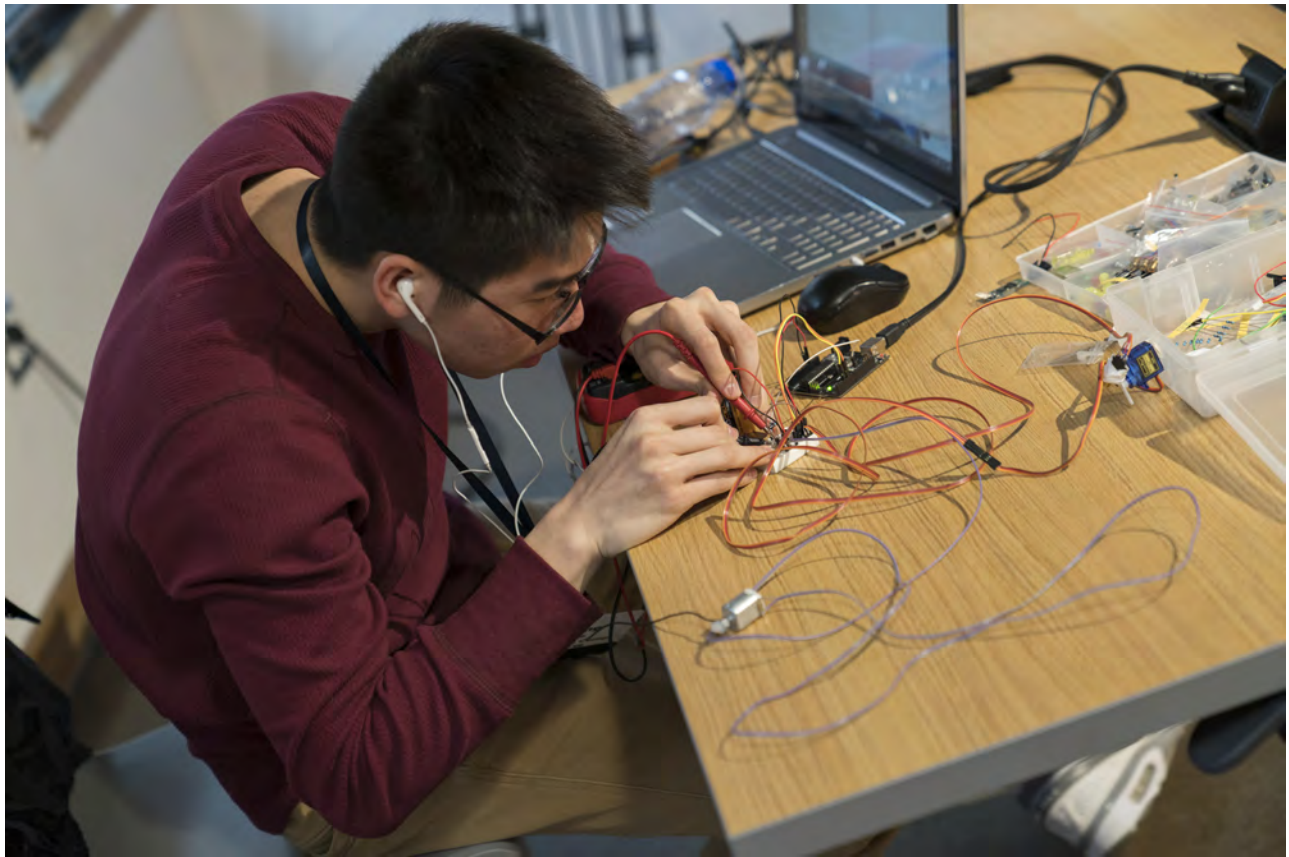

A group of students work on their project. Photo by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Several returnees used the year since the first hackathon to hone skills that would give them a competitive edge in 2018. Fourth-year veterinary student Morgan Feldman '14 noted that since the 2017 event, she's learned more about the clinical environment and had real interactions with clients, which gave her better insight into what areas of animal health could use innovation in the 2018 hackathon. Emma Castillo, a third-year veterinary student, focused on the flipside of that, using the past year to grow her public speaking skills and practice selling ideas.

In addition to cross-college collaborations, students got to see their business ideas come to rapid fruition in the course of a single weekend. The College of Veterinary Medicine partnered with Entrepreneurship at Cornell to facilitate these innovative skills.

"I learned that it's always valuable to step outside your comfort zone," said veterinary student Amari Suskin-Sperry about her first hackathon experience. "From an initial concept to a fully-functioning app, my idea grew into a product in 36 hours."

By the end of the weekend, non-veterinary students learned about issues facing veterinary medicine and saw how those issues affect their own field, said Isabel Jimenez '15, a third-year veterinary student. Jimenez cited Hive Mind, a team from last year's event that developed an app to assist beekeepers in monitoring the health of their colonies. "Many students who participated probably gained some knowledge over the weekend about why protecting bees goes beyond veterinary medicine or entomology," she said.

A student creating a prototype at the hackathon. Photo by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

This year, a group member from Hive Mind joined Jimenez's team. They used the same neural network principles developed last year to build an app to successfully differentiate similar internal parasites under a microscope. "It's a cool example of bringing things forward and learning from last year as we work to solve different problems," said Jimenez.

While last year's grand prize winners developed an app that leveraged GPS technology and social media to locate lost pets, this year's winning invention was decidedly more low-tech and light-hearted. The idea? Hygena Pet—a waterproof, nontoxic spray for Fido's rear end that prevents the pesky problem of poop sticking to fur. The group included Bruce Ahn '18, Elvis Ahn '20, Prathamesh Bang '20, Lucian Chown '19, Adam Itzkowitz '20, Woo Jeon '18, and Ohad Koronyo '20.

Four more groups won additional honors in the event's verticals. Encompass won the diagnostics and therapeutics vertical with an app that gathers clients' preferences and habits to help veterinarians customize their care. CATcher and Squeak tied in the customer experience vertical, each creating a smart trap for feral cats and mice respectively. CowFinder won the workflow vertical with a product that helps locate a specific dairy cow in a herd, and honorable mentions went to the ideas DoggoVision and Therashoe.

"The hackathon brings together so many diverse fields that can learn from each other, gain exposure to issues that have a broader context, and build solutions together," said Jimenez. "Everyone benefits from that."

A team works to develop their idea at the hackathon. Photo by the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.
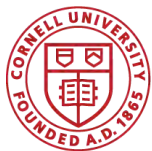
By Melanie Greaver Cordova

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The College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to advancing the health and well-being of animals and people. There are many opportunities to help us realize this work -- from scholarships that are the only way some of our students can pursue this profession to research dollars that help us move closer to solving the mystery of diseases like cancer, diabetes, and arthritis. We invite you to visit all of our units, learn what they do, how they make a difference, and find where your passion lies.
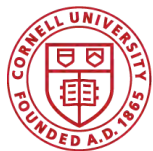
For more information on giving to the College of Veterinary Medicine, call us at 1-607-253-3745. Thank you for considering a gift to the College.

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eVETS February 2018: Events

- Recent events : The Animal Health Hackathon   competition invited students from any college or major to come up with innovative solutions in the animal health sector. The event kicked off with a conference on emerging trends and the future of animal health and health care services, and then students worked all weekend on their projects.

- March 17 : The White Coat Ceremony   is a rite of passage for the third-year veterinary student. It is a symbol of professionalism and empathy in the practice of medicine. The purpose of the ceremony is to alert medical students to the need to balance excellence in science with humanistic patient care.

- June 7-10 : Reunion 2018   will be here before you know it. Classes ending in 3 and 8, make plans now to return, and join us for the Schurman Hall building dedication during Reunion as well.

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