

# DR. SHEILA WILSON ALLEN

Endorsed by the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations



*“The Board of Trustees must help position Cornell University to retain and recruit exceptional faculty and staff members who have a passion for creativity and discovery, and who embrace the responsibility to inspire future leaders through undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs on all three campuses.”*

**Cornell Degree:** AB A&S 1976, DVM 1981

**Other Education:** MS, Clinical Pathology 1986, Residency Small Animal Surgery 1985, University of Georgia

**Please describe the reasons why you hope to serve on the board, the strengths you would bring to this position, and the ways in which you are uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success.**

*Having devoted my entire career to higher education, with twenty years as a senior administrator, I have firsthand knowledge and experience with the challenges faced by universities in promoting an inclusive culture of discovery and creativity, and in serving society through outreach activities. My experience with faculty retention and recruitment; advancing the research enterprise; enhancing diversity among faculty, staff, and students; and private fundraising for investing in capital projects and building the endowment would prove useful as a trustee. My work in higher education accreditation has provided the opportunity for in-depth review of universities throughout the world. This perspective would be valuable in helping Cornell maintain its position as a leader among elite universities internationally. Finally, with my undergraduate degree from Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences and my professional degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine, I deeply appreciate the value that private and publicly supported colleges bring to the Cornell community.*

**Cornell will welcome the university's 14th president, Martha E. Pollack, as trustee elections are underway. What do you believe are the three most important issues the president will face during her first year? How can you assist her in addressing Cornell's distinctive challenges as well as broad issues in higher education that impact Cornell?**

*The world has witnessed multiple instances of injustice, violence, and disregard for basic human rights in recent years. College campuses have not been spared from these harsh realities. President Pollack must reaffirm openly and repeatedly Cornell's commitment to fostering a community in which everyone is valued. The trustees must continue to commit to such principles in word and action. Secondly, the prospect of affording a Cornell education has never been more challenging. The trustees must work with President Pollack to further enhance financial aid opportunities so that Cornell can continue to fulfill its motto of “any person ... any study.” Finally, President Pollack and the faculty will be continuing to review and revise the undergraduate curriculum to provide a more cohesive array of options for all students. Preserving Cornell's liberal arts legacy, while incorporating contemporary didactic and experiential studies to enhance that foundation, is a challenge I would embrace with enthusiasm.*

**In 2017 Cornell will dedicate its new Tech campus on Roosevelt Island. Together with the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medicine, the three campuses will comprise “One Cornell.” In your view, how does this concept advance our university's future? What challenges do you foresee?**

*Cornell's three campuses have the expertise to tackle some of the most pressing problems facing society, such as global health threats, food safety, and security. Cornell's Tech campus is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of the vast opportunities for collaboration that the New York City area provides. I would envision “One Cornell” to include not only the three campuses, but also the strong Cornell alumni network in the New York metropolitan area. Having students from multiple colleges working side-by-side in a corporate environment solving problems together will be an enriching learning experience for the students and their mentors. Coordinating these experiential learning opportunities will certainly be challenging, but the Cornell Tech campus is strategically positioned and equipped to meet that challenge.*

## **Professional Experience:**

- Senior Accreditation Advisor, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges 2016–present
- Dean, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine 2005–2016
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine 1997–2005
- Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine 1986–2016

## **Alumni Service:**

- President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) Sustaining Member–2016
- Cornell University Council (Member 2016–2020)
- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN) Member

## **Prior:**

- College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council (Member 2010–2015)
- PCCW (Member 2010–2015)

## **Community/Public Service:**

- American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Board of Regents 2001–2004
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, Board of Directors 2010–2012
- Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2007–2013 (Chair 2012–2013)
- National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council Committee to Assess the Current and Future Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine 2007–2011

## **Student involvements/activities:**

Pre-veterinary Club

## **Additional information, optional:**

Husband Douglas Allen, Jr., two adult children: Kelsey Wilson Allen, Mark Wilson Allen