

EZRA





The 2014 Big Red Pumpkin Regatta. To see "Picture Cornell" slideshows at the Cornell Chronicle, visit www.news.cornell.edu/picture-cornell.



CORNELL'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

EZRA

features

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ON THE COVER:

Photography and design by Robert Barker, Christopher J. Kelly and Matthew Fondeur of University Communications Marketing. See pp. 6-7 for details on the items in the collage.



We approached this issue of Ezra with a real sense of fun and with the knowledge that we would only be able to feature a small selection of "Cornell Favorites" – asking almost any Cornellian to name their favorite *anything* is going to give you more than you expected – and we certainly got answers.

In addition to the many lists and stories about favorite professors and classes, best spots on campus and quintessentially Cornell experiences (whether recent or from decades ago), what emerged was a sense of interconnectedness: Each person's Cornell is linked to that of many others. We all are part of this thriving, complex, sprawling university and our stories often brush up against, or make guest appearances in, the memories of our friends, classmates and fellow Cornellians.

Read through our cover story to discover – or rediscover – favorite classes, people and places; and throughout this issue, see how connections are sometimes made in unlikely places.

This interconnectedness goes beyond Cornell students, faculty, staff, alumni and campuses: The new Engaged Cornell initiative, established with a \$50 million gift from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, will help make hands-on, practical learning experiences and community engagement a defining feature of the Cornell undergraduate experience. That's a whole other level of connections, in students' communities and throughout the world.

I can't resist sharing two of my favorites – Alexander Vosburgh Frieden '11 (Arts & Sciences) and Elizabeth Vosburgh Frieden '16 (CALS), my two children, both proud Cornellians.

If you'd like to add your own Cornell favorites, submit your favorite memories and stories at 150.cornell.edu or send me your thoughts at avpcomm@cornell.edu.

Tracy Vosburgh
Associate Vice President, University Communications
University Relations



A student chalks a happy birthday message in honor of Cornell's sesquicentennial on Ho Plaza Oct. 9.

Two alumni win Nobel Prize in chemistry

Eric Betzig, M.S. '85, Ph.D. '88, and William Moerner, M.S. '78, Ph.D. '82, have shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry for groundbreaking achievements in optical microscopy.



Betzig



Moerner

Betzig, a researcher at the Janelia Farm Research Campus, part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, received his master's and Ph.D. in applied and engineering physics. Moerner, the Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University, received his master's and Ph.D. in experimental physics. The two Americans shared the Nobel with German scientist Stefan Hell, the Nobel committee announced in October in Sweden.

The three were honored for their work in super-resolved fluorescence microscopy, through which the pathways of individual molecules can be imaged inside living cells. The effects of their collective research breakthroughs are felt in many ways: from showing how molecules create synapses between nerve cells to the ability to track protein aggregation involved in diseases of the brain, such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, according to the Nobel release announcing the winners.

Working separately, Betzig and Moerner made key discoveries in single-molecule microscopy, which harnesses the ability to toggle the fluorescence of individual molecules. By imaging the same area multiple times and capturing the flow of a few interspersed molecules, the method can provide high-resolution images of single molecules at the nanoscale.



Sesquicentennial Commemorative Grove dedicated

Sitting on the upper rim of Libe Slope and physically aligned with the Arts Quad statues of Andrew Dickson White and Ezra Cornell is a new landmark on campus: The Sesquicentennial Commemorative Grove, which was formally dedicated in October as part of the Trustee Council Annual Meeting and Homecoming Weekend.

The ceremony took place at the fully accessible, 1,700-square-foot area, replete with trees and plantings, a timeline of key events in Cornell's history engraved into a walkway, and memorable quotes from Cornellians carved onto benches.

The New York City firm Weiss/Manfredi designed the grove. The landmark was made possible through generous gifts by members of the Cornell Board of Trustees.

A tradition is born: the Big Red Pumpkin Regatta

At midday Oct. 4 on Beebe Lake beach under steady rainfall, eight teams of Cornellians scrambled to make final adjustments to their home-grown watercraft, decorating their boats – and themselves – with flowers, balloons, nylon rope and life jackets.

As the first-ever Big Red Pumpkin Regatta began, racers fought to gain control of their boats. Many ended up improvising – some forgoing oars and paddling with hands and feet, others dragging the pumpkin with them as they swam, laughing all the way.

Eight four-person teams competed in the 100-meter relay race along the Beebe Lake shore. The regatta, which featured hollow 200-pound pumpkins grown at the Dilmun Hill Student Farm, was hosted by Cornell Flotilla, a graduate student club, and organized by Peter DelNero, a Ph.D. student in the field of biomedical engineering, who hopes to create a lasting and fun Cornell tradition among students, alumni and faculty alike.



ELIZABETH GARRETT NAMED 13TH PRESIDENT OF CORNELL

Elizabeth Garrett, provost and senior vice president

for academic affairs at the University of Southern California, was named Cornell's 13th president Sept. 30. She will assume the presidency July 1, 2015. Current President David Skorton steps down June 30, 2015; he will become the next secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

As provost (2010-14), Garrett oversaw USC's College of Letters, Arts and Sciences as well as its School of Medicine and 16 other professional schools and several divisions. She previously served as USC's vice president for academic planning and budget; her scholarly interests include the legislative process, the design of democratic institutions, the federal budget process and tax policy.

Before joining the faculty of USC, she was a professor of law at the University of Chicago where she also served as deputy dean for academic affairs. She received her B.A. in history with special distinction from the University of Oklahoma and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Before entering academics, Garrett served as budget and tax counsel and legislative director for Sen. David L. Boren (D-Okla.) and clerked for Justice Thurgood Marshall on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Garrett's husband, Andrei Marmor, is a professor of philosophy and professor of law at USC. They both will join the Cornell faculty with joint appointments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Law School.

Cornellians on Garrett:

"Her talents, experience and vision make her the ideal choice to lead Cornell into its next 150 years."

— JAN ROCK ZUBROW '77, CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE.

"There are few universities in the world that are as complex and ambitious and as far-reaching as Cornell University. And that means we set our sights very high in terms of attributes that we require of somebody capable enough to lead Cornell into the next 150 years, and I could not be more certain that we've found the perfect person in Beth Garrett."

— ROBERT HARRISON '76, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"I congratulate the search committee on its terrific choice of Elizabeth Garrett as Cornell's 13th president. I look forward to working closely with her over the coming months to

ensure a smooth transition and a successful start to what I am confident will be her exceptional tenure at Cornell."

— PRESIDENT DAVID SKORTON

"She's a natural fit for the school, and she is going to lead the institution extremely well."

— ROSS GITLIN '15, STUDENT TRUSTEE WHO SERVED ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

"The academic reviews of her scholarly work were unprecedented and stunning. She was the unanimous decision by the committee. We only had to take one vote. It was clear."

— PETER NOLAN '80, MBA '82, TRUSTEE

'I FOUND [THE VISION OF CORNELL'S FOUNDERS] COMPELLING. IT RESONATES WITH MY OWN WORK AND MY LIFE.'

— PRESIDENT-ELECT ELIZABETH GARRETT

Garrett on Cornell:

"Cornell has been fundamentally shaped by its founders' lasting vision of a university dedicated to inclusion, to egalitarianism and public engagement. I found that vision compelling. It resonates with my own work and my life.

"Just as Cornell has been acknowledged as the first American university, I am confident that we are the American university that will help shape this century as an influential global presence in education."

A photograph showing three people in the foreground, smiling and posing for a photo. On the left is Elizabeth Garrett, wearing a red and white Cornell University scarf with a bear logo. In the center is David Skorton, wearing a red Cornell University hat and a white shirt with a tie. On the right is Robin Davisson, wearing a red Cornell University scarf. They are standing in front of a large crowd of people seated in a stadium, likely during Homecoming Weekend. The background is filled with people, some wearing red and white clothing, and the stadium lights are visible.

President-elect Elizabeth Garrett, left, with Cornell President David Skorton and his wife, Professor Robin Davisson, in Schoellkopf Stadium during Homecoming Weekend in October.

A Few of Our Favorite

What is it about this 150-year-old, sprawling institution spanning several cities and a few continents that inspires such passion and love in so many people? The short answer: breathtaking natural spaces (gorges, running trails, campus architecture, nearby waterfalls and the Finger Lakes), accomplished, smart and kind people, and variety – in fields of study, fellow Cornellians and opportunity.

Setting out to discover what people love most about Cornell, we spoke to professors, lecturers, students, staff and alumni, in person and over the phone and via social media. Some found it difficult to name a favorite Cornell person. “I report to 13 deans,” cautioned one staff member who shall remain anonymous, “so there’s no way I’m answering that.”

But most folks didn’t hesitate when asked to name a favorite spot on campus, or an all-time most amazing class they’d ever taken. People were eager to wax poetic about the views from Libe Slope, the deep hush of the Law School library, the caring staff in Student and Academic Services or the brilliance of Cornell professors.

Very few people mentioned the long winters in Ithaca or final exams in Barton Hall.

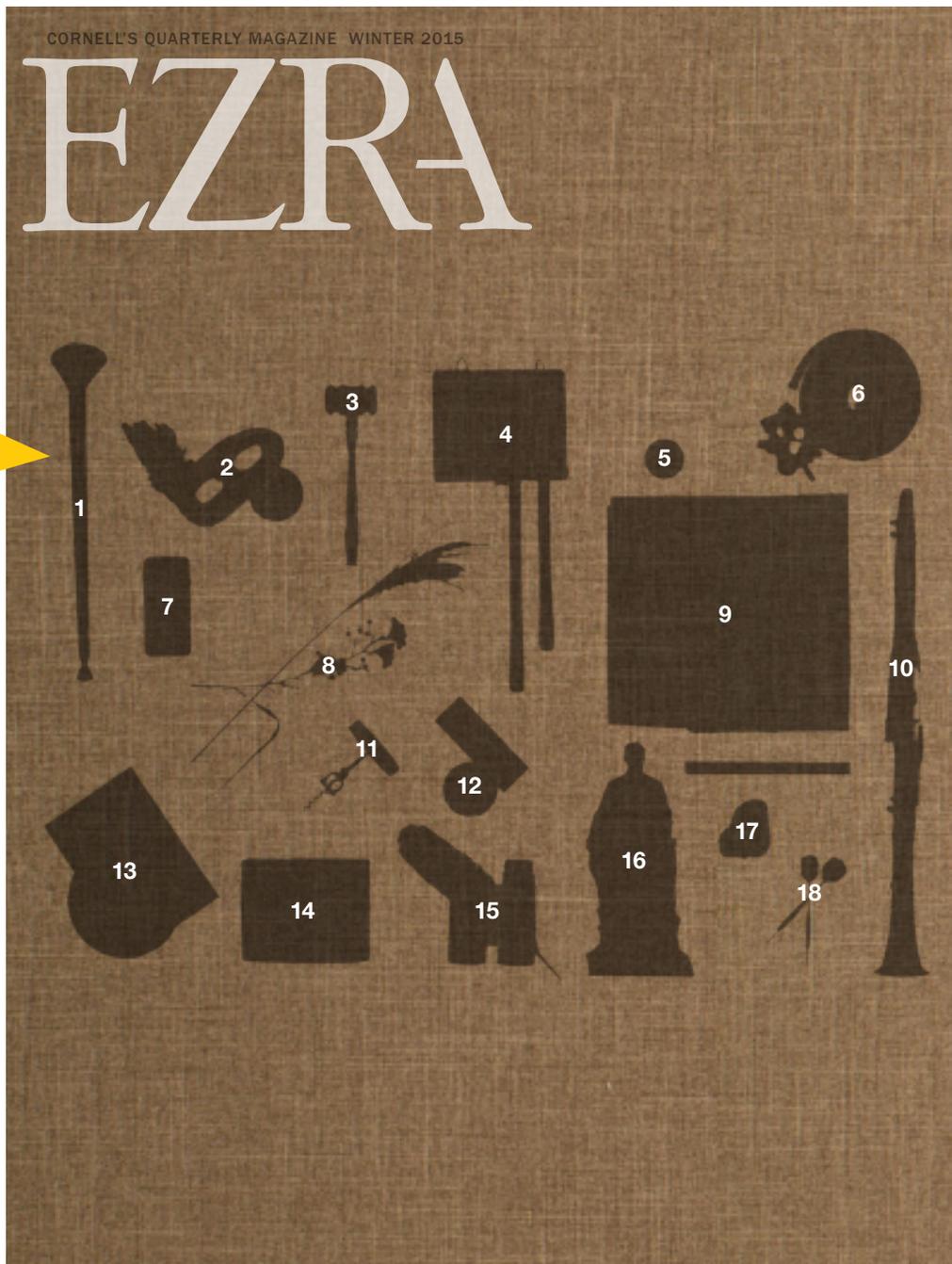
Who is your favorite Cornellian? What’s your favorite thing about the university, and your favorite campus location? Chime in at 150.cornell.edu or on the Cornell University Alumni Association’s Facebook page, where the conversation has already started.

– reporting by *Emily Sanders Hopkins, Kate Klein and Joe Wilensky*



Creating the cover: Robert Barker, director of photography (on ladder), and Christopher J. Kelly, graphic designer, both of University Communications Marketing, arrange the collection of objects representing favorite Cornell things for this issue’s cover.

(Cornell) Things



Guide to the “Cornell Favorites” items illustrated on the cover. Each of these items has some connection – sometimes more than one – to a favorite Cornell person, place or thing mentioned in this cover story package.

1. The Cornell University Baton, one of the official symbols of the university (carried during ceremonies such as Commencement and presidential inaugurations)
2. Theater mask and stage light Fresnel lens
3. Gavel
4. Sheet music to Stevie Wonder’s “Sir Duke” and drumsticks
5. Cornell Dairy ice cream container cover
6. Sextant and nautical rope
7. Smartphone displaying Cornell Tech logo
8. Plant samples from Cornell Plantations
9. Sketch of a Dragon Day sculpture by architecture students
10. Clarinet
11. Corkscrew
12. Hockey puck and ticket
13. Coffee, cookies and “The Tiger’s Wife” by Téa Obreht, MFA. ’09, who was a Literary Lunches-featured author
14. Butterfly
15. Binoculars and feather
16. Miniature Ezra Cornell statue, given to Foremost Benefactors
17. Rocks
18. Darts

An interconnected **BIG RED** chain

Here were our rules: Pick almost anyone at Cornell – a student, member of the faculty or staff, or an alumnus – and ask for his or her favorite things about Cornell. Select one or more of their answers to see where the chain leads.



Lee



Provided

1

We started with **En Ting Lee '17**. “My favorite thing about Cornell is how **beautiful and open** it is,” she says. “Coming from a small city-state in the tropics [Singapore], I found it incredible how much space there was here. Coming a very, very close second, though, is the **Cornell Forensics Society**.”

Lee is secretary of the Cornell Forensics Society, the world’s No. 1 ranked speech and debate team.

Lee says that despite CFS’s top ranking and winning record, it also

“taught me how to lose with grace, and that losing in a good round against outstanding opponents is oftentimes much more fulfilling than winning in an average round with average opponents. CFS has allowed me to exchange ideas with some of the most intelligent, yet down-to-earth people I have ever met. ... CFS also encourages a strong sense of community, because we spend so much time traveling and living together – at least five or six weekends every semester!”

Nelson



Feldshuh



Feldshuh names **Mike Schafer '86**, the Jay R. Bloom Head Coach of Men's Hockey, as one of his favorite Cornell people. Feldshuh first met Schafer in 1987, when he decided to enroll in a phys ed hockey class taught by (then assistant coach) Schafer.

"Mike's enthusiasm as a teacher matched his enthusiasm as a coach," Feldshuh remembers. "The experience of that class made me continue to enroll in phys ed hockey for more than 25 years!"

3

I believe I have the dubious distinction of being the oldest living faculty member in a phys ed hockey class. I can even recall the thrill of having Mike skate with the class once or twice over the years. Whenever I'm recruiting for Cornell and the subject of hockey comes up and Mike's in the room, I make sure to kid him by noting that I owe all my hockey skill (which is minimal) to Mike being my first teacher."

continued on next page



Provided



Schafer



Above and left: Cornell University Athletics

ILR School lecturer **Sam Nelson**, who leads the Cornell Forensics Society, names theater professor **David Feldshuh** as one of his favorite people at Cornell, because of Feldshuh's willingness to share his expertise with others.

2

"He's always helping people – he is always figuring out ways to be a mentor, to make suggestions, to listen," Nelson says.

When Nelson arrived as a new faculty member about seven years ago, Feldshuh sought him out – Feldshuh was going to be teaching a class called Acting in Public (a course using acting techniques to teach public speaking), and Nelson was teaching courses on argumentation and debate.

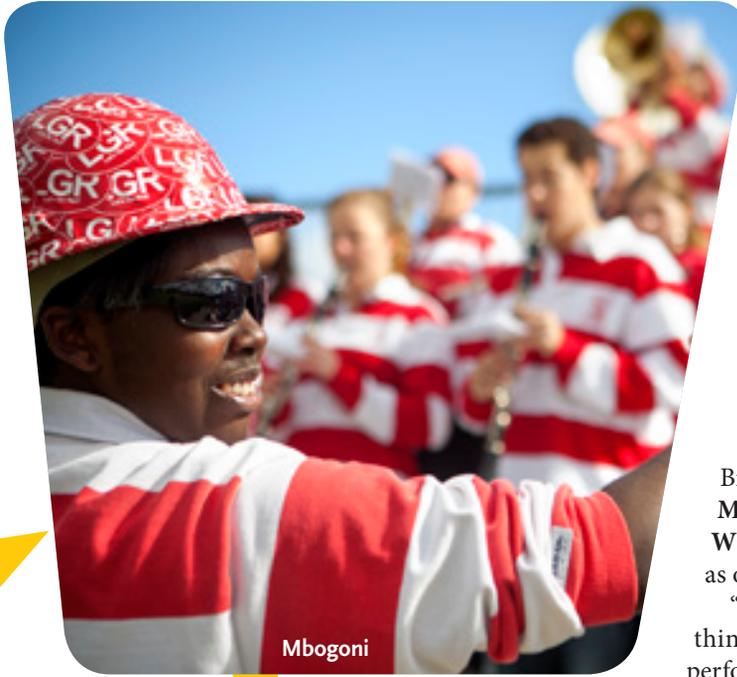
Feldshuh "wanted my advice," Nelson recalls. "I gave it to him, and then I quickly realized that he

was a person I could learn a lot from, and that it should be the other way around – the advice probably should be coming from him toward me."

The two have become friends, and Feldshuh has spoken several times to Nelson's classes; this fall, Nelson guest lectured in one of Feldshuh's classes.

"It's these informal networks of people who have similar interests that are one of the wonderful advantages, unexpected benefits, of working at Cornell," Nelson says. "The theater building is physically far away from ILR, but it's not far in that we all have the same goals: We're both teaching people to communicate better."

A Big Red chain *(continued)*



Mbogoni



Schafer names the **Big Red Pep Band**, which plays at his games, as one of his favorite Cornell things.

4

“The spirit and enthusiasm of Cornell comes out in the pep band,” he says. “When I have heard them at Lynah Rink, [first] as a player, then as an alum and now as a coach, it brings back great memories of not only competing on the Hill – they embody the enthusiasm for Cornell University.”



5

Big Red Pep Band conductor **Anita Mbogoni '15** names **Cornell University Winds** (of which she also is a member) as one of her favorites:

“CU Winds is my favorite Cornell thing, because it is both a superb performing group and a close-knit social organization,” she says. “We perform a wide variety of repertoire that caters to all musical tastes and always strive for excellence.

“Ensemble members frequently spend time together outside our biweekly rehearsals, and I think that this sense of camaraderie helps us to make better music together.”



CU Winds





Wiles



Spinazzola

Kim

Erica Lynn

“Finding art in unexpected places happens all the time on the Cornell campus, where teaching with original objects – of all types and from all disciplines – has flourished since Cornell’s founding,” says **Stephanie Wiles**, the Richard J. Schwartz Director of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art.

One of Wiles’ favorite Cornell things is when she learned that a 1942 Works Project Administration mural, “**Abstraction**,” by **Ilya Bolotowsky** (detail pictured above), along with two other murals, were on the site of the future Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt Island in New York City.

7

The Johnson Museum is helping to remove and restore these murals, originally painted for Goldwater Hospital, which is being demolished for the future campus. The murals will be reinstalled at the Cornell Tech campus, “embracing an engagement between past and present,” Wiles says.

The Bolotowsky mural is planned for reinstallation in the campus’s first academic building, designed by Thom Mayne of Morphosis and scheduled to open in 2017.

“It makes perfect sense that this [new Cornell campus] will be launched with a terrific work of art,” Wiles says.

James Spinazzola, interim director of CU Winds and a postdoctoral associate in music, names working with the students in CU Winds and performing at Ithaca’s Carriage House Café (at right) as two of his favorite things, and names **Ariana Kim**, assistant professor of music (and his wife), as his favorite Cornell person.

Kim names the breathtaking views from the upper floors of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art (above) as one of her favorite things about Cornell.

6



Provided

My favorite **Cornellian** is ...

Who is your favorite Cornellian? A classmate?

An inspiring professor? A historic figure from the university's early years? We asked a handful of alumni, students, staff and faculty to name their favorites, and here's what they said.



"My favorite Cornell person is **Jennie McGraw Fiske**. I am fascinated by the story of her marriage to Willard Fiske and the Supreme Court lawsuit over her estate. Every time I enter Uris Library, I must stop and read the plaque outside ... with its subtle but very lasting dig at the controversy. Salacious!"

Wendy Wilcox, access services librarian for Olin, Kroch and Uris libraries

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections



Alice Katz Berglas '66, president of the Class of 1966. "Alice's boundless enthusiasm for Cornell is inspiring. From the Sy Katz parade tradition to her dedication to Reunion and mentoring students. A Cornell treasure [who] brightens the lives of all she interacts with."



Rabbi Jeremy Fierstien. He is the assistant director of Cornell University Hillel. He is one of the nicest and funniest people I have ever met, and he is always there to offer guidance, assistance or support in any way that is needed."

Rachel Minton '15, Human Ecology

Of all the people I've met in my entire life, [then-Cornell teacher of literature] **Vladimir Nabokov** had the best command of the English language. He knew the right word for every occasion you could think of. My biggest regret was that after I took the course, the girl I was dating asked if she could borrow my notes. ... the marginal things I made were the things that he would say with the content. Asides. Like: "The human spine is like a candle, with things like that. I can't even remember the name of the girl."

Richard Adie '75

"My favorite Cornell person is **Jon Conrad**, Dyson School professor, because he introduced me to my wife."

John Saylor, associate university librarian for scholarly resources and special collections



Carter Dredge, MHA '11, director of Healthcare Transformation. He is the next big cheese, I'm telling you. He was on campus in September to teach a Sloan practitioner-led intensive course on alternative financing."

Julie Carmalt, associate director of the Sloan Program in Health Administration

Ezra Cornell
(of course)

"**Ezra Cornell**. We wouldn't have this glorious university without him."

Charles W. Jermy Jr., associate dean of the School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions



Provided

“My favorite Cornell person is probably **Tomas Mapua**. He was in that first generation of Filipino students to come to Cornell in the early 1900s. He went back to the Philippines, became the first registered architect in the Philippines, and started a college! The Mapua Institute of Technology is a big deal in the Philippines. ... my father studied engineering at MIT and remembers Mapua. ... The wildest part is that I didn't know about this Mapua/Cornell connection until I saw some exhibit with this information in Manila about five years ago. Who knew?”

Cheryl Beredo, director of the Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives



“**[Law] professor Barbara Holden-Smith** is the sharpest and toughest professor at Cornell Law School – but she is the kindest and most supportive, too. She cares about her students outside the classroom, whether we come to her for [advice on] jobs, extracurriculars or even social life, and she never turns down a question for help. All you have to do in return is try to survive her questions in class!”

Nathan Koskella, Law '16



Joe Thomas [professor and former Johnson dean] is always doing whatever is needed for Johnson, Cornell University and everyone, all the alumni who are doing so much to help Cornell Tech; and **Deborah Estrin** [professor of computer science] – the first faculty member at Cornell Tech – she does it all.”

Doug Stayman, associate dean of Cornell Tech in NYC (and an associate professor of marketing at Johnson)



“I think kudos are well-deserved by the **grounds and maintenance staff** who make the sidewalks, stairs and all other walkable surfaces safe for us (especially during the winter months).”

Sonya Nahid Islam, Sonya Nahid Islam, extension associate



“It would have to be **Corey Earle '07**. I really admire his dedication to Cornell and hope that I will be able to maintain as strong a connection to this school as he has. Besides, you know you're awesome when over 500 students sign a petition to save your class!”

Ariel Cooper '15, Arts and Sciences



“**Mr. Richard Adie '75**, general manager of the Statler Hotel. He's the consummate Hotelier. After completing a successful career in the industry, he has returned to the school and has dedicated his time to opening doors and creating opportunities for current students – including myself.”

Kathryn Perkins '15



“My favorite person at Cornell is **Joyce Muchan** in the Public Service Center. She cares so much about the success of the programs and the Personal development of their executive boards and volunteers.”

Michael Jalricio '15, computers sciences, engineering



“**Dr. Mark Pecker** is a hardworking, generous and kind attending [and professor of clinical medicine] at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is an excellent physician who takes compassionate care of his patients. He is also a wonderful teacher who spends several hours with M.D./Ph.D. students who are on leave from their clinical work twice per month. He goes through cases with us in a patient, coherent nonjudgmental manner to help sustain our clinical knowledge. He also provides expert and thorough clinical advising to students.”

Nicole Ramsey, M.D./Ph.D. candidate

“**Ezra Cornell**, who started our democratic enterprise where any person can find instruction in any study.”

Elisabeth K. Boas '71

Favorite **places** and **things**

The rigor, the library

“Paradoxically, my ‘favorite’ thing at Cornell has been the extraordinarily high standard of excellence required by my professors. The rigorous requirements for success also mean that we have a really strong library community (if you’re not at Mann Library on a Tuesday or Wednesday night, don’t even bother going to the bars on a Friday night).”

David Fischer ’15

“This is hard, but I guess I would have to say the top of Libe Slope. I love views, and the view from up there is pretty amazing. It kind of puts everything in perspective ... I have always felt so honored and privileged to be able to sit up on the slope and admire that view.

“Also, the yearbook collection in Uris Library and The Cornell Daily Sun archives in Olin Library. My parents are both Cornell alumni, and it’s really special for me to be able to look through those yearbooks and newspapers and essentially dig up my own family history.”

Ariel Cooper ’15

“My favorite place on campus is Mann Library, from its gorgeous Art Deco façade, to the refurbished lobby with warm wooden panels contrasting the steel and marble. It’s a warm, friendly place, with the best resources of the Cornell Library, ease of access in the Ag quad and a great place to study and collaborate with classmates.

“Also, the long-standing tradition of ‘any person ... any study’ in all senses of the phrase. From allowing me, a Latino immigrant, admission, to the inclusivity of ... the Big Red Band, to the continuous strive for inclusivity in admissions, staff, subjects, professors, vendors, investors, political belief, religion and thought. While Cornell may not be perfect in all those aspects, as a school we certainly try hard to improve and continue to allow anyone to follow their dreams.”

Kevin Milian ’15



The atmosphere, the natural beauty, the infrastructure

“The gardens ... the Japanese gardens by the Johnson Museum of Art, the Azalea Garden along Tower Road, Minns Garden and the A.D. White Garden are some of my favorites.

“The investment in microfarming and larger-scale farming on campus is so great! Dilmun Hill, the student-run farm off [Route] 366, and the fairly new student garden outside of Kennedy are great places for hands-on learning in the truest sense of the phrase. There’s also a nut orchard and experimental mushroom production.

“Also: the bell tower concerts, the Cornell Events Calendar, and the Omniride bus system. I love the snowy

mornings that I can get to campus – for free – faster than it would take me to clean my car.”

Sonya Nahid Islam, extension associate in nutritional sciences

“Cornell’s community! I know every time I cross campus I’ll see a friend or make a new one.”

Adam Kirsch ’15



The food, the traditions



“My favorite place on campus is the Cornell Dairy Bar in Stocking Hall. Obviously it makes amazing ice cream on campus but it is also attached to the Cornell dairy plant that students are free to walk by and observe the factory in action. It’s a unique way to experience the food you are eating. I’ve been there a few more times than I care to admit.

“My favorite part of Cornell, and the reason I chose to attend this university, is the sense of pride that is so apparent when you are on campus. You can see that when students tailgate for the Homecoming game, hurry to finish the 161 [things to do] list before they graduate and revert back to old habits when they visit as alumni.”

Kim Bernstein '15

“The Big Red Barn [the recently renovated graduate student center]. When I first arrived at Cornell, I was lured to its ‘TGIF’ events; nothing beats dollar beers and free popcorn on a Friday afternoon! ... Over the years, as I navigated through my Ph.D. program, I gained a deeper appreciation for the BRB, grabbing a quick lunch between classes, gaining self-confidence in the dissertation writers’ retreat, [and] meeting new friends as an employee. The BRB has become my safe haven.

“Last, but not least, I met the love of my life at a BRB speed dating [event] two years ago.”

Kristen Davis, graduate student in animal science

“My absolute favorite thing is the list of ‘161 Things You Have To Do Before You Graduate.’ It is a way of uniting every single Cornell student with common events, tasks and generally hilarious to-dos.”

Rachel Minton '15

It's not your grandfather's university (even if it is)

“Right at the top of the list, my favorite thing is that ever-renewing element of the university. I think it is obvious that our founder knew this university would forever be changing, growing, never complete, always seeking and offering opportunities to learn. [He] knew that for America’s democracy to succeed, for the liberty of its people to last, there needed to be an extraordinary private research university that educates hardworking students of all backgrounds, and gives back practical and useful knowledge to the people of New York and the nation.

“I like walking the campus; I enjoy feeling and sensing the energy of Cornell students and faculty. And I love Big Red sports! For 48 years I have been among the Lynah Faithful. I am a fan if our students are playing lacrosse, volleyball, football, wrestling, crew or basketball; they deserve our support.

“I continue to enjoy opportunities to wander into a large classroom, sit in the back and listen to amazing Cornell professors such as Mary Beth Norton speak about American history, or Bryan Danforth talk about bugs ... I have favorite places and people in each of our colleges.

“I have been on the board of trustees’ Buildings and Properties Committee for a few decades. I enjoy the architectural diversity of the campus [and] I encourage our maintenance and grounds people who work hard to take care of things ... I also know the people and facilities of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

“I like to go for walks around Beebe Lake or through the Plantations. As many do, I pause at the top of Libe Slope and smile at the sunsets. Sage Chapel – it’s just a beautiful place to contemplate.”

Ezra Cornell '70, trustee and great-great-great grandson of founder Ezra Cornell



A few of Cornell's most **popular classes,** **past and present**

In the 1950s, Cornell students, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg '54, flocked to hear Vladimir Nabokov's lectures on Austen, Tolstoy and Chekhov. Ginsburg says she still thinks about the novelist's instruction on "changing the way word order should go" every time she writes an opinion as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Even more students, however, took professor Harold Thompson's American Folk Literature course, known around campus as "Romp-n-Stomp." Peter Yarrow '59 took the class and would go on to become a member of the famed folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary (which was originally called "The Ivy League Three"). The raucous lecture/sing-alongs presented by Thompson shaped Yarrow's career as a musician and contributed to his famed compositions – such as "Blowin' in the Wind" and

"If I Had a Hammer" – now woven into American history.

Which world-changing figure will emerge from one of Cornell's current auditorium-packing courses decades from now with a story to tell?



Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections

CORNELLIANS ON COURSES

ENG 2800: Creative Writing *"It gives me an outlet that's different from the biology and chemistry classes I take for my major."*

– Sam Baxter '16, biology major in Arts and Sciences

"Reading this latest book ['The Fourth Dimension of a Poem'] by Professor Emeritus M.H. Abrams took me right back to my freshman year at Cornell, when I sat in his lectures simply enchanted by everything, from their lyric intellectual thought to the very tone of them. I recall his voice as though I had heard it just yesterday."

– Kathy Hymes '80

"My favorite class so far has been EDUC 2610: The Intergroup Dialogue Project. It's unlike any class taught at Cornell; it's visceral, reflective, but most of all a place for self-growth and community building. As a facilitator, I had the rare experience of virtually teaching my peers about social justice issues, but also learned a lot myself from the role and working together with my students to create more awareness on campus."

– Kevin Milian '16

PSYCH 1101: Introduction to Psychology

Cornell's largest course for years, Intro to Psych draws more than 800 students to the only classroom that will accommodate them – Bailey Hall – for lectures on curiosity-piquing subjects such as laughter, memory and sex. “There is no lack of interesting topics,” says associate professor David Pizarro, who aims to equip students with scientific tools and to instill in them “a sense of awe about the human mind.”



imagepatpro/iStock

SEA 3660: Introduction to Oceanography



Bruce Monger of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences draws more than 900 students by teaching with enthusiasm, running a tight ship and making it fun. “I play great (and loud) music before class that is themed to the lecture topic of the day,” says Monger. Incorporating various sciences – biology, chemistry, physics and geology – the course draws students from all over the university for a deep and wide look at the ocean.

continued on next page

“In [CS 2110: Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures] I enjoyed the subject matter. It helped my dissertation. The teaching was phenomenal. I’d definitely recommend it to anyone who does quantitative work. The good teaching comes from enthusiasm for the material, enthusiasm for working with students [and] well-designed lectures.”

– Evan Buntrock, Ph.D. candidate in the field of economics

“I was a part of the first global health curriculum course. It was an awesome microcosm of the Cornell mantra of responding to the needs and ever-changing interests of Cornell students. The new curriculum is evidence that Cornell respects and values the interests of students as it is now a major concentration for incoming students.”

– Nicole Ramsey, Weill Cornell Medical College

“In [PMA 6540: Introduction to Film Analysis with professor Don Frederickson], the professor was very passionate and intelligent. The course was eye-opening, with a high level of discussion on themes such as psychological time lapse. It has been informing my practice ever since.”

– Calvin Kim '15, fine arts/psychology major

classes (continued)

HD 3620: Human Bonding

Love, sex and relationships are never far from the average college student's mind, and associate professor Cindy Hazan emphasizes the importance of human bonds in her course. She caps the course at 600 so it will fit into the Kennedy Hall classroom where she can "see every student's face."

"This is serious stuff," she says. Human Bonding, with no prerequisites, attracts students from all colleges. One engineering student summed the course up best when he said: "It's great to be getting credit for thinking about the things I'm thinking about all the time anyway."



Joe Wilensky



Paul Pehring/Stock

PLPA 2010:

Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds

Eight years after taking professor George Hudler's popular course on fungus, a Cornell alumnus working in an emergency room sent a frantic email to the plant pathologist: *quick! Was this mushroom, consumed by a patient, poisonous?*

Hudler hears from former students at least once a month with similar fungus-related questions. More than 450 students per semester remember this course for the "gee whiz" moments Hudler, now retired, placed in each lecture to open students' eyes to the world: "I chose mold and fungi and mushrooms as my platform for that."



CORNELLIANS ON COURSES continued

"Firing 20-gauge shotguns at clays [in **Trap and Skeet Shooting** with instructor Mark Sacco] is something I would have never done if it weren't for the opportunity to do so here at Cornell."

– Kathryn Perkins '15, School of Hotel Administration

"While I have taken several amazing classes at Cornell – and it is hard to pick just one – I would say one of my favorites was the introductory course for urban and regional studies majors, **CRP 1100: The American City**. The course introduced us to how cities have developed and what forces make cities what they are today. It was one of the most informative classes I have taken, and one I always looked forward to, even though it was at 9:05 a.m."

– Caroline Flax '15

"**Greek Mythology [CLASS 2604]** with professor [Dave] Mankin was my favorite, mainly because he's weird. He refused to take his sunglasses off all semester, made derisive comments about the administration during class and accepted written questions in a Casper the Friendly Ghost bucket at the front of the room, all of which he answered except questions asking why he refused to take off his sunglasses."

– Audrey Menna '15



Above and right: Jon Feis Photography



HADN 4300: Introduction to Wines

What's in the little black cases hundreds of students tote all over campus one afternoon each week? Wine glasses. And where are they going? To Statler Hall for Introduction to Wines, a class on the pleasures of wine and the history behind the labels. With more than 700 enrolling each term, more than 41,000 Cornell students have taken the course since it was introduced in 1972 by professor Vance Christian. Stephen Mutkoski '67, Ph.D. '76, the Banfi Vintners Professor of Wine Education and Management, took over teaching the course in 1983; and lecturer Cheryl Stanley '00 (pictured above, with Mutkoski), who was a TA for the class as a student, now teaches the course.

*"[Assistant professor Huiju Park in **FSAD 6900: Understanding Functional Aspects of Clothing and Design**] was such an enthusiastic brand-new teacher who really covered all my favorite material on understanding thermal comfort and performance aspects of clothing. We also had a great class project with local firefighters."*

– N. Elizabeth Allen, graduate student, Human Ecology

*"In [**PAM 2350: The U.S. Health Care System**], we learned about all aspects of the health care system, including health insurance, right as the Affordable Health Care Act was going through. I was able to explain it to my parents."*

– Julie Apuzzo '15, biology and society major, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

*"The common thread in each class [**Field Biology** with Charlie Smith, **Evolution** with Will Provine and **Normative Ethics** with Dick Baer] was a fantastic professor. Both Dick Baer and Will Provine pushed the limits of conventional thinking in the classroom. Charlie Smith was an incredibly talented individual; he was like a brilliant Teddy Roosevelt mixed with Henry Thoreau."*

– Tom Daniel, master's degree student in the field of natural resources

A few of OUR favorite (Cornell) things



They're not "raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens," but our eight and a half years at Cornell have given us a long list of "favorite Cornell things." Here are our top four:



Getting stopped by students as we cross the campus

One of us (David), in his address to new students each year, invites students to stop and say "hello" when they see us on campus. It's always enjoyable when they do that – we like to think they actually listened to the speech – and it gives us a chance to ask how things are going and get a glimpse of their lives at Cornell and beyond. Of course, often they have absolutely no idea who we are and just need directions. We're happy to oblige!



Senior tent at Commencement

The annual Senior Convocation, with a distinguished invited speaker, and the Commencement ceremony the following day bookend a favorite Cornell event – the reception for graduates and their families under the big tent on the Arts Quad, which we host with the Cornell Board of Trustees. We meet some of the remarkable people, from beloved grandparents to children, who have contributed to the graduates' success, and we pose for many photos. Occasionally, we even get to eat some of the Cornell ice cream!

Cornell Plantations

One of the university's jewels is Cornell Plantations, especially for Robin. No other major research university can claim a mature botanical garden and arboretum and a diverse network of nature preserves, all woven seamlessly into the campus and larger community. We go there to walk, run, snowshoe, do yoga, and just find space for quiet contemplation in inspiring surroundings. A visit to Cornell Plantations can change the trajectory of even the most stressful day. At least it does for us.



Literary Lunches

We are both scientists by training but humanists at heart. We love good books, healthy local food and opening our home to the campus and local communities. Several times each semester we invite a local author and the first 25 people who sign up to join us for a locally sourced lunch and conversation at our home. From Téa Obreht, M.F.A. '09, whose debut novel "The Tiger's Wife" captured worldwide attention a few years ago, to professor Thomas Seeley, who last spring read from his fascinating book "Honeybee Democracy," we've had a wonderful range of authors and equally interesting guests! ■



Professor Robin Davisson is the Andrew D. White Professor of Molecular Physiology. David J. Skorton is president of Cornell University.



“I’m most proud of how Cornell is able to give opportunities to people all over the country and the world to get a wonderful education and to learn about America and about themselves. To learn to be able to take risks. And that there are so many fields of study. I’m proud that Cornell produces alumni who contribute to service, to their communities and to the country. People leave with the idea that they have an obligation for service.”

– *MARCUS LOO '77, M.D. '81, TRUSTEE EMERITUS
AND PRESIDENTIAL COUNCILLOR*

“Cornell afforded me the opportunities for my professional life.”

– *RICHARD SILVER '50, LIFE MEMBER OF THE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF
THE SAS ADVISORY COUNCIL*

HOMECOMING

launches sesquicentennial celebration

Homecoming Weekend kicked off the 150th-year sesquicentennial celebration for Cornell University in Ithaca Oct. 17 with a fireworks- and laser light show-laden party. Thousands – from Cornell parents and members of the Ithaca community to students, university leaders and returning alumni – chanted “1-5-0!” in Schoellkopf Stadium. Earlier that evening in Barton Hall, a gala presentation (including a song-and-dance revue) to Trustee-Council Annual Meeting participants and guests condensed 15 decades of university history.

Beyond Ithaca, regional events celebrating the sesquicentennial were held Sept. 13 in New York City, Nov. 14 in Washington, D.C., and Dec. 15 in Hong Kong. Upcoming events are slated for Jan. 17 (Boston), Feb. 14 (West Palm Beach), March 6 and 8 (San Francisco and Los Angeles) and May 14 (London). See 150.cornell.edu for more details.

How are alumni planning to celebrate the university’s sesquicentennial, and what are they most proud of about Cornell? Read more of what alumni have to say at a voice-filled and revitalized Alumni Affairs and Development homepage at alumni.cornell.edu.

"I'm most proud of Cornell for the acceptance of all types of people. I have felt so included since I first arrived, and I didn't expect that. I'm a biology and society major, which is an unusual field of study, but I love it. I'm also a tour guide. I had the opportunity to give a tour to the new trustees."

– OLIVIA VAZ '15

"The Cornell Club of Chicago is preparing a spring celebration for the sesquicentennial that's going to be inclusive, but a little on the fancy side. We expect to do it up big. What I'm most proud of is that every year, the students get better and cooler. Cornell alumni are obsessive and in a whole other universe from alumni from other schools. We are seriously devoted."

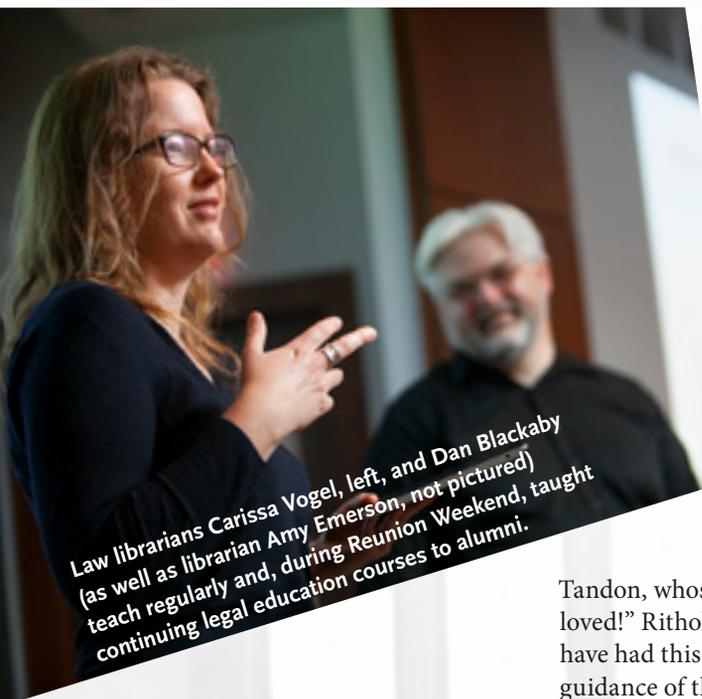
– KATHY CORNELL '70, MEMBER OF THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

In Ithaca, Charter Day Weekend **April 24-27** will celebrate the **actual 150th** anniversary of Cornell University with four days of programming and events.

CHARTER
DAY 150
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

150.cornell.edu/events/charterday

collections to connections



Law librarians Carissa Vogel, left, and Dan Blackaby (as well as librarian Amy Emerson, not pictured) teach regularly and, during Reunion Weekend, taught continuing legal education courses to alumni.

Helping people find knowledge in books and databases, meeting with expert librarians, providing space for learning – those connections are Cornell University Library’s bread and butter.

But what about the unexpected connections that reach outside a library’s traditional boundaries? They are numerous and diverse, and seem to spring up everywhere. Here are just four examples.

meeting a mentor

During his sophomore year, Samuel Ritholtz ’14 met with a librarian to find the best sources for his research paper.



Ritholtz

“I learned of the best journals in my discipline from a librarian, and through researching these journals, I identified a favorite author whose work I became very familiar with,” he recalls. That author was Nidhi Tandon, a social activist working with women’s groups in developing countries.

Later that year, while at the Second Intersessional Meeting of the United

Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Ritholtz attended an event on the role of women in developing countries and spoke with the presenter after a particularly interesting session.

“I realized that this was Nidhi Tandon, whose work I knew and loved!” Ritholtz says. “I would not have had this experience without the guidance of the librarian and access to important resources.”

open access, out of the comfort zone

The library’s Open Access Publication Fund allowed Rodney Dietert, professor of immunotoxicology at the College of Veterinary Medicine,



Dietert

to explore an area of immunology outside his usual expertise: the microbiome, or flora in the gut, skin, airways and urogenital tract.

“The diversity of the microbiome at birth is an indicator of the body’s health throughout life,” he explained. “While I understood this, I hadn’t researched the topic until the opportunity came up to publish in [the journal] *Entropy*. And I never would have considered publishing in a physics journal without assistance from the fund.”

That article led to more publications. Two British filmmakers read the original article and included Dietert’s research in their documentary, “Microbirth,” on natural childbirth and the seeding and feeding of a baby’s

microbiome. This new area of study also filled his calendar with lectures through spring 2015 with the promise of more to come.

“My career took an unexpected turn into a whole new direction. All of these things – the original paper, the subsequent peer-reviewed publications, the documentary film and the invited lectures – owe their existence to the Open Access Publication Fund,” Dietert says.

reunion in the classroom

Imagine spending Reunion not just catching up with classmates, but taking classes with them again. Law



Angel

alumni do just that; law librarians teach continuing legal education courses over Reunion Weekend, allowing alumni to earn continuing education

credits to meet New York State Bar requirements.

“It’s an incredibly convenient option,” says Anna Angel ’06, J.D. ’12. “The topic of how technology is changing the way we practice law was very relevant to my work, and the discussion was lively and thought-provoking.”

Angel adds that she uses library resources on a regular basis and appreciates that the library is continually improving alumni access to databases.

“It’s helpful to know that I can still reach out to Cornell’s knowledgeable librarians when I have a deep question,” she says.

crossing boundaries of time and space

In 2012 the library worked to digitize the writings of Waguih Ghali, a Coptic Anglophone Egyptian author from the mid-20th century. The

library helps scholars bridge time and space

digitization project was part of the Grants Program for Digital Collections in Arts and Sciences, funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and coordinated by the library.

With Deborah Starr, associate professor of modern Arabic and Hebrew literature and film, the library created a digital archive of Ghali's personal writings that is available for free online.

Meanwhile, May Hawas discovered the archive while writing her dissertation on world literature. "As a student in Europe, I appreciated finding Cornell's Waguih Ghali archive," Hawas says. "As a teacher in Egypt, I appreciate the archive's open access. For those of us who don't always have access to well-connected libraries, such archives can be very useful."

Hawas, who teaches at the University of Alexandria, says she will recommend the archive to other Ghali enthusiasts

and propose the grant program as a potential model at her own university.

But the story doesn't end there: Hawas and Starr have begun a joint project on Ghali, and through that connection, a friend of Ghali's donated personal letters to the archive – enhancing the kind of connection that 21st-century scholarship demands.

Jessica E. Withers is a writer with Cornell University Library.

Provided



Starr



Top: Poster from the documentary "Microbirth," which included professor Rodney Diert's research. Above: Author Nidhi Tandon at a New York City event. Left: A sample page of the digitized writings of Waguih Ghali.



2015

Goal for 'Cornell Now' campaign increases to \$5.75 billion

CAMPAIN NEWS

10-year ENGAGED CORNELL initiative launched

Engaged Cornell – a \$150 million initiative – was launched on campus in October thanks to a \$50 million gift from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust. The initiative's programs will empower Cornell students to become active citizens and to tackle critical challenges through participation in hands-on, practical learning experiences in communities at home and around the world.



David and Cheryl Einhorn

David Einhorn and Cheryl Strauss Einhorn, both members of Cornell Class of 1991, head the trust.

"David and I are thrilled to partner with Cornell to educate and empower faculty and students to have important learning opportunities beyond the classroom," said Cheryl

Einhorn, a journalist and adjunct faculty member at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Her husband, David Einhorn, founder and president of Greenlight Capital, added: "Engaged Cornell will institutionalize public service as a cornerstone of every Cornellian's educational experience, a critical step toward recognizing that until we have the skills to work together, we won't be able to effectively tackle the world's greatest challenges."

Judith Appleton, Cornell's vice provost responsible for land-grant affairs, will lead the Engaged Cornell initiative (See End Note, p. 33). Engaged Cornell will administer competitive grants at the department level, promote the creation of introductory and advanced courses, and support a leadership program open to all students.

"Public engagement has been described as integral to Cornell, but we can't take it for granted as a birthright," said Robert S. Harrison '76, chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees and CEO of the Clinton Global Initiative. "The Einhorn Family Charitable Trust has made an incredible investment toward this aspiration, and I am confident that the university's many champions will meet the challenge of raising \$100 million in additional philanthropy to empower Engaged Cornell fully."

President David Skorton

announced the new goal – \$5.75 billion – during his State of the University address Oct. 17.

"Thanks to you and other Cornellians," he said to the assembled trustees, council members, and other members of the Cornell community, "our total giving continues to rise above the \$4.75 billion goal we surpassed last summer and separately the \$600 million raised so far for Cornell Tech."

Skorton said that funds raised toward the new goal will support the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medical College as well as Cornell Tech, which previously was not included in the "Cornell Now" campaign.

"We have momentum," said Stephen Ashley '62, "Cornell Now" campaign co-chair. "We have the significance of the sesquicentennial and the excitement of a future that includes Cornell Tech as an integral part of the university."

The "Cornell Now" campaign now unifies Ithaca, Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medical College to further student aid, research, faculty and facilities priorities.

Robert Appel '53, co-chair of Weill's current \$300 million campaign, remarked that the Weill campaign goals reflect the overall vision of Cornell University: faculty recruitment, enhanced curriculum, accelerated research and, ultimately, changed lives.

Cornell alumni, parents and friends have been incredibly generous throughout "Cornell Now," said campaign co-chair Andrew Tisch '71. "The additional funds will further the progress we have made together toward achieving the things we want most as a university."

During his address, Skorton promised that he will do all he can to advance Cornell toward this ambitious new \$5.75 billion goal before December 2015: "We're going to blow past that," he said during his address, "and we're going to do it sooner."

– Kate Klein

You can make it happen

Winter 2015

Help create a new engineering institute in Olin Hall ... and new solutions

Chemical engineers at Cornell use the principles of biological and engineering design to harness living organisms for manufacturing chemical products. The Institute for Biological Design and Manufacturing will capitalize on this research to catalyze progress toward a new biomanufacturing economy, in which engineers develop biological systems to manufacture new products, including therapeutic drugs and renewable fuels. **\$1,000**

Beam online students into the mix

This year, Cornell's systems engineering program made the BestColleges.com list of the best online M.Eng. programs. To further raise its own high standards, the program is prototyping and testing SYNTHIA, a communication platform that enables collaborative brainstorming between on-campus and distance-learning students. SYNTHIA is a physical avatar that embodies the remote student during design sessions. Help develop this breakthrough project. **\$25,000**



Provided

Award Phi Beta Kappa key funding

Founded in 1776 to honor and support the most accomplished students of the humanities and sciences, Phi Beta Kappa is perhaps the oldest and most prestigious Greek letter fraternal society in the world. Cornell's chapter, unlike almost all of our peers, has yet to secure a permanent endowment fund to support its programming, including its Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series and dinner. They're halfway to their \$100,000 goal. Give a big boost: **\$1,000-\$5,000**

Put some ice on that

The athletics department has two 25-year-old whirlpools that are in use five hours a day, with students lined up waiting their turn and frequent pauses for sanitizing and refilling with ice. Help the Athletic Training Office purchase a much-needed, state-of-the-art hydrotherapy console. Any gift toward the total cost of **\$51,200**

'This year, we want to win'

Although they were named the No. 1 debate team in the world in 2012, a national championship has thus far eluded Cornell's Forensics Society. This year, they plan to change that. Help send Cornellians to the U.S. Universities Debating Championship in Anchorage, Alaska, April 10-13, 2015. Pay for one debater's flight, room, food and contest registration fees: **\$1,185**



Provided

Provide the personal touch via 'Tech Treks'

Students participating in Johnson's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute's Tech Treks travel to New York City to meet with senior business leaders engaged in sustainability, financial services, medical/health care and technology. Students then work together to create solutions for these business leaders through, for example, hack-a-thons, like the successful FINTECH, where more than a dozen software products were created during a 48-hour session. Send 40 students from Ithaca to NYC by bus: **\$3,000**

Sponsor an amazing journey

Short-term study abroad programs are an increasingly popular choice for Cornell undergraduates who want to have a meaningful international experience but don't want to spend a whole semester away from campus. Examples: a six-week global health program in Tanzania, a research trip to Peru or participation in a wildlife habitat preservation project in Africa over the summer. Because travel for short-term programs is not covered by financial aid, these learning opportunities are often out of reach for those with limited means. Fund one Undergraduate Student Travel Grant: **\$2,500**



Sheila Crowell '14

To make a gift, or for more information about these and other giving opportunities, email MakeItHappen@cornell.edu.



Visiting scholar Afrika Bambaataa guest lectures in a seminar on “The Black ’70s: From Politics to Popular Culture” in the Africana Studies and Research Center Oct. 7. (DJ Jazzy Jay is at his left; also present that day were Marley Marl, Kool DJ Red Alert, Joe Conzo and Breakbeat Lou.) Bambaataa’s visit was part of his three-year term at Cornell as a visiting scholar, and he holds the first faculty appointment at a major university for a hip-hop pioneer. Cornell University Library’s Hip Hop Collection, established in 2007, is the largest archive in the world on the origins and spread of hip-hop culture. Visit rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop and www.news.cornell.edu/picture-cornell.





Headed to Carnegie Hall

Chorus, Glee Club to perform professor Roberto Sierra's 'Cantares'

Professor Roberto Sierra will see his choral piece, written for the university's sesquicentennial, performed at NYC's Carnegie Hall April 19.

When Meghan Burns '13 and Patrick Chamberlain '13 heard that 2015 would be the university's sesquicentennial year, they knew that the groups closest to their hearts needed to play a big role in the party.

In 2011 they started the process of commissioning a large-scale choral work to be sung by the Cornell University Glee Club and Cornell Chorus, even though they knew that by the time it was finished, they would no longer be the presidents of those groups. In fact, they'd be long gone from campus.

Luckily for current students – and alumni and concertgoers – that commission, by Grammy-nominated Cornell professor Roberto Sierra, will be performed this spring at Carnegie Hall to mark the university's 150th birthday.

"The musical tradition at Cornell is long and rich, from school songs that date back to the university's founding to our continued dedication to choral music today," Burns says. "The Sierra piece pays homage to this tradition, but also provides something new and exciting to contribute to the future of the program at Cornell, and to choral music at large."

As he wrote the piece, Sierra, who is from Puerto Rico, was influenced by Latin American culture and history, as well as his work in the classroom with Cornell students. "Cantares" is written

in three languages: Spanish, Qechua and Lucumí, an Afro-Cuban dialect.

"The piece reflects my view of the world we live in, an interesting and changing world," Sierra says. "As I research Latin American music to prepare for a class, I'll often be inspired and interested to think about how I might use this when I'm composing."

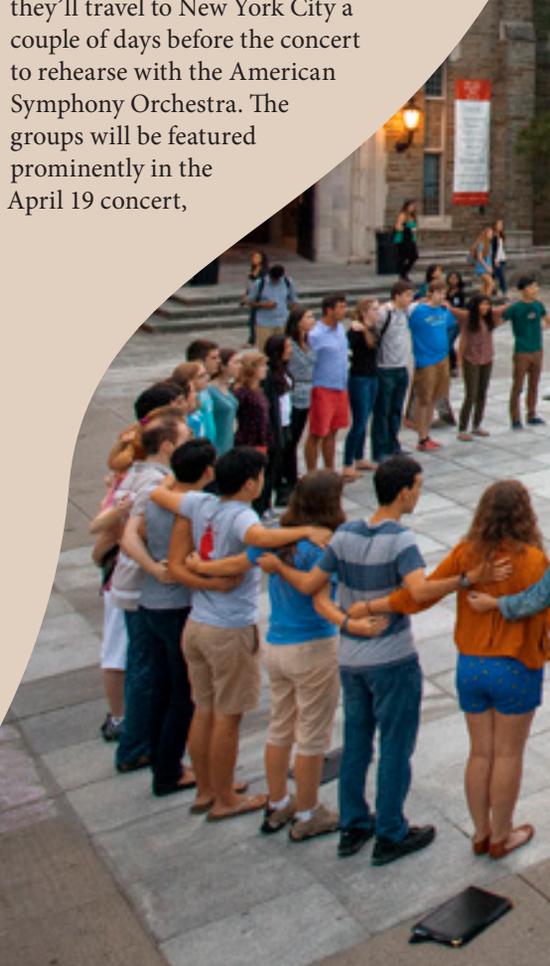
Robert Isaacs, Cornell's Priscilla E. Browning Director of Choral Music, has only seen the piece in draft form, but he says his groups are ready to tackle it, with no worries about mastering the pronunciation involved in three languages.

"It's evocative, rhythmic and engaging, even hypnotic in some places," Isaacs says. "It's wonderful that we can use the occasion of the sesquicentennial to make this piece happen."

The Chorus and Glee Club (pictured below on Ho Plaza), which include about 60 members each, are entirely student-run and have a long history at Cornell. The all-male Glee Club was founded in the fall of 1868, just months after the university opened its doors. Since 1995, the Glee Club has annually commissioned a new piece for male voices. The all-female Chorus was founded in 1921 and also does annual commissions, mostly of new works by women composers. Both groups tour domestically and internationally, produce recordings, and attend competitions and festivals.

"Chorus and Glee Club members come from all majors and backgrounds; they are an incredibly diverse bunch," says Sara Birmingham '15, Cornell Chorus president. "My whole Cornell experience has been shaped by the people I've met through this musical community. When people can put aside school and stress and prioritize music together, it's amazing."

With a busy fall season of concerts, the group won't begin to rehearse the Sierra piece until after the new year, Isaacs says. Students will lead small section rehearsals, the groups will practice together with Isaacs, and then they'll travel to New York City a couple of days before the concert to rehearse with the American Symphony Orchestra. The groups will be featured prominently in the April 19 concert,



“Music U,” which includes the Sierra commission along with chorally centered pieces by American composers Horatio Parker and Randall Thompson.

Chorus and Glee Club members say a loyal group of alumni deserve much of the credit for their success.

“Glee Clubbers have the unique opportunity to connect with alumni on a very personal level,” says Jacob Cohen ’16, Glee Club president. “The age-old tradition of the Cornell songs make it possible for alumni who graduated over half a century ago to come back to campus and join the current Glee Club in song.”

Visit americansymphony.org/music-u for more information and for ticket availability.

Kathy Hovis is a writer for the College of Arts and Sciences.



Links:

April 19 concert program:
americansymphony.org/music-u

Cornell University Chorus:
www.cuchorus.com

Cornell University Glee Club:
www.gleeclub.com

Set to "Annie Lisle," a popular 1850s ballad, the Cornell alma mater is considered the most copied alma mater in the world. It was first adapted by Cornell students in the 1870s. It is not the first Cornell song, however – "Cornell (The soldier loves his gen'ral's fame)," still occasionally sung at Cornelliana Night, dates back to 1869 and is likely the oldest. The "Jennie McGraw Rag" (also known as "Cornell Changes"), played on the Cornell Chimes, also predates the alma mater.

SONGS

"FAR ABOVE CAYUGA'S WATERS"

WAY BACK IN '72 — ARCHIBALD WEEKS WROTE THE MOST FAMOUS COLLEGE SONG OF ALL TIME — CORNELL'S "ALMA MATER." THE TUNE IS "ANNIE LILE."

"CORNELL VICTORIOUS, THE CHAMPIONS OF ALL."

"GIVE MY REGARDS TO DAVEY"

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE TIME THE MUSICAL CLUB GOT SEPARATED FROM THEIR CLOTHES, MONEY, AND INSTRUMENTS WHILE ON A TOUR? THE BOYS HAD UNDRRESSED AND LEFT THEIR CLOTHES IN THEIR BAGGAGE CAR WHICH WAS DETACHED FROM THEIR SLEEPER AND SHIPPED ELSEWHERE.

GEORGE COLEMAN '38, DIRECTOR OF THE ORCHESTRA, BAND, & INSTRUMENTAL CLUBS, HAS BEEN HERE SINCE GRADUATION.

WEEKS ALSO GATHERED 13 STUDENTS TOGETHER AND MADE HIMSELF THE FIRST LEADER OF THE FIRST CORNELL GLEE CLUB.

THE CORNELL GLEE CLUBS HAVE A WELL EARNED REPUTATION NEAR AND FAR. MUCH OF THE CREDIT GOES TO GOOD OLD ERIC DUDLEY.

THE LATEST, AND ONE OF THE NICEST OF CORNELL SONGS, "IN THE RED" WAS WRITTEN BY CHIMESMASTER DICK LEE.

"ONLY ONCE IN MY RADIANT CAREER AS A HARMONIZER HAVE I BEEN IN AN UNPREMEDITATED QUARTET IN WHICH EVERYONE WAS RIGHT ON "HONEY" & "MANDY LEE." THAT WAS IN ITHACA, AND THE OTHER 3 WARBLERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE CORNELL GLEE CLUB —"
Rino Lardner

HMM...
Let's
see

MOST SONG ABOUT CORNELLIANs ARE "DAVEY" FLEKHER HOY, THE BELOVED, FEARED AND HATED REGISTRAR, THEODORE ZINCK, THE KINDLY OLD BARKEEP, AND "TEE FEE" CRANE, DEAN OF THE FACULTY.

"I'M THINKING TONIGHT OF MY OLD COLLEGE TOWN — "ONWARD LIKE A SWALLOW GOING —"

"MUSIC WITH THE TWILIGHT FALLS — O'ER THE DREAMING LAKE AND DELL."

This full-page panel from "We Cornellians," the 1940 illustrated look at Cornell University by then-undergraduate student Steve Barker '41 and published by the Cornell Cooperative Society, looks at Cornell songs.

Engaged Cornell fosters student-community connections

When I think about interconnectedness, I think about Rachel Harmon '15, an ILR School student who approaches her Cornell education by always connecting it to the greater good in society. She is a Public Service Center Scholar and a teaching assistant with the Cornell Prison Education Program, which offers courses toward a degree for inmates at the correctional facility in Auburn, New York.

Harmon has spoken about how her academic work feels “more meaningful” when it is part of a direct connection to others outside Cornell. “If it feels like this completely cerebral exercise has no real consequence, then it’s harder for me to be motivated as a student,” she has said. “But if I know that this is going to help understand issues like educational inequality, mass incarceration or the labor struggle, then I’m in class, I’m reading, I’m engaged because these things matter to me.”

The recipient of two undergraduate research fellowships and a Rawlings Presidential Research Scholarship, Harmon’s current project focuses on the high levels of incarceration in southern rural communities. She plans to pursue a doctoral degree in sociology and will continue to connect academic inquiry with civic life.

Perspectives like Harmon’s – interconnectedness rooted in a Cornell education – exemplify how the new Engaged Cornell initiative will transform the undergraduate experience of so many students.

Generously supported by a gift from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, Engaged Cornell (see related story, p. 26) aims to promote innovation in community-engaged learning.

When study occurs in a real-life setting or community, students develop strong connections with their teachers, with one another and with members of that community. They learn to talk with people they have not met before and with whom they may not share life experience. They develop empathy. Understanding the experiences and perspectives of others is crucial to “helping people to get along better” – the goal Cheryl and David Einhorn set for their trust.

Engaged Cornell will provide community-engaged learning to many more students by expanding courses and disciplines that engage with the public. This also will give many of our faculty members exciting opportunities to bring community engagement to life within their fields of study.

Communities involved with the initiative will encompass groups that not only share a location, but also a life experience, a need or an opportunity. Courses that reach across disciplines will be encouraged, since interdisciplinary approaches are essential to solve the complex problems that Cornell graduates will face.

In higher education, community-engaged learning is considered to be a high-impact practice – one that can be life-changing – and, therefore, such teaching is highly rewarding. In my experience as a faculty member, it is thrilling to observe a student when “the light goes on.”

Our aspiration for Engaged Cornell is to help students connect their personal “light” to real-world problem solving and enable them to meet the challenges they will face where they live and where they work with creativity and effectiveness.

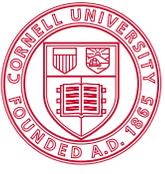
I recently met an alumna who said that in addition to her academic work, at Cornell she had “learned how to think,” crediting her fellow students with teaching her and challenging her. This stimulated her intellectual growth in ways she did not anticipate, or perhaps appreciate, at the time.

By encouraging study and learning across differences in background and experience, promoting cooperative learning and reflection, and providing innovative learning opportunities in many disciplines, Engaged Cornell will facilitate the intellectual growth and interconnectedness that is the signature of a Cornell education.

Judith Appleton leads the new Engaged Cornell initiative. She is a vice provost and the Alfred H. Caspary Professor of Immunology in the Baker Institute for Animal Health in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Visit www.cornell.edu/engagement for more information.





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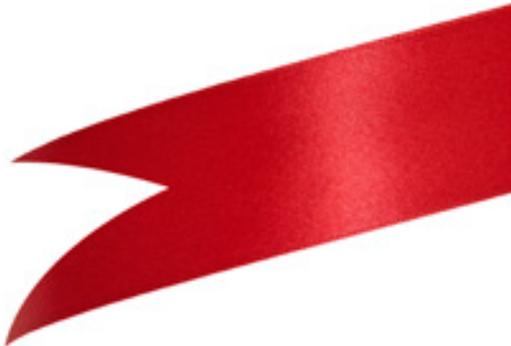
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