Portraits

Seven extraordinary undergraduates
The Essentials
Sustainability wall at Stella’s in Collegetown, Fredrik Logevall wins Pulitzer Prize, Kyle Dake’s 4th NCAA title, deans named for Arts and Sciences, and Computing and Information Science, and more.

Cover Story
Portraits: Seven extraordinary undergraduates
Meet seven students – future leaders, helpers, chroniclers, heroes, entrepreneurs, designers and thinkers – who are typical of Cornell undergraduates today, which means not typical at all, really.

Cornell Now–2015
$4 billion campaign milestone reached, Nolan veterans scholarship, donors respond to successful match campaign, and new U.K. charity makes giving easier.

Worth Supporting
You Can Make It Happen
‘I promised I’d pay back every penny’: How Gloria Lang made good

Q&A with Cornell’s Deans
Kent Kleinman, Lance Collins, Stewart Schwab and Barbara Knuth on entrepreneurship, cities, newcomers to Ithaca and brain power

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From the publisher

It’s a cliché, but also true – universities are idea factories. At Cornell this has been the case for nearly a century and a half – beginning with Ezra Cornell’s grand idea to found an entirely different kind of university.

Students come here to exchange thoughts, conduct research, make discoveries and learn to manipulate knowledge. They come to study with world-class faculty and work in state-of-the-art facilities. They arrive eager to learn more of the world. They leave well prepared to succeed in it.

This issue profiles just a few of the incredible students graduating this year. They hail from across Cornell’s colleges and schools with interests and plans as diverse as their own life stories. To add to the diversity of perspectives that shape this great institution, we continue our question-and-answer series with another four of our university’s deans, learning about their challenges, successes and plans for the future; we also have a special profile of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Peter Lepage, who is stepping down after a decade of leadership and achievements to return to the classroom.

The university has just passed a huge milestone – $4 billion raised for the “Cornell Now” campaign – and we are already seeing evidence of this success: New buildings, like the nearly complete Gates Hall, are going up on campus. But our growth is also about our people and their programs, not just buildings: The dozens of newly hired faculty and the young scholars and students joining our community are already lending a hand in shaping Cornell’s future.

Our university is morphing and evolving under our eyes. You can easily see it, but you can hear it, too, in the thoughts and ideas that are shared here. Take Professor Fredrik Logevall, for example, whose book “Embers of War” won the Pulitzer Prize for History earlier this spring. What makes his book special, beyond the content, is his own voice: When you read it, you’re listening, not reading.

Here at Ezra, we’ll keep listening for your stories to share.

Thomas W. Bruce
Vice President, University Communications
To show the potential of design to respond to a burgeoning global population and dwindling arable land, Cornell students have created a thought-provoking solution: growing mint, chives and basil at a bar. It’s not your father’s wine rack. Using local and recycled materials, the students have created the Hydroponic Bottle Wall at Stella’s restaurant in Collegetown. They mounted 24 wine bottles on a double-sided wall and fitted it with an exposed hydroponic growing system. The red wine bottles, specially cut and cantilevering from the wall, serve as growing containers; clay pellets replace soil. Grow lights softly illuminate the dimly lit bar. The students generated the wall’s wavy surface pattern with 3-D software and had it made at the Rand Hall Fabrication Shop.

Cornell fourth-year architecture students Peter Gudonis, Carly Dean and Nicholas Cassab-Gheta designed and installed the wall. Gudonis and Dean are members of Cornell Sustainable Design.

Dean says the wall is a “microcosm of the growing trend of urban agriculture ... incorporating green space, green roofs, growing facades, hydroponics, aeroponics and other productive technologies in buildings.”

Gretchen Ritter ’83, professor of government and vice provost for undergraduate education and faculty governance at the University of Texas at Austin, has been named the 21st dean of Cornell’s College of Arts and Sciences.

A third-generation Cornellian, Ritter is the college’s first woman and first externally hired dean. Her Cornell appointment is effective Aug. 1.

“As someone who grew up in upstate New York and got a great education at Cornell, coming back to Arts and Sciences will be something of a homecoming for me,” said Ritter. “I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve as the next dean of this great college. Cornell is a special place – as I know from my years of having been a student there.”

Ritter has a bachelor’s degree in government from Cornell and a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has been on the UT-Austin faculty since 1992.

Ritter will succeed Peter Lepage, the Harold Tanner Dean of the college since 2003, who is returning to teaching and research (see related story, p. 16).
Red Ideas Festival

The second annual Red Ideas Festival, sponsored by CU Tonight and the Bezos Family Foundation, was held in the Clark Atrium in the Physical Sciences Building in early April. CU Tonight is a funding board that supports student-organized, late-night, nonalcoholic programming for social events on campus.

At the Red Ideas Festival, contestants present proposals that aim to better either the Cornell community or the global community. The audience votes to decide who wins three prizes totaling $2,000.

The winners this year were:

• $1,000: Giselle Malina ’13, a project leader in Haiti, for implementation of mirror therapy for amputees.
• $600: Jeremy Blum ’12, M.Eng. ’13, the creator of Sunn, a company that produces LED light bulbs that adjust brightness based on the light outside.
• $400: Emma Court ’15 and Anisha Chopra ’13, co-creators of the ResCUer app for iPhone and Android of emergency numbers and resources at Cornell.

Logevall wins Pulitzer Prize

Historian Fredrik Logevall, the John S. Knight Professor of International Studies and director of the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, won the Pulitzer Prize April 15 for his acclaimed 2012 book, “Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America’s Vietnam.”

“As an author, you dream about something like this, but you don’t dare think it will really happen to you,” Logevall said. “I feel deeply honored to win this prize for ‘Embers of War,’ and I’ll never forget getting the news from two colleagues at the Einaudi Center who heard before I did.”

The Pulitzer citation calls the book, which begins in 1919 and ends in 1959, “a balanced, deeply researched history of how, as French colonial rule faltered, a succession of American leaders moved step by step down a road toward full-blown war.”

Logevall teaches courses covering the history of U.S. diplomacy and foreign policy, the international history of the Cold War and the Vietnam War. On July 1 he will become Cornell’s vice provost for international relations.

Haym Hirsh to helm CIS

Haym Hirsh, professor and chair of computer science at Rutgers University, has been named Cornell’s dean of Computing and Information Science (CIS), effective July 1.

Hirsh was selected following an extensive national search, and he succeeds Dan Huttenlocher, who was appointed vice provost and founding dean of the Cornell NYC Tech campus in February 2012. Hirsh will head Cornell’s college-level unit that includes three departments and more than 80 affiliated faculty, following the interim leadership of Eva Tardos, professor and senior associate dean of CIS.

Hirsh is an expert in artificial intelligence and data mining, with a focus on questions that integrally involve both people and computers.

Hirsh said he was particularly drawn to Cornell’s Faculty of Computing and Information Science with its three departments – computer science, information science and statistical science – and engagement with all of Cornell’s colleges, representing an organizational model that “reflects an appreciation of how computing is transforming all areas of scholarship and education.”

Hirsh received a Ph.D. and M.S. in computer science from Stanford University in 1989 and 1985, respectively, and a B.S. in mathematics and computer science from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1983.

Kyle Dake makes history

Cornell wrestling’s Kyle Dake ’13 made history March 23 when he became the first wrestler to ever win four NCAA titles at four different weight classes. Dake defeated Penn State’s David Taylor by a score of 5-4 in the finals to secure the win. Dake was named the tournament’s outstanding wrestler.

Cornell finished the tournament in fifth place in the team standings. After the win, Dake was the lead story on ESPN’s Sportscenter. Dake is just the third wrestler to ever win four NCAA titles.

Dake finishes his amazing Cornell career with a 137-4 record.
Meet seven students who are typical of Cornell undergraduates today – in other words, not typical at all, really.

From speaking to them, we know what this diverse group of people has in common: ambition, confidence in themselves, a deep respect and gratitude for their Cornell professors, and modesty and humility. They all said, in their interviews, something to this effect: “I still have so much I want to learn.”

Ezra magazine is happy to catch them at this moment, at the culmination of their undergraduate education, to give you a glimpse into their lives right now, through their own voices.

To read longer portraits of each of these seven students – plus portraits of other fascinating Cornell students, including graduate students, and a growing archive of student and faculty portraits – visit Cornell’s Portraits site at cornell.edu/portraits.

Edited by Emily Sanders Hopkins and Joe Wilensky. Original interviews with students were conducted by Gary E. Frank, Katelyn Godoy and Metta Winter, University Communications/Marketing.

Original design of Cornell Portraits elements by Zac Doob, University Communications/Marketing.
Kate Adie
School of Hotel Administration
Cornellian for life

Kate Adie, daughter of two parents in the hospitality industry, has been steeped in hospitality all her life. In 2003 the family moved to Ithaca when her father, Richard “Rick” Adie ’75, became the general manager of Cornell’s Statler Hotel. As a high school student, Kate began participating in Hotel Ezra Cornell as a volunteer, giving her an intense dose of the school’s culture and affirming her decision to follow in her parents’ footsteps.

At Cornell, she has served on the Hotel Ezra Cornell board of directors and is active with the Hotel School Ambassadors, the Cornell Concert Commission and Kappa Delta sorority.

“[Hotel Ezra Cornell] really is showcasing what the students are doing. Students run everything. We do have advisers – faculty and in the industry – but it’s all students. Every year it’s something a little bit different and we have the opportunity to put our personal spin on it. We have to keep up with the industry and we’re trying to make it attractive for guests to come, so we have to know what’s going on and deliver on what they’re expecting. The tagline is ‘the best ever’ . . . It’s a whirlwind weekend. You plan all year just for three days.

“This year I realized that my skills are best suited for training and development. My long-term career goals are going more toward human resources training, so eventually I’d like to be on the corporate side.

“I don’t think Cornell is ever going to not be part of my life, especially with the network that is in the Hotel School. Once you’re a Hotelie, you’re a Hotelie for life.”
Matilda Ceesay
College of Human Ecology

Most likely to make meaningful clothing

Matilda Ceesay is a native of Gambia and grew up in Missouri. Last spring, her collection for the Cornell Fashion Collective attracted the attention of the international press. She had collaborated with a postdoctoral fellow and designed a bodysuit injected with insecticides to protect wearers from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. As someone with relatives who have died of malaria, she cares about fighting this scourge that kills more than half a million people every year in Africa. She also cares, deeply, about fashion.

Matilda serves on the Cornell Fashion Collective executive board, and for the past two years she has been a leading student organizer for the Days for Girls organization, a group that provides feminine hygiene kits for young women in developing countries.

“What registers African design as African is based on prints and color. And almost every season, you’ll see a Western designer who is inspired by African [design], but it’s not as much as of a movement … it’s not really its own entity in a way. … Every designer thinks it’s his job to revamp African fashion. But the continent is so rich with beauty and inspiration and culture that it shouldn’t be revamped. […] and other designers have a great task in our futures: figuring out what our story is in a way that nobody can tell it better, nobody can question it, and it will last forever.”
Nick D’Agostino

ILR School

Future NHL star

Nick D’Agostino, from Bolton, Ontario, is one of the nation’s top point-producing defensemen in ice hockey. He was drafted in 2008 by the Pittsburgh Penguins, whom he’ll join after graduation. When his hockey career winds down, he hopes to attend law school.

“You know, there’s a saying in hockey. The difference between being good and being great is very small. When it comes down to it, the great hockey players, they pay attention to the small details so well, in their professionalism, their day-to-day work ethic, how you come to the rink, working hard trying to get better every single day. Your habits, even away from the rink, how you’re eating, how you’re sleeping. And when you’re talking in-game stuff, to be detail-oriented is pretty important in hockey.

“Working with Cornell and [head coach] Mike Schafer, I’ve made great strides over four years. … My classmates here have been awesome. … You spend so much time with them that obviously they become so influential – in the person you become and the hockey player you become. We love hockey. You know, we don’t just talk hockey at the rink, we talk hockey all day.”
Martin Leung

College of Architecture, Art and Planning

Hoping to create a lasting urban legacy

Frank and Rosa Rhodes Scholar Martin Leung’s interest in urban planning and real estate stems from his childhood in Hong Kong and rural Oregon where he experienced drastic differences in people, culture and physical environment. As part of the Cornell in Washington program, he interned at the White House Council on Environmental Quality where he incorporated sustainable practices into government operations. He also has studied at the College of Architecture, Art and Planning’s Cornell in Rome program, worked on several city and project planning teams in upstate New York, and interned with the World Trade Center redevelopment team.

On campus, Leung helped launch Big Red Bikes, a bike share system that grew its membership from zero to more than 1,800 (students, staff and faculty) in five months. Today, membership exceeds 3,000.

“Having been in so many internships I’ve seen how you can pursue making cities a better place in a lot of different ways. Obviously policy is very important. Real estate is a big part of it, as is planning and architects. … There’s a lot that the public and private sector can learn from each other, and there really needs to be a lot more collaboration.

“So being able to build an organization, whether it be a business, like a bike share, or a nonprofit, I think that’s my long-term goal: [to] build something that really outlasts me and be a positive change agent. Come back to me in 20 or 30 years and we can talk about it.”
Emily Koppelman
College of Arts and Sciences
Future war correspondent

Emily Koppelman is a senior Near Eastern studies major with a 4.091 GPA. She is fluent in Spanish and Arabic and is now taking Persian. She’s been a member of the track team since freshman year and has traveled extensively in Jordan and Egypt.

“In January, I was in Jerusalem. There was a Palestinian tent village that was erected in protest to the Israeli settlement project. The Israeli Defense Forces had closed off all the entrances to the mountain that this village was on to prevent the press and protesters from getting there, so we wound up parking the car on the highway and hiking about 10 kilometers to get there. I was there for seven hours, and I ended up on Palestinian national television, because it was such a novelty to have someone like me who is fluent in the dialect and has these political views that are so rare among Westerners. I shouldn’t be a rarity.

“I admire most those people who are willing to put their lives on the line to get the story people want to cover up. Places like Syria, places like North Africa, where there is intercommunal violence going on, those are the places that really need a voice to express the suffering of the people. I can’t speak for anyone else, but I’m definitely willing to go and be one of the people on the ground.”
Sharmila Jai Kumar
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Most likely to save your life, or just help you along the way

A transfer student, Sharmila Jai Kumar was born in Bangalore, India. After transferring to Cornell from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for her sophomore year of college, Kumar earned a myriad of honors, awards and grants and traveled abroad to help others. She currently works on cutting-edge sleep research in Professor Joseph Fetcho’s neurobiology and behavior lab and serves in a half dozen service roles on and around campus.

“There’s a lot of impersonality [in the American health care system]. It’s rushed. You go to a doctor and you have 10 minutes to spill out six months’ worth of health issues and six of them might be resolved and the others might not be. You don’t really have an opportunity to know your doctor on a personal level, so you don’t really build a trusting relationship with them. I want to try really hard to not be that kind of doctor, because I think it’s a much more worthwhile profession when you know your patients. Then you feel like you’d do anything for them and you have that strong relationship with them. … It makes patients want to open up and have their doctor access their health as a whole, as a human being.

“I’ve been helped a lot, not only at Cornell, but throughout my life growing up. … I feel like the best way of saying thank you to all the people who helped me is to just pay it forward.”
Larry Slaughter

College of Engineering

Going where his interest, and engineering solutions, lead him

Larry Slaughter, a native of Beachwood, Ohio, is a Kessler Fellow, a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar and a Jacobs Scholar. He is a mechanical and aerospace engineering major; a founding member of the Cornell chapter of WAVES for Development, a microfinance organization that raises money to install solar panels and for sustainability and water purification work in Peruvian communities; and was a finalist at Entrepreneurship@Cornell’s Big Idea Competition for the website careerXPLORE. He is also president of Cornell United Men’s Club Soccer.

“I really had no idea which type of engineering I wanted to do because it’s such a broad topic.

“I never thought I wanted to do research, or was interested in sustainable design, [but] I tried it and liked it. And then I never knew about entrepreneurship, but I had an opportunity to jump into that, and I did it. … My experience has been very random, but I’ve loved the randomness of it and how things have worked out.

“I’m going to be working for Accenture.com for systems integration consulting. As a consultant, you work with so many different companies, you’re able to see so many different industries; so I want to use that as a way to find out where I should enter as an entrepreneur. Where I can see, ‘Oh, there’s a great opportunity with this company to fix this problem.’”
Campaign tops $4 billion

Cornell has surpassed an important fundraising-campaign milestone – $4 billion – making it only the fourth institution in all of higher education to have accomplished such a feat.

Since its public launch in 2006, “Cornell Now!” has raised $4.03 billion toward its goal of $4.75 billion by 2015, Cornell’s sesquicentennial.

“Beginning with Ezra Cornell’s founding gift in 1865, philanthropy has been the bedrock of the university, and gifts of all amounts continue to sustain and advance every part of this university’s mission,” said President David J. Skorton.

He added, “We have gathered tremendous momentum to reach this $4 billion milestone, and we are moving onward to meet – if not exceed – our target goal for ‘Cornell Now’ by 2015.”

The campaign has received 617,618 gifts from 154,751 alumni, parents and friends – ranging from a contribution of a single penny to multimillion-dollar gifts. The funds support both the Ithaca campus and Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City and includes the medical college’s recently completed $1.3 billion “Discoveries That Make a Difference” campaign.

At the same time, Cornell NYC Tech recently reached a fundraising milestone of its own. “Thanks to a generous gift from Class of ’54 alumni Joan and Irwin Jacobs [announced April 15], our efforts for the tech campus have crossed the $500 million mark,” said Charles Phleger, vice president for alumni affairs and development. (See related story, p. 31.) “Together, these campaigns bring Cornell’s fundraising progress to more than $4.5 billion.”

In addition to supporting the construction of facilities across the Ithaca campus, the “Cornell Now!” campaign has bolstered faculty renewal and led to the establishment, so far, of 92 endowed faculty chairs and professorships, including 41 at Weill Cornell, and recruited 36 sesquicentennial faculty fellows through current-use Faculty Renewal Sesquicentennial Challenge funds.

The “Cornell Now!” campaign also has significantly strengthened Cornell’s financial aid and scholarship programs (including 504 new endowed undergraduate scholarships and more than $30 million to support medical student scholarships), and supports such key universitywide initiatives as international programs, service learning and public engagement.

NOLAN VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP

First-class business education for U.S. veterans

Since it was established by the couple in 2007, the Peter and Stephanie Nolan Veterans Scholarship, a current-use fund, has allocated nearly $1 million to support the studies of 27 students at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management.

The scholarship for MBA students at Johnson was originally established for U.S. military veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but has since been opened to all U.S. military veterans.

Inspired by the impact their scholarship has already had on Johnson and the Nolan Veteran Scholars, Peter ’80, MBA ’82, and Stephanie Nolan made a new gift earlier this spring to provide an additional $1 million, extending the life of the scholarship for another five years.

The Nolans knew beforehand that their scholarship would be good for the school and the veterans. “It’s repaying a debt of gratitude for people’s service to the country,” Peter Nolan said in 2008. And: “I used to be in investment banking, and the people we hired who were ex-military were outstanding employees. I thought that Cornell could benefit from that.”

The Nolan Veterans Scholarship has since had a snowball effect. By making Johnson especially competitive with other top business schools in attracting veteran applicants, Cornell is now known among veterans as a go-to school: “At the other schools,” explains Kima McCoy, MBA ’11, “there would be one veteran who reached out, but here, they have an armada.”

The current class of Nolan Veteran Scholars includes two Marines, two Army Rangers, a field artillery officer, a military intelligence officer and an aviator. All served in either Iraq or Afghanistan or both.

For the Class of 2014, Johnson received an impressive 57 applications from veterans, 23 of whom were offered admission and 12 of whom enrolled.

One veteran who enrolled was Patrick George ’13; he joined the Marines because of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He spent four years as an infantry officer in the Marine Corps and completed two tours in Iraq. On his second tour, he was the operations officer in charge of advising the Iraqi border police along the Jordanian and Syrian borders. After visiting Cornell, he knew it was his first choice, but “my G.I. benefits only go so far and Johnson was just out of reach,” he says. The Nolan Veterans Scholarship opened Cornell’s doors to him.

– Emily Sanders Hopkins


**275 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Donors respond to successful match campaign**

In his State of the University address to the board of trustees and university council in 2008, during the worst days of the Great Recession, President David Skorton pledged his commitment to financial aid: “I realize that this is one of several priorities in the [fundraising] campaign, but it is the one that, with your help, I intend to make a hallmark of my presidency.”

With permission from the board of trustees, Skorton committed $12.5 million in university matching funds (in addition to the tens of millions Cornell spends every year to provide more than half its students with financial aid) to leverage $37.5 million in new gifts to scholarship.

The match required that donors make a gift of at least $75,000, which Cornell augments with $25,000. Cornellians and friends answered the call, in droves. Fundraising for scholarships saw a major spike during the time the challenge was in effect – from 2009 through early 2013. Gifts made to the challenge match made up 22 percent of all gifts to scholarship over that period.

Two hundred and seventy-five new scholarships have been created through the challenge. Because the scholarships are endowed – meaning their principal will remain untouched while a payout (now set at 4.5 percent) goes to defray their scholars’ educational costs – these new scholarships will support Cornell undergraduates every year in perpetuity and will grow in value as the university’s endowment grows.

– Emily Sanders Hopkins

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**INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**

**New Cornell U.K. charity**

In April, Martin Byman, J.D. ’83, and Margaret Samson, J.D. ’83, became the first donors to the newly established Cornell University Foundation (U.K.) Ltd., a Cornell-owned charity registered in the United Kingdom and recognized in the United States. The couple, who have dual U.S.-U.K. citizenships, have lived in London for more than 12 years. They have annually supported the Cornell Law School, where they first met as students while working for the Cornell Law Review.

“In the past, we’ve been making gifts to the university through the Charities Aid Foundation. Now, we can give to the new Cornell U.K. Foundation and are delighted that our recent multiyear commitment to benefit the law school’s annual fund happened to be the first gift,” says Samson.

Through the foundation, U.K. taxpayers can donate to Cornell while taking advantage of U.K. tax incentives. Among these is the Gift Aid scheme, a policy that enables U.K.-registered charities to claim the basic-rate tax for a gift, increasing the value of that donation. Additionally, donors also subject to U.S. taxes may claim a charitable income tax deduction from the I.R.S. for the same Gift Aid-enhanced contribution.

For more information about Gift Aid and the Cornell University Foundation (U.K.) Ltd., visit www.giving.cornell.edu/uk/.

– Jose Perez Beduya

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**Gifts to Undergraduate Scholarships**

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[Charts by Laurie Ray/University Communications/Marketing]
You can make it happen Summer 2013

CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT CORNELL

Fund student-led good works
Up to 20 Engaged Scholars participate in community service, internships, training and work over a two- to three-year period and are provided with support, faculty mentorship and funding resources to see their community projects come to fruition. **$60,000 a year** (or $1.25 million to endow and name the program)

Level the playing field
Let’s Get Ready envisions a world where students from all socioeconomic backgrounds have equal access to the support they need to reach higher education. Instruction is provided by trained and motivated Cornell undergraduates who work with participants in SAT prep, tutoring and college admissions counseling. **$20,000 a year** (or $400,000 to endow and name the program)

Connect town and gown
Each year, leaders from the Ithaca-area community are chosen as Civic Leader Fellows (e.g., former fellow Cal Walker, left) and are offered full access to Cornell, are provided speaking venues and have tangible discourse with students and faculty, and are provided an honorarium to support a community development initiative. **$25,000 a year** (or $500,000 to endow and name the program)

Teach men
Educate male students about their role in preventing sexual violence by funding a two-year project focusing on bystander behavior, power dynamics and alcohol. **$100,000**

Raise the level of discourse
Support a course for undergraduate students to provide them with a critical analysis of front-page news on important international political developments. Your gift will bring faculty and prominent visitors to campus to reflect on elections, wars and conflicts, and address topics such as terrorism, immigration policy, climate change and global health issues. **$100,000**

Sponsor an international forum
Support a forum fund for the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies to organize discourses on global issues and current events across disciplinary areas and regions of the world. These public forums are for students, faculty and the community. **$15,000 for one forum**

Promote graduate student mental health
Support graduate and professional student mental health by developing a new version of Cornell’s nationally recognized “Notice and Respond” DVD-based program for assisting students in distress. View trailers of current programs at www.gannett.cornell.edu/notice/. **$35,000**

Educate new students about alcohol
Help the Class of 2017 make safe choices about drinking by funding Alcohol-Wise, an online course completed each year by more than 3,000 entering students. **$12,500**

To make a gift, or for more information about these and other giving opportunities, email MakeItHappen@cornell.edu.
Gloria Lang ’69 is a giant in the world of textiles for the home, especially bedding and towels. In the 1980s, she managed the first major U.S. retailer offering of high-thread-count sheets.

“We sat with manufacturers,” she remembers. “We asked, ‘What’s the highest thread count you can make?’ In those days, most sheets were 120-thread count. By reinventing the manufacturing chain of sheets sold in the U.S., Lang’s company, Fieldcrest, was able to produce and market sheets and bedding under the Charisma label, with a thread count of 280.

“The pima cotton was grown in Arizona and spun in Switzerland. The looms weren’t wide enough in Europe, so we shipped the yarn back to the United States, wove them in North Carolina, but we wanted it to feel like a men’s Italian shirt, so we sent it to be finished in Italy,” she says.

It was the first salvo in what Lang calls “the octane war for sheets.”

After graduation, Lang worked at Abraham & Straus in Brooklyn, now owned by Macy’s, for 25 years before retiring as chief information officer in 1996. She then worked in marketing, merchandising and sales for Fieldcrest Cannon Inc. She is now an adjunct assistant professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan, where she passes on her knowledge of textile manufacture, marketing, home furnishings, retail and product development.

When Lang was 16 and a junior in high school, her father died suddenly. He was 46. It was only with the help of a scholarship that Lang was able to attend Cornell.

“When I graduated,” she remembers, “I promised I’d pay back every penny.” Starting with a gift of $10 the year she graduated, she did just that. “I received a letter announcing the Martha Van Rensselaer Scholarship, which supported my studies, had reached its endowment goal,” she says.

She moved on quickly to do more for Cornell; Lang has served on the Human Ecology Advisory Board, the Cornell University Council and the President’s Council of Cornell Women (PCCW).

In 2010, when she heard about the challenge match initiative, in which Cornell would match scholarship gifts of $75,000 and greater on a 1:3 basis, PCCW was celebrating its 20th anniversary, which included a campaign to endow leadership scholarships for women students at Cornell. Lang and her husband, Roger, whose company offered a corporate match for charitable gifts, established the Gloria and Roger Lang PCCW Scholarship.

“They named a scholar right away, and I met her and she was wonderful,” Lang says of Hannah Zalusky ’14.

Although Lang is a lifelong New Yorker, a product of public schools, a trailblazer for women in an industry where the only jobs for women were as secretaries or assistants, and Zalusky is a Minnesotan who was homeschooled until ninth grade, the two women have more in common than you might think.

Zalusky works three jobs on campus, earns excellent grades, and is very focused and ambitious. “My parents pay for health insurance; I pay for everything else,” shares Zalusky. “I work quite a bit. I’ve always been a little bit of a workaholic.”

She has already paid off her student loans, a year before she expects to graduate.

“It was really great to meet her in person,” Zalusky says of Lang, “because you just can’t connect a person, a face, an identity to the people making it possible to go here. But I didn’t think I would be able to,” she says.
Being dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the past 10 years has been a mixed blessing for Peter Lepage. On one hand, he thoroughly enjoys his daily interactions with faculty, students and alumni, learning why they are passionate about their classes, research, careers and projects.

On the other hand, he always feels a twinge of jealousy when speaking with a professor who is excited about her latest discovery or thrilled that his students are eager to dig into an assignment. He’s ready to have those experiences again, too.

Come July, he’ll join those professors when he leaves the dean’s office after two terms and returns to his teaching and research in Cornell’s Department of Physics.

Gretchen Ritter ’83, professor of government and vice provost at the University of Texas, has been named dean and will begin her appointment Aug. 1 (see story, page 2).

“Peter has been an exceptional dean and campus leader,” says Provost Kent Fuchs. “Many of his efforts have helped the university as a whole, such as the faculty renewal initiative for which he’s been a front-and-center advocate.”

Scott McDonald, professor of philosophy and the Norma K. Regan Professor in Christian Studies, agrees and adds: “Peter has been a passionate defender of and advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences during a challenging period in its history.”

Lepage says much of his time is spent making sure the work of the office is running smoothly. “Doing that well – making principled decisions in a consistent and timely way, each day – is critical to successful leadership. But another part is gathering information about the college, developing an internal model that helps you build a strategy for where to go next,” he says.

Collecting that information has clearly been one of the best parts of the job for Lepage, who grabs his daily coffee at the Temple of Zeus in Goldwin Smith Hall, chatting with student cashiers and faculty members. Or who makes a point of asking surprised students about their major or their favorite classes when they encounter him, still in suit and tie, during one of his weekday hikes on the gorge paths.

About 40 percent of Lepage’s time as dean is spent with alumni, who share their thoughts about the college, but also talk about their career paths or Cornell experiences that changed their lives.

All these discussions have led him to an even greater appreciation of the benefits of a broad liberal arts education – one he says he didn’t fully realize himself as a physics major at McGill University and then as a Stanford University graduate student.

Because he chose his major as a freshman, Lepage was entrenched in the lab from his first days on the McGill campus. But on bus trips home, he expanded his horizons by reading voraciously.

Breadth of intellectual experience is what makes a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences so enriching for students, many of whom spend the first two years sampling different majors, then discover a passion and dive in deeply, he says.

Lepage’s priorities as dean have been to support that experience for students by filling positions created by retiring faculty, increasing resources for the advising department and maintaining excellence in teaching and research.

“I was constantly amazed by Peter’s ability to keep a close eye on both the big picture (the college’s future) and the important details (needs and concerns of individuals),” says Elizabeth Adkins-Regan, professor of psychology and neurobiology and behavior, “and by the principled and effective way he solved problems both large and small. His leadership was exceptional.”

The College of Arts and Sciences provides foundation and advanced courses for students throughout the university. In fact, only one member of the Class of 2012 hadn’t taken at least one class in the college. In 2011-12, more than one-fourth of all Cornell undergraduates received their degree from Arts and Sciences, while 34 percent of students receiving doctoral degrees from the Graduate School were advised by faculty within the college.

“After 10 years, I can truly say that the arts college is the heart of the university,” Lepage says. “The whole structure is about inviting students to challenge themselves to the greatest extent possible to gain the self-knowledge, self-confidence and skills required to tackle a variety of hard projects and pull them off well and on time.”

“That is an absolutely spectacular boot-camp experience for life.”

Kathy Hovis is a writer for the College of Arts and Sciences.
HIGHLIGHTS OF PETER LEPAGE’S TWO TERMS AS DEAN

Oversaw the hiring of one-third of the college’s current faculty

Initiated the successful Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellows Program, supported by donors

Undergraduate admissions to the college doubled from 2004-12

With donor support, established 14 endowed professorships in the college – three in the humanities, two in chemistry, two in government, two in economics, one in American studies, one in the social sciences, one in China and Asia-Pacific studies, one in creative writing and one in psychology

Large new departmental endowments were established for creative writing, economics, government, music, philosophy, and performing and media arts

Giving to the Arts and Sciences Annual Fund more than doubled since 2004

A new undergraduate major in China and Asia-Pacific studies graduated its first students

Oversaw the design, construction and opening of a new physical sciences building and broke ground for the new humanities building, Klarman Hall, completely supported by philanthropy

Worked with Provost Kent Fuchs and ILR Dean Harry Katz to oversee a major restructuring of economics at Cornell

Tripled the amount of internal research funding available to humanists and some social scientists

Welcomed the Africana Studies and Research Center into the college

Co-chaired a study on postsecondary science education for the President’s Council of Advisors in Science and Technology

Established a collaboration with The Posse Foundation to bring urban high school students traditionally overlooked by the college selection process to Cornell
In this, Ezra’s second installment in an ongoing series of conversations with Cornell’s academic deans, we again hear the real voices – sometimes candid, sometimes very specific, always revealing – of leaders who are deeply involved with the everyday work and negotiation involved in steering a large university.

How will the Cornell Tech campus in New York City change Cornell University? What’s the most important budget item these days? Are expensive buildings worth the cost? How is graduate school changing? And what do these leaders expect in Cornell’s future? These are the people with a front-row view on the action, and here’s what they see.
‘The importance of the urban is undeniable. It affects every walk of life; it’s changing cultural patterns, changing living habits, changing aesthetic practices, changing our sense of identity.’

**What are you most proud of in your first term as dean?**

I was thinking I’d say the obvious — the facilities — but that’s actually not the case. It’s really the people. I came in 2008, which was a particularly tough time for higher education due to the economic downturn. When I reflect back, what I’m most proud of is that we were able to continue to attract an exceptional student body and recruit a steady stream of new faculty. I’m an architect, and one might think that it would be easy for me to say buildings matter over everything else, but in the end, our past and future greatness rests on the quality of the faculty. If we have fantastic facilities and don’t have fantastic faculty, we will not be a top-tier program.

**What’s the biggest obstacle to success for your college right now?**

It’s funds — funds to continue to bring in the best faculty and continue to allow the best students to come to Cornell. At the undergraduate level, there’s a profound and noble principle at Cornell regarding financial aid, and anything we can do to continue our need-blind admissions and need-based aid programs is essential. But equally important is support for graduate students. Our disciplines — particularly architecture but also art and planning — are often misunderstood as professional disciplines only, but they really have many components of a liberal arts education and, quite frankly, compensation after graduation commensurate with other graduate research programs.

Our graduates are frequently cultural critics. They are engaged in the public realm, they’re advocates for social equity and often serve as public intellectuals. Our curricula have many courses that are not merely professional in nature. Our graduate professional students need financial support to be able to pursue diverse career paths after they graduate, because they’re not going to Wall Street. They’re going to work for communities, they’re going to work for international government agencies. They’re becoming artists, they’re working for small architecture firms doing speculative competitions. They need to be able to afford the education we provide without the promise of high salaries after they graduate.

**Has Milstein Hall, now approaching two years old, fulfilled all that it promised to be?**

What I would say to Ezra readers is they have to come back to campus and experience Milstein Hall, because anything I say is inadequate — it’s spatial and material and it has to be experienced firsthand.
From my perspective, and I think I speak for most of the faculty and staff and probably all of the students as well, it’s fantastic. It’s brought us together in ways that we were not able to imagine before. It’s not just a building, it’s not just an addition — it’s a uniting fabric. In terms of the future way that the disciplines of architecture, art and planning will need to work collaboratively, having a building that unites, especially a structure that encourages ad hoc interactions, is priceless. I say priceless deliberately because it wasn’t the cheapest building! But it has been transformative for us.

Do you think planning and art at Cornell have the opportunity to achieve the status and visibility that AAP’s architecture programs have?

Yes — because the world is urbanizing. More people are living in cities than ever before, cities are bigger than they ever were, and they’re more complex than previously. The importance of the urban is undeniable. It affects every walk of life; it’s changing cultural patterns, changing living habits, changing aesthetic practices, changing our sense of identity. Planning is the disciplinary glue for conceptualizing the city. We have a distinguished planning faculty, very strong students, and the department already enjoys international visibility. It’s a very highly ranked [No. 2] graduate program, and I predict it’s going to become even more important as an area of research and study as the city dominates our attention. How does one manage and provide for a high quality of life in cities of over 20 million people? That is an almost intractable question but a very real and urgent issue. Planning departments will inevitably be at the center of that conversation.

On the art side, this is somewhat bold, but I think the next big jewel in the Cornell crown has to be the arts. Across the university, we have many individual students and artists doing scholarship in the arts — and by this I mean advancing our understanding of the human condition via material, visual, formal creative practices. People in fiber science, in landscape architecture, of course in the fine arts at AAP: somehow their individual activity hasn’t coalesced into a strong identity for Cornell arts. I think it can and should. The model of an artist going to an atelier [studio] and waiting for inspiration and making a mark on a canvas — that is a completely antiquated model, if it ever really existed.

Artists today are publicly engaged, theoretically reflective, intellectually informed, creatively innovative. Art making is a form of inquiry just like other academic modes of producing new knowledge and insight. What better place to educate talent like that than a top research university?

You mentioned the campus being like a work of art. Do you have a favorite spot on campus, inside or out?

Many people focus on the buildings, and there are certainly beautiful physical structures at Cornell, both historical and contemporary works of architecture. But really what’s quite extraordinary are the spaces where there are no structures — the gaps between buildings, the quads, the vistas. So I would say that one of my favorite aspects of the campus is how intelligently the negative space, or open space, has been configured. It has a palpable presence, almost as if it were made of material. The balance between the physical structures and the residual space is a very deliberate one. I think that’s what makes the campus such a delight.

The Dean

Kent Kleinman, the Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning

At Cornell since 2008

Dean since September 2008

Area of expertise: 20th-century modernism

The College of Architecture, Art and Planning

Population: 56 professors, 493 undergraduates, 278 graduate students

Major areas of future growth: New York City program, B.F.A. dual-degree program, urban design concentration

Endowment: $62.1 million (as of March 2013)

Cornell Now Campaign goal/amount raised so far: $30 million / $13.6 million (as of April 2013)
‘I THINK THE ENGINEER IS THE CREATOR, THE CREATIVE FORCE BEHIND INNOVATION, BEHIND THE WAY THAT OUR WORLD KEEPS ADVANCING.’

What’s one thing that most outsiders don’t understand about the College of Engineering?

I think the stereotype of the engineer is that we’re a bunch of nerdy people in the background, keeping the lights on and things working. That’s just false. I think the engineer is the creator, the creative force behind innovation, behind the way that our world keeps advancing. That is the new reality. It’s an evolution, but a pretty substantial one. Over the course of my career, I have seen engineers increasingly as the leaders, and not just the group providing the mix of expertise required to keep things going.

There were some early critics of Cornell’s bid to win the New York City tech campus, a contest you played a large part in winning for the university. Some people are still worried about its potential effect on the Ithaca campus.

Because of the heightened awareness of the Cornell Tech campus, we have actually seen a much higher level of excitement for the College of Engineering as well. More alumni are giving, and more students are applying to the Ithaca campus. We’ve set records in terms of philanthropy over the last couple of years.

I interact with a tremendous number of alumni as well as with faculty and students, and there is an incredible level of excitement among the alumni, about the tech campus and what this means for Cornell as a whole.

Will Cornell Tech skew things toward engineering for money, for business, rather than for the greater good?

The greater good will always be served by taking technology out of the laboratory and putting it into a product that can be sold. Even commercial activities can be driven by all sorts of interests.

For example, one of my colleagues, professor Brian Kirby, has developed a microfluidic device that allows you to take the blood of someone with prostate cancer and lets you separate the cancer cells from all the other cells, which potentially allows the urologist to determine and treat the precise type of cancer that person has without doing an invasive procedure. The technology works reliably in the laboratory, but if you don’t actually commercialize it into an easy-to-use system, then no physician will ever use it and no patient will ever benefit from it. Setting something like that up in the lab is just enormously difficult, and the average urologist is not likely to go through that trouble. So the technology benefits no one unless it is commercialized.
What have you learned from the other deans, with whom you meet weekly?

The meetings have been a pleasant surprise: We collectively work as a team for the whole university. I thought, when I first became dean, that that was the responsibility of the president and the provost, without realizing that it was really the leadership team, consisting of the president, provost, the deans and the vice presidents who collectively work together to figure out where the university is going. And we’ve gone through a pretty difficult time, arguably the worst economic downturn in close to 100 years. So that required incredible levels of stewardship and incredible levels of selflessness. You can’t simply be the dean of engineering under those conditions. You really have to be a dean who is servicing the whole university. So I learned that we, as a group, work for the benefit of the whole institution, and sometimes that requires that our vision extend beyond the boundaries of our respective colleges.

What are the major areas of growth and change for the College of Engineering?

We’re investing in growing our biomedical engineering department. This department was created in 2005 and has rocketed upward. It is currently ranked among the top 15 to 20 departments in the country, which in that short amount of time is a meteoric rise. It is a group of very young, very talented faculty who, along with some outstanding senior colleagues (including Mike Schuler, the founding chair of the department), have been guiding its growth in spectacular fashion. While biomedical engineering is the core, there are a significant number of faculty members in the other engineering departments contributing to the overall bioengineering effort. This is one of the significant investment areas for the college.

A second major investment area is energy. Under the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, there are the three “E’s”: energy, environment and economic development, and the energy component to a large extent, but not exclusively, lies in the College of Engineering. We have the Energy Institute, which is now being run by Jeff Tester, the David Croll Professor of Sustainable Energy Systems. We serve as the focal point of energy research across the campus, and we plan to expand those activities. We’re very interested in renewable energy such as wind energy, wave energy, solar energy, as well as more traditional, fossil-fuel-based energy sources. We’re also interested in the distribution of energy. It’s one thing to create it; it’s a completely different thing to get it to where you need it, when you need it.

Tell a bit about yourself when you leave the office, at home, and your other interests?

My family is most important to me. My wife, Sousan, a nurse by training, is a stay-at-home mom to our 12-year-old daughter, who has a passion for dance and is also a terrific flute player. I’m happy to see that she does have a math aptitude that maybe takes a little after her dad. So we’re trying to make sure she keeps all those options open, but I’m not the kind of dad who says, “You’ve got to be an engineer to make me happy.”

I was an athlete when I was in high school on Long Island. I ran track and played soccer. Now, in my crazy life as a dean, my sporting activities have evolved into spinning classes several times a week.

The Dean

Lance R. Collins, the Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering
At Cornell since 2002
Dean since July 2010
Area of Expertise: Fluid mechanics, with a special focus on turbulence in clouds

The College of Engineering

Population: 236 full-time faculty members, 2,903 undergraduates, 1,705 graduate students
Major areas of future growth: bioengineering; energy; advanced materials and complex systems; network science and computation.
Endowment: $523 million (as of June 2012)
Cornell Now campaign goal and amount raised so far: $185 million/$95.9 million (as of April 2013)
‘20 to 30 years from now the issues and statutes will be quite different. We’re making sure that our students are profession-ready, recognizing that it’s a lifelong career.’

What is something people don’t realize about Cornell Law School?

How much we engage with the rest of the university. We recognize that for the students who are graduating in 2013, as quickly as five or 10 years out, many current statutes will be old and new statutes will be in, so our curriculum is not memorizing – it’s understanding the forces and the policies. For that reason, we try to interact with a lot of the rest of the university: law and economics, law and philosophy, law and literature, law and anthropology. We’re also engaged in efforts with Cornell Tech and the Johnson school regarding entrepreneurship, venture capital and intellectual property.

Isn’t Law School known for being a professional school that is hard, but doesn’t necessarily prepare you, right away, to do the job?

Being a lawyer is a lifelong learning experience. There are a lot of directions and careers that lawyers can take, so certainly experience helps. There is an expectation nowadays that law graduates need to hit the ground running. And while certainly I agree with that no one wants to hit the ground crawling, I think it can be overstated. It’s related to the issue of the law moving; 20 to 30 years from now the issues and statutes will be quite different. We’re making sure that our students are profession-ready, recognizing that it’s a lifelong career.

I often say that law is the most intellectual of all professions, and my friends in architecture or medicine can make their own claims, but I do think that those who are particularly good at law have a wide range of interests and don’t think their learning stops when they leave here.

Tell us about yourself when you’re not doing this job.

Well, my wife and I are both from North Carolina. We grew up together and were high school sweethearts. She’s also a lawyer who works as Cornell associate university counsel. She was the city attorney of Ithaca before that and has been in the district attorney’s office and in private practice. And the other distinctive thing about us is that we have eight kids. Five of the first six have gone to Cornell, including our high school senior who’s going next year. The other graduated from Ithaca College. So we have sort of a large family.
How did you manage to juggle all that with your careers?

Well, Norma is very organized. And Ithaca is very helpful for combining family life and academic or professional careers. It’s a lot easier to do here than in a big city.

How did you get interested in the law?

After college I went to the University of Michigan to get a Ph.D. in economics. … I wanted to think about justice and fairness and how they interact with economics, and so pursued a law and economics degree.

Right after law school, I went to clerk for a federal judge and then two years out I clerked for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the Supreme Court.

How does legal scholarship affect policy and people in a real way?

Some of the most interesting scholarship in all of the social sciences is being done here in the Law School. We are using a variety of perspectives from other disciplines, with one sort of normal pressure: it’s got to have some sort of policy relevance. That doesn’t have to mean a judge or lawyer can use it directly in a case, or that it’s specifically talking about a piece of legislation in Albany or Washington, but [it must have] some sort of policy relevance which keeps us from being too esoteric.

You know, there are a lot of think tanks out there and a lot of policy think tanks with a law-policy focus similar to what law schools do, but I think the best scholarship occurs here in the law schools. Why? Because over the course of the semester, the freshness, the thought, the criticism of the students, and having to explain the issues to students, all this makes teaching and scholarship reinforce each other.

What are you most proud of?

In my time as dean, we’ve expanded our business law curriculum with new deals and transactional law classes and created new clinic opportunities in labor law, LGBT rights and juvenile justice.

Faculty members have created new programs and institutes at the forefront of legal thought. The Clarke Business Law Institute, Cornell e-Rulemaking Initiative, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, and Clarke Initiative for Law and Development in the Middle East and North Africa have all launched in the last decade, and the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies has blossomed.

We have expanded our study abroad opportunities and established exchange partnerships with some two dozen universities around the world. Recent countries where we’ve expanded our reach include Chile, China, India, Norway and South Africa.

After many years of planning, we are well under way on Phase 1 of a multi-phased project to renovate and expand the physical plant of the Law School. This addition is the first in 25 years and the new teaching wing will be ready for students in the spring semester next year.

I’m also happy to report that last year was our most successful fundraising year in the history of the Law School.

But, overall, I’m really most proud of the collegial and supportive atmosphere we have nurtured here. We take pride in each other’s work, learn from each other and from our students, and push each other. I am grateful to work with brilliant and highly effective colleagues who take the work seriously but themselves less so.

The Dean

Stewart J. Schwab, the Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law

At Cornell since 1983

Dean since 2004

Area of Expertise: employment law, economic analysis of law

The Law School

Population: 50 full-time faculty members, 586 J.D. students (three-year program), 84 international L.L.M. students (one-year program), 16 J.S.D. students (3-5 year program)

Areas of future growth: intellectual property, business law, empirical studies, and international and comparative law

Endowment: $150 million (as of March 2013)

Cornell Now Campaign Goal: $35 million; raised so far: $36.9 million (as of May 2013)
What are you most proud of in your first term as dean?

I’m most proud of the effort we’ve undertaken to improve the Graduate School’s capacity to support graduate and professional students. We’ve redesigned how we deliver services to [them]. We created the Office of Inclusion and Professional Development, which is providing a broad, very robust and comprehensive set of programming activities to support graduate students’ academic success while they’re here, and to foster a set of transferrable skills that will help them when they begin their careers. We’ve revamped our Office of Graduate Student Life to better support the whole person with a stronger focus on mental health and well-being, personal financial management, and family and partner support.

We also joined a National Science Foundation initiative, the Center for the Integration of Research Teaching and Learning, a network of 22 universities across the United States that focuses on future faculty development in the STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] disciplines – ultimately with the goal of enhancing undergraduate education in the STEM disciplines by improving how future faculty integrate their research and teaching into one cohesive approach using evidence-based teaching and assessment.

What is one thing most people outside the Graduate School don’t know or realize about it?

The Graduate School’s size and scope. I don’t think most people recognize that we actually oversee nearly every degree program on the Ithaca campus and the Cornell Tech campus that’s not the first degree offered by the school. For example, the MBA is the first degree offered by Johnson, but any Ph.D. students who work with Johnson faculty are actually Graduate School students. The Graduate School confers 18 different research and professional degrees – there is no other unit that confers that many – across nearly 100 graduate fields.

What’s the biggest obstacle to success for graduate education right now?

Funding; that’s probably not a surprise. Certainly what’s happening with the federal budget is worrisome in the sense that a significant proportion of our graduate students are supported on research assistantships from external grants, particularly Ph.D. students in the STEM disciplines.

An aspirational goal for the Graduate School is to have funding available to support all of our Ph.D. students with a first-year fellowship. We have about 500 first-year Ph.D. students, and enough first-year fellowships for about half that number, so it will take considerable resources to meet our goal.
What was one of your expectations about the job that proved untrue?

I didn’t expect to have the opportunity for as much interaction with the graduate faculty as I actually have. The faculty who are directors of graduate studies throughout these 100 fields and the faculty who are elected to our general committee (the governance body of the Graduate School) have been quite collaborative, very eager to engage in policy and program discussions with the Graduate School to support their graduate students.

For example, we asked each of the graduate fields within the last year to undertake a fairly comprehensive project to explicitly identify a set of learning outcomes for their students in each degree program and to develop assessment plans to help evaluate how students are achieving those learning outcomes. Most fields took that on in an enthusiastic and committed way, and have already identified improvements in their programs as a result of this information.

How do you balance your roles as a vice provost, dean and researcher?

With a lot of support from my husband, my daughters and my executive assistant. On the research side, the support of my research team, which includes two doctoral students and several research staff, has been invaluable.

One of the reasons I’ve been able to keep my research program going is due to a phenomenal group of faculty in natural resources who have been working together for a number of years. The group is called the Human Dimensions Research Unit, and we focus collectively on understanding human behaviors and attitudes toward the environment. We collaborate; we pool our resources. This partnership has made it possible to continue my research, continue mentoring students, and work with interesting research colleagues while I have these very busy administrative jobs.

How would you describe the importance of the developing Cornell Tech campus to the future of graduate education?

The Cornell Tech campus raises the visibility of graduate education at Cornell, particularly because a good portion of graduate education – not just at the tech campus but at our campus as well – is really focused on addressing societal issues. One of the hallmarks of Cornell Tech is the partnership between industry and academics. That partnership between academic and nonacademic – in their case industry – is very similar to what we do across much of graduate education at the Graduate School, which is to partner academic with nonacademic in diverse ways, with students focusing their studies by working with agricultural communities, rural developing communities and urban communities across the world, bringing our graduate student research to bear on the problems that these different places and different groups of people are experiencing.

The Dean

Barbara A. Knuth, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, and professor of natural resource policy and management; as vice provost, she oversees undergraduate admissions, financial aid and student employment

At Cornell since 1986
Vice provost since April 2010; dean since July 2010

Area of expertise: Human dimensions of natural resource policy and management

The Cornell Graduate School

Population: 1,800 faculty affiliated with nearly 100 graduate fields; 5,200 graduate and professional students

Major areas of future emphasis: increased internationalization of the graduate and professional student body; enhancing infrastructure for graduate education in support of Cornell’s strategic priorities

Endowment: $76.9 million (as of February 2013)

Cornell now campaign goals: $100 million for graduate fellowships and professional school scholarships and $182 million for undergraduate financial aid are universitywide goals
Finance professor **JEROME “JERRY” HASS** taught many generations of students at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management for 46 years.

His down-to-earth persona and humble demeanor co-existed beautifully with his academic brilliance and commitment to teaching and learning, said Soumitra Dutta, dean of Johnson.

“The ease with which he lived as farmer, academician, small-business owner, mentor, friend and even travel guide led one of his longtime colleagues at Johnson to dub him ‘the working man’s professor,’” Dutta said of Hass, who died this past winter.

Hass began his academic career in 1967 as a lecturer, eventually earning tenure as professor of finance and business strategy and the Alan Krause Faculty Fellow in Real Estate Finance.

Former students described him as “a warm, approachable genius” and “a great man, with a great wit.” One graduate student wrote: “Thank you for your great teaching, your simplicity and your bucket of home-grown green apples at office hours.”

While Hass’ engaging teaching style earned students’ loyalty, he also was a nationally recognized expert in corporate finance, energy and regulatory economics and policy, applied microeconomics, security analysis and investment management, and business strategy. He co-wrote the seminal managerial finance text, “An Introduction to Managerial Finance,” in 1973. And he testified and reported to Congress more than 20 times.

Over the next four decades, he stepped forward to take on roles of all kinds, from co-founding Johnson’s first executive MBA program to presiding as faculty marshal at Cornell’s commencements for many years.

Hass retired in 2008 yet remained actively involved at Johnson. At a retirement celebration in Sage Hall in June of that year, he quoted the Beatles: “You say goodbye, I say hello, hello, hello,” he said. “It’s a strange kind of retirement, because I’m not going anywhere!” Indeed, Hass continued to teach at Johnson, using his considerable influence to bring top guest speakers to Sage Hall, and inviting MBA students to take his Lectures in Finance course.

– Shannon Dortch

**DR. GEORGE PAPANICOLAOU** spent 47 years researching and teaching at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where he transformed his field.

“Dr. Pap” was a pioneer in cytopathology – the diagnosis of diseases on the cellular level – and it was his early human endocrinology studies that led to the “Pap smear” cervical cancer detection test.

In the 1940s, before the Pap smear began to be widely used, cervical cancer was the No. 1 killer of women. Now a standard cancer-screening test, it has greatly reduced the death rate for cervical cancer patients.

Papanicolaou was born in 1883 in Greece. A violinist, he enrolled at the University of Athens in 1898 to study humanities and music, and earned a degree from the university’s medical school in 1904.

He and his wife, Mary, immigrated to the United States in 1913. Papanicolaou was hired as a research biologist in the Department of Anatomy at what was then Cornell’s College of Medicine in 1914.

Papanicolaou first used vaginal smears to examine the cells of guinea pigs; he began studying human vaginal cytology in 1920. His earliest studies at the Woman’s Hospital and Cornell clinic examined the cellular changes of ovarian and uterine physiology; he later began using this method to diagnose pregnancy and to detect uterine cancer.

When Papanicolaou presented a paper on this new method of early cancer diagnosis in 1928, pathologists and others in the field showed little enthusiasm. He spent the next decade expanding his studies in human endocrinology. In 1943 Dr. Herbert Traut, a gynecological pathologist, and Papanicolaou published “Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer by the Vaginal Smear.”

Two years later, the newly established American Cancer Society pushed to educate the profession about the Pap smear. Other scientists began to study his technique to confirm its usefulness as a diagnostic tool, and some hospitals began using the Pap smear to detect cervical cancer.

Papanicolaou taught the first course in cytology at the medical college in 1947. His test began to be used to detect and study other forms of cancer and for better understanding of sterility, the menstrual cycle and hormone therapy.

In 1957, Papanicolaou retired as a professor of clinical anatomy, but a few years later continued his research at the Cancer Institute of Miami, later named the Papanicolaou Cancer Research Institute.

– Elizabeth M. Shepard
Q&A with new members of the faculty

This is a continuing series of Q&As with new members of the faculty who have been appointed to permanent or term named professorships.

EILYAN BITAR
The David Croll Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow
Assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering

Why did you choose Cornell?
I was drawn to Cornell for many reasons. Beyond the rich tradition of doing impactful research in the energy and information sciences, I found the Cornell faculty across diverse disciplines to be quite collegial – a necessary ingredient for successful interdisciplinary research. And most importantly, I could not pass up the opportunity to mentor and work alongside some of the brightest students in the country!

How would you describe Cornell undergraduates?
Apart from the basic drive to excel academically, I’ve found the Cornell undergraduates to exhibit an intrinsic motivation to get at a deep understanding of their lecture material – a characteristic that is certainly not common to many universities. George Poyla, a famous mathematician, once said that “too often, a lecture is the process where the teacher’s notes become the students’ notes without passing through the minds of either.” This is certainly not the case at Cornell.

What is your main research interest?
The economics, control and optimization of modern energy systems.

Read more about assistant professor Bitar in the fall 2012 issue of ECE Connections magazine: ece.cornell.edu/news/magazine/index.cfm.

SESQUICENTENNIAL FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS UPDATE

In 2010 President David Skorton announced a $100 million Cornell Faculty Renewal Fund to enable the university to hire 100 new faculty members by 2015, with half the funding coming from philanthropy and the balance from Cornell dollars. Already, alumni and friends have donated $39 million toward the $50 million goal. The fellowships are called the Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellowships.

Each of Cornell’s colleges and schools has specific goals for each fellowship, and the deans have established plans to shape the colleges’ futures with the injection of new faculty talent. At right is an update on individual colleges’ progress toward these goals.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE</th>
<th>GOAL ($)</th>
<th>PROGRESS ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Life Sciences</td>
<td>5 million</td>
<td>3.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture, Art and Planning</td>
<td>2 million</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>10.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing and Information Science</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Hotel Administration</td>
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<td>Human Ecology</td>
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<td>Johnson</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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Perhaps the most recognizable landmark on Cornell’s Ithaca campus is the majestic McGraw Tower with its 173 feet, 161 steps and 21 bells. But what about the areas of campus that don’t tower far above Cayuga’s waters? What lies beneath the acres of picturesque quadrangles and stately halls of learning?

Walking between Goldwin Smith Hall and Stimson Hall, the average Cornellian may not realize that the university’s rarest and most valued treasures are right below his or her feet. The only visible parts of Carl A. Kroch Library, opened in 1992, are four skylights hidden among bushes to the north of Stimson Hall. Kroch Library is home to the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, whose climate-controlled vault extends well underneath the Arts Quad. Construction of this state-of-the-art facility involved excavating 80,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock extending 52 feet below the level of East Avenue. The result is the only place in the world where students can play Frisbee on top of cuneiform tablets, suntan over the papers of Ezra Cornell and James Joyce, or have a picnic above medieval manuscripts.

On the east end of campus is another type of buried treasure, the Wilson Synchrotron Laboratory. The synchrotron itself, originally constructed in 1967 with nearly $12 million from the National Science Foundation, was the world’s largest electron synchrotron at its opening and was the largest single construction project in Cornell’s history. With expansions over the years, the facility includes a tunnel buried 40 feet beneath Cornell’s track complex, creating a giant ring with a half-mile circumference. The synchrotron and affiliated facilities accelerate and collide particles to study the smallest elements of matter, while also harnessing the generated radiation for a variety of research projects. As Cornell athletes set records above ground, scientists from around the world continue Cornell’s legacy of particle physics innovations below.

The latest subterranean project is the expansion of Myron Taylor Hall at the Law School, where two new classrooms and an auditorium are under construction beneath the lawn with little increase to the building footprint. The project is reminiscent of the Cornell Store’s construction in 1969, which strived to preserve green space in the center of campus. Although intended to be even deeper underground, the Cornell Store ended up a few feet higher than planned due to the challenge and cost of excavating bedrock. Other recently completed projects with substantial underground components include the Human Ecology Building parking garage and the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art addition.

On your next Ithaca visit, look beyond the towers and quads and take note of what’s below the familiar buildings and vistas. From the dendrochronology laboratory in the basement of Goldwin Smith Hall to the Cornell Glee Club and Chorus offices in the depths of Sage Chapel, some of Cornell’s best work is being done underground.

Corey Ryan Earle ’07 is associate director of student programs in Cornell’s Office of Alumni Affairs.
Irwin and Joan Jacobs give $133M to Cornell Tech

Irwin Mark Jacobs ’54, founding chairman and CEO emeritus of Qualcomm, and his wife, Joan Klein Jacobs ’54, have made a $133 million gift to Cornell and the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology to create the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute (JTCII).

The JTCII is a centerpiece of Cornell NYC Tech, whose permanent campus will be located on Roosevelt Island in New York City. The gift will help support joint activities between Cornell and the Technion, including dual master’s degree programs, faculty, graduate students and industry interactions.

The gift was announced at New York City Hall April 22 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Cornell President David Skorton and Technion President Peretz Lavie.

At the press conference, Skorton thanked the Jacobses for their “transformative” gift to the JTCII, and for their long history of generosity to Cornell. “You can’t go through the Cornell University campus in Ithaca without seeing your influence,” Skorton said. “This … is a big day for all of Cornell University, on all of our campuses, because your continuing generosity has helped us to tie together the expertise we have in so many places, with our new partnership with the Technion.”

The Jacobses have a long history of supporting Cornell and the Technion. They have established the Irwin M. and Joan K. Jacobs Scholars and Fellows Programs and the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Professorship, both in the College of Engineering, as well as the Joan Klein Jacobs Cornell Tradition Fellowship in the College of Human Ecology.

Irwin Jacobs is a former member of the Cornell University Council, and Joan Jacobs served on the President’s Council of Cornell Women. In recognition of their distinguished service to Cornell, the Jacobses were elected Presidential Councillors in 2005.

Their support of the Technion includes the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Graduate School and the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Center for Communications and Information Technologies. A member of the Technion International Board of Governors, Irwin Jacobs is a life trustee of the American Technion Society National Board of Regents.

“We are delighted to partner with Cornell and the Technion on this unique educational initiative,” said Joan and Irwin Jacobs. “We believe strongly in the mission of this international collaboration to drive innovation and to foster economic development. We are proud of our long association with both of these distinguished institutions and share their dedication to inspire and train a next generation of entrepreneurs, forming new companies and strengthening existing ones including, of course, Qualcomm.”

“Cornell Tech will bring a sharp increase in science and engineering teaching, attract students from around the world, and spin off new local companies and thousands of new jobs, and inject billions of dollars into our economy,” Bloomberg said. “Irwin and Joan Jacobs have helped pave the way for innovations that improve our world.”

“Joan and Irwin’s magnificent gift will play a major and decisive role in fulfilling Mayor Bloomberg’s vision of creating a leading global center of innovation in the heart of New York, enabling the city to become the technology capital of the world,” Lavie said.

Craig Gotsman, founding director of The JTCII and the Technion’s Hewlett-Packard Professor of Computer Engineering, said: “Together with our partners at Cornell Tech … we look forward to nurturing the next generation of applied technology leaders who will meet the needs of New York’s economy.”

The JTCII plans to offer a two-year interdisciplinary program through which students earn dual master’s degrees concurrently, one from Cornell and one from the Technion. This program will allow students to specialize in applied information-based sciences in one of three hubs focused on leading New York City industries – connective media, healthier living and the built environment – while honing their entrepreneurial skills. The first area of specialization will be in connective media and is slated to begin in the fall of 2014.

A novel Postdoctoral Innovation Fellows Program, to launch in fall 2013, will support individuals who seek to commercialize their research ideas at the JTCII while taking advantage of the entrepreneurial network of Cornell Tech.

Cornell Tech launched its first degree program in January and is rapidly rolling out new programs, recruiting faculty, and designing its permanent campus on Roosevelt Island.

For more information: tech.cornell.edu
This 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 the site of the campus itself, donated to the university by Ezra Cornell.

In an 1864 letter to the trustees of the New York State Agricultural College, Ezra Cornell described the location:

“If you will locate the college at Ithaca, I will give you for that object a farm of three hundred acres of first quality of land desirably located, overlooking the village of Ithaca and Cayuga Lake and within ten minutes walk of the post office, the Cornell library, the churches, the railroad station and steamboat landing.”
The randomness of it all

It always cracks me up when I think back to how I was before freshman year, and my thought processes regarding college. I believed that achieving happiness at Cornell my first year would be more or less formulaic – you attend X club recruitment sessions, take a certain amount of classes in your major, spend a few hours being sociable in your dorm every evening … and bam! You’re a happy college student.

I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Sure, there are some static aspects of college that you have full control over – like your major, for example, or perhaps your overall mindset. But let me make an interesting declaration: Many of your experiences in college will be pure chance.

Want examples?

• If I didn’t sit in the specific seat I did in SOC 1101 (Introduction to Sociology) one day during my freshman year, I wouldn’t have seen the flyer that announced recruitment for my business frat, Pi Sigma Epsilon. I likely wouldn’t have heard of it otherwise, or been as inclined to join if I heard of it in later semesters. Seeing that flyer at the time, I would’ve never guessed that PSE would be something I’d stick with all through Cornell and hold a few leadership positions in. (Who’d have guessed that I’d get a summer internship from the organization, too?)

• I’ve fostered friendships at Cornell that have come about purely by me being in a random place. There are people I still occasionally talk to that I’ve met on TCAT rides, walks to central campus freshman year and other instances of being in the right place at the right time. On that note, I know of people who have become good friends after meeting each other in courses that they both randomly enrolled in.

• Speaking of random encounters, if I didn’t have to run an errand at the Cornell Store, I wouldn’t have run into Bill Nye (“the Science Guy”) ‘77 there my sophomore year. That’s something I’ll always remember.

• During the Greek rush and pledging process, I’ve been told you want to select a house based on “fit” – and this is often detected by your experiences with the brothers/sisters during one week in January. One week! That’s all the time you have to visit 38+ fraternities for guys, or 12 sororities for girls. You can’t talk to everyone in every organization, and your perception of each group will vary wildly based on who you talk to … so there’s definitely some aspect of chance when you’re deciding if or what Greek organizations are right for you.

• My mom and dad, Susan Landzberg Schatz ‘79 and Louis Schatz ‘76, Law ’79, met here as students in the ’70s when they both decided to attend a mutual friend’s party. It’s a pretty safe assumption that if either of them had decided to stay in that evening I wouldn’t be here today.

• I stumbled upon the Cornell “Life on the Hill” blogging project on a whim, exploring Cornell.edu shortly after my acceptance, and somewhat randomly decided to inquire about getting involved. About 110 posts later and this thing is still going strong.

I understand that this might be stressful to some. Heck, this realization about life at Cornell (and I guess life, overall) was for me, too. But if I could give advice, I’d say to enjoy the process and randomness of it all.

David Schatz ’14 is an applied economics and management major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is one of Cornell’s “Life on the Hill” student bloggers at cornell.edu/studentlife/blogs/, where a version of this post originally was published on March 30, 2013.
HOMECOMING 2013

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