Chapter 8

Cornell Trivia
8.1 History of Cornell

Cornell University was founded in 1868 by Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White with a dream of creating a university dedicated to the education of the common man in any discipline desired. The central elements of the campus were built on Cornell’s farm, and a total endowment of half a million dollars was established to begin the school. White became the University’s first President. Integral to the establishment of Cornell was the Merrill Act that granted public lands to educational institutions. This Act and the endowment donated by Cornell made Cornell University an unusual institution because of the mix of public and private funds. Finding the faculty was the next duty for White. He combed the world looking for a wide variety of individuals to teach the wide variety of subjects which made up the proposed curriculum in little Ithaca, NY. In 1873, Cornell graduated its first female graduate and, in 1897, its first African American student. The Graduate School was developed in 1909 to organize the advanced studies that have been a part of the campus since its inception.

Cornell has had a distinguished history since its creation. The first doctorates awarded in the United States in electrical engineering and industrial engineering were granted by Cornell. It recently ranked first in funds allocated by the National Science Foundation for programs in academic science and engineering. Many Nobel laureates have been affiliated with Cornell (see table 8.2 on page 164 for a list).

If you are interested in learning more about the school’s creation or its history, a good place to start is the University Archives. The archives include records about Cornell, memorabilia, and even past Ph.D. theses and papers. You can find them within the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections located in Kroch Library. (<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu>) There are also a number of books that have been written about Cornell. Perhaps the most comprehensive, The History of Cornell, sold in the Campus Store, gives a detailed account of Cornell over the past century and a half. You can also find special topic books about women at Cornell, or the 1969 takeover of Willard Straight Hall.

8.2 History of Ithaca

The shores of Cayuga Lake were inhabited by the Cayuga Indians, who were of the Iroquois nations and numbered around 1,100, before the arrival of the first white settlers in about 1778. The names of many of the early settlers are preserved as landmark names today, such as Jacob Yaple who built the first grain mill on Cascadilla Creek, surveyor Simeon DeWitt who held much of the land that now forms the city of Ithaca, and others. Other local communities, including Forest Home, Dryden, Caroline, and Danby, began developing about the same time.

By 1821, Ithaca had grown to 1,000 residents, but it was destined to remain small when the Erie Canal opened in 1825 and concentrated development north of the Finger Lakes. Ezra Cornell arrived in Ithaca in 1828, but left the town to make his fortune building telegraph lines before returning in 1857. The village of Ithaca continued to grow, though again it was bypassed by the major railroad routes that ran across northern New York and northern Pennsylvania.

Cornell University opened in 1868 and the Ithaca Conservatory of Music (now Ithaca College) opened a couple of decades later in 1892. Cornell students originally lived with families in Ithaca, and many of the large houses in lower Collegetown were built in this period.

Ithaca Commons opened in 1974 and met competition from Pyramid Mall, which was expanded to a larger mall in 1989. In the past 2 years another extension took place as more stores like Best-Buy, Borders, Dick’s and Target opened at the mall. During the same time period South Ithaca also saw significant development along Route 13, where Barnes and Nobles opened and construction for Home Depot and Walmart stores is underway. The arrival of Walmart has created a controversy among the local residents. Now a small city of around 30,000 residents, Ithaca provides an attractive home for Cornell and Ithaca College, along with several manufacturing companies and myriad small businesses, shops, and restaurants.
8.3 Dragon Day

*History of Dragon Day* (from the University Archives):

The Cornell Era, a periodical that went out of publication in the late 1940’s, had once noted that the “idea of the Architect [at Cornell] is bounded by St. Patrick’s Day...” This reference is to the annual event that has become known as Dragon Day on the Cornell campus, and its strong ties to St. Patrick’s Day.

Dragon Day has its roots in the antics of Cornellian Willard Dickeran Straight ’01. While on the Cornell campus, Mr. Straight attended the School of Architecture, and from his early days as a freshman, developed a reputation as a prankster, leader, and developer of class unity. It was said at the time that the Architecture class of 1901 was perhaps the most spirited that the University had ever seen, mainly because of the actions of Willard Straight.

The idea of Dragon Day was conceived from a tradition that followed Mr. Straight’s belief that there should be a distinctive College of Architecture Day. At the time, he chose St. Patrick’s Day, and the first College of Architecture Day was celebrated with the hanging of orange and green banners (orange to appease the campus’ Protestant population), shamrocks, and other thematic decorations on Lincoln Hall (which at the time housed the College of Architecture). Later, the additional theme of celebrating St. Patrick’s success in driving the serpents out of Ireland also became attached to the holiday.

History has not made clear the time that the first Dragon Day (in contemporary tradition) was held, though it is safe to assume that it occurred sometime between 1897 and 1901 (the years that Willard Straight was on campus). How the first parade evolved into a rite of initiation for the freshman Architecture class — ending with the burning of the dragon on the Arts Quad — has also not been revealed. In an excerpt from a letter to Willard Straight’s widow in 1920, the first parade is described: “One year, a 12ft St. Patrick was painted and hung on the side of the building [Lincoln hall] with a great 20ft long serpent chasing after him. In the afternoon, these were taken down, and carried in solemn procession around the campus.” The letter goes on to mention that the College of Architecture Day events were at one point abolished by President Schurman (Cornell’s third president) — thus helping to establish the tedious relationship that Dragon Day has come to have with the University administration.

Jumping ahead through the twentieth century, Dragon Day as it is celebrated today (with an actual constructed dragon, and the associated ceremonies) evolved some time in the 1950’s when the snakes previously used “grew up.” The 1950’s architects were also particularly ambitious, sometimes constructing both a male and female dragon. Though history also isn’t clear when the actual phrase “Dragon Day” was coined, speculation suggests that it might have also been in the 1950’s. Prior to this time, the holiday was still celebrated as primarily College of Architecture Day, and the theme was less focused around the dragon.

Dragon Day has also been used as a means of political expression. For example, in 1933-34, to celebrate the repeal of Prohibition, students constructed a large paper-mache beer stein for College of Architecture Day. In the 1950’s, at the height of Senator McCarthy’s “red scare”, the holiday was once canceled in protest. In 1968, the dragon was painted entirely black by several students involved in the project to protest the Vietnam War — making that year’s parade one of the most controversial amongst the student body. Most recently, in 1994, the theme of Dragon Day was “The Fall of Rome” in protest of the possible cancellation of the Cornell in Rome Architecture Program.

Several other noteworthy celebrations have happened in Dragon Day history. In 1966, as part of the Dragon Day festivities, students released a green pig into the Ivy Room — which resulted in a food fight of immense proportions and numerous complaints to the Department of Public Safety. The associated Dragon Day pranks again became problematic for the University in 1974, when Oded Halahmy almost pulled his outdoor sculptures from the University grounds after they had been painted with green paint and moved.
from their mountings. (Halahmy was the artist who designed “Song of the Vowels” — the sculpture which stands between Uris and Olin Libraries, and several other pieces of art surrounding the Johnson Museum grounds.) Other notable dragons appeared in 1964 and 1976, when students built dragons on top of cars and drove them through the parade route. In 1987, the Engineers constructed a large Viking ship to combat the dragon.

The celebration of Dragon Day has not always been viewed positively by the University administration. President Schurman once abolished the holiday because campus Catholics were offended by the theme. The date of its resurrection has not been made clear. The most recent example of University action came in 1990, when the Department of Architecture severed all ties to the holiday, citing the associated campus pranks and sometimes violence which came with the holiday. Prior to this time, the architecture facilities were fully (or more accurately, overtly) open to the students for materials and resources in constructing the dragon. Students could at one point even take a two week course to learn the basics of the machine shop, and then use Dragon Day as a hands-on application of the course.

The rivalry between the College of Architecture and the College of Engineering students before and during Dragon Day celebrations seems to have simply developed through history — perhaps as a means of expressing opposition to the Architects having a full day for themselves. No clear date established the rivalry, although it appears to have become fairly intense immediately before the Department of Architecture severed ties with the holiday. Public Safety had previously reported numerous incidents of violence — Engineers, as a method of attempting to destroy the dragon, would freeze fruit to throw at the dragon and fill empty soda bottles with dry ice, which would cause them to explode like miniature bombs.

Since 1993, the Department of Architecture has allowed ties to slowly re-form between itself and the holiday. Dragon Day 1993 represented the first time that the students were allowed to use department resources and the facilities in Rand Hall “legally” for the construction of the dragon. Building the dragon was briefly pushed “underground” in the prior years. The painting and decoration of Rand Hall in 1993 and 1994 has also come about because of this reforming tie. Although the rivalry still exists between the Engineers and the Architects, it appears to be less violent than in prior years. On Dragon Day since 2000, creatures (a phoenix in 2000 and 2002, and a cobra in 2001) were constructed on the engineering quad to fend off the approaching dragon. In addition, an engineering student organization, the Phoenix Society, was formed to construct the creature and to work with architecture students to keep the day safe.

The freshman architecture class is unified throughout the celebration of Dragon Day, and often their class spirit is judged by the dragon that they are able to construct. Every year, a T-shirt is designed by the class, and sold to the Cornell community to help raise money for the Dragon Day project — including a dance/party held by and for the freshman Architecture class later in the semester.

While there are still many aspects to Dragon Day that history has not accounted for, perhaps they are better left shrouded in uncertainty. Architecture students pass along stories of Dragon Days past as folklore and legend, and the holiday might be somewhat devoid of its mystery and surprise if all the bare facts were revealed. As for Architecture Day’s founder, Willard Straight went on to fight in World War 1 and died in 1918. He left provisions in his will for the creation of a building to make, “a more humane environment on campus for students.” The building, Willard Straight Hall, was dedicated to him by his wife and the University upon its completion in 1925.

8.4 Hockey Time

As you may know pretty well, sports in college play an important role in individuals’ growing. All during the year, glory and pride are confronted between different college squads in different sports, such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, lacrosse, and football. However, here at Cornell there is specially one sport and one squad which we are proud to cheer in every one of their matches: Hockey.

Originally created in Canada, this sport has been popularized throughout the country; in the professional league, even desert states as Arizona or Texas have at least one franchise, and every year the end
of the tournament leads many fans of this icy sport to become couch potatoes until a winner has been defined.

Cornell’s Hockey team was born more than 100 years ago, and the female hockey team was one of the first to be created at the beginning of last century. The teams have brought to these beautiful hills the pride of several NCAA and ECAC championships. The glory of the Cornell hockey team peaked in one supreme moment when, in the 1969-1970 season, Cornell completed the tournament with a 29-0-0 record. Since 1964, the Cornell team has fed the NHL rows with 43 great players, 6 of whom were chosen during the 2002 draft by the teams of Atlanta (McRae, McRae, & Baby), Phoenix (LeNeveu), San Jose (Murray), and Toronto (Knoepfli). In the past two years the team became a national powerhouse. In the 2001/2002 season Cornell won the regular season ECAC title, only to loose the final in overtime to arch-enemy Harvard. Despite this loss Cornell received an invitation to the NCAA tournament. The team lost to New Hampshire in the quarterfinals after beating Quinnipiac. In the 2002/2003 season the Cornell Hockey team was ranked as the number 1 team of the country by ”U.S. College Hockey Online” as well as ”USA Today” for the first time in history. It claimed the ECAC title with ease and went on to its first Frozen Four appearance since 1980, routing MSU-Mankato 5-2, then beating Boston College 2-1 in double overtime. Unfortunately New Hampshire played the spoiler once again, as it destroyed the hopes for a National Title with a 3-2 victory over Cornell in the semi-final.

You can find season tickets for the matches in mid September. This may be one of the best investments you can make all year. One word of warning: You will need a lot of endurance to get those tickets. It is not unusual that students wait in line for over 50 hours (yes you read correctly: FIFTY hours!) to get their beloved season tickets. Check the Cornell Daily Sun for more information on how to get tickets in September. The procedure changes almost every year. If you don’t want to waste your precious time to get season tickets, you can either buy tickets from somebody who has season tickets but cannot attend the game or show up at Lynah Rink and buy tickets five minutes after the game started. You will be standing all the way in the back, though. But with all the home games likely sold out before the start of the season, it’s most likely your best option.

8.5 Places and Prides

There are many names and phrases that you might hear as you learn your way around Cornell. We’ve defined some of the most common or interesting ones here. Most of this information, and lots more information on other aspects of Cornell, is available at the Cornell University Infobase Web Page <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Campus/Infobase>.

“Bailey Hall” (D4)

Bailey Hall is the University’s largest auditorium, seating 1989 people. It is used for the Bailey Hall Classical Concert Series, Cornell Orchestra concerts, a lecture hall for large courses, visiting speakers, dance, theater, and music groups.

“Beebe Lake” (EF3–4)

The lake was created in an old meadow by the dam next to Noyes Lodge. It serves as a reservoir for the electricity generating station downstream and as a source of water for cooling buildings. Canoeing is permitting in the lake, though swimming and skating are not allowed. However, that does not deter a lot of students from jumping off the bridge at the upper end of the lake and go for a swim. The lake is surrounded by a 1.1 mile long footpath. Picnic tables are located around the footpath.
“The Big Red Barn” (D4)

The Big Red Barn is Cornell’s Graduate and Professional Student Center. It serves as a gathering place and hosts a range of events. Cornell Dining also serves breakfast and lunch at the Big Red Barn. See Section 6.3.1 for more information.

“Big Red” and “Big Red Bear”

The costumed Big Red Bear “mascot” makes appearances at many Cornell athletic events, and can be seen on many of the university’s t-shirts, key-chains, and the occasional graduate student handbook. The Bear originated in 1916 when football members collected $25 to buy a black bear cub from Maine named Touchdown. For Homecoming 1988, a costumed female bear joined the Big Red Bear. However, despite its ubiquitous presence, the Big Red Bear is not the Cornell mascot: in fact, Cornell University has no official mascot and is simply called the Big Red.

“Blue Light”

Cornell provides a variety of security services for members of the community, all headed under the “Blue Light” label. (See Section 3.5 for more information on safety.)

“Cornell Chimes”

<http://www.chimes.cornell.edu>
chimes@cornell.edu
(607)255-5350

The Cornell Chimes are located in McGraw Tower (BC5) and are played by the Cornell University Chimesmasters in three daily concerts. The Cornell Chimes performances are the university’s oldest musical tradition. The Chimesmasters are a group of students, faculty, and staff and are selected in an annual competition. The door to McGraw Tower opens to visitors ten to fifteen minutes before each concert. Visitors can climb the tower’s 161 steps to watch the Chimesmasters perform and enjoy a view of the campus and surrounding areas. Originally a chime of nine bells that was first rung in 1868, the chime has been expanded to 21 bells and is still played manually by manipulating a wooden console by hand and foot. All the bells were tuned together for the first time and the tower was refurbished during 1998 and 1999.

“Cornellcard”

Cornellcard is a Cornell-internal charge account that can be used at a number of locations around campus, including dining facilities, the campus store, and ticket outlets. Since using the Cornellcard requires the payment of a regular fee and can only be used on campus, you’re probably better off using a regular credit card.

“Dairy Bar & Dairy Store” (FG5)

Both located in Stocking Hall, the Dairy Bar is an on-campus ice cream parlor which sells Cornell ice cream, coffee, doughnuts, bagels, and other snacks, and the Dairy Store sells Cornell made milk, pudding, ice-cream, yogurt, juices, maple syrup, cheese, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and some general groceries. And yes, the ice-cream is definitely worth the trip to the Dairy Bar! See Section 7.2 for more information about food on campus.
Table 8.1: Finger Lakes Statistics

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<th>Length (mi)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Honeoye</td>
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<td>715</td>
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<td>Otisco</td>
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<td>710</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Skaneateles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>867</td>
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“Duffield Hall” (C6)

<http://www.duffield.cornell.edu>

The College of Engineering has begun constructing a new building, Duffield Hall, on the Engineering Quad. The groundbreaking for the building was in the spring of 2001 and the building is scheduled for completion in 2004. Duffield Hall will connect to Phillips Hall, Knight Lab, and Upson Hall (all C6). As part of the project, the Engineering Quad will also be regraded and landscaped. The building will house a new atrium that is designed to be the centerpiece of the engineering quadrangle, as well as many new laboratories. Many of these labs will be centered on electrical component fabrication and testing. Information about the project and its timeline, as well as artist’s sketches of the building, are available on the webpage.

“Engineering Co-op”

The Engineering Co-op program allows the upper half of the sophomore engineering class to get an engineering job for the junior year fall semester and following summer with a firm. Participants must attend classes at Cornell the preceding summer if they are not ahead in their studies, so they will graduate with their class. Students do not receive credit for the work, but they do get paid. The approximate cutoff point for students is a GPA of 2.7.

“Finger Lakes”

There are eleven lakes in Upstate New York that comprise the Finger Lakes. The lakes are so called because their layout resembles a hand print when viewed from above. Native American legend says that the lakes were formed when The Creator paused in his work and laid a hand on this part of the state to rest. Cornell overlooks the south end of Cayuga Lake. Table 8.1 shows some statistics about the Finger Lakes.

“Helen Newman Hall” (E3)

Helen Newman Hall contains a swimming pool, dance studio, sixteen bowling lanes, a large open gym floor, and a women’s sauna room. Classes in aerobics, badminton, bowling, dance, fencing, physical conditioning, swimming, tennis, and volleyball are held there. See Section 6.1 for more information about athletic facilities at Cornell.
“Ithaca College” or “IC”

<http://www.ithaca.edu>
General Information: 274-3011

Ithaca College is a private college located on the South Hill in Ithaca. You are able to see the two towers at the heart of its campus from the Libe slope. It is divided into the schools of Health Sciences and Human Performance, Business, Communications, Music, and Humanities and Sciences, with a small graduate program. Cornell undergraduates are permitted to take courses not offered at their own school at Ithaca College with no additional fee or change in tuition rate. Additionally, Ithaca College has its own college radio station, WICB, broadcasting at 91.7 FM or on the web at <http://www.ithaca.edu/radio/wicb>. It’s definitely worth tuning in because of all the good music (mostly Modern Rock, but specialty shows feature, Rap, Latin, Blues, Folk, and Techno) and because it is commercial free.

“Ithaca Festival”

<http://www.ithacafestival.org>
info@ithacafestival.org
273-3646
215 North Cayuga St., M-1

The Ithaca Festival is an annual fair held the first weekend of June, usually right after the undergraduates have all left town (possibly no coincidence). It focuses on local musicians, artists, dance troupes, playwrights, writers, and poets. The Festival’s intent is to celebrate the community and the artist in each of us (and most likely the departure of all the undergraduates the previous week). The Festival takes place at the Commons, DeWitt Park, and Stewart Park. If you are in town, it is not to be missed.

“Ithaca Hours”

<http://www.lightlink.com/hours/ithacahours>

Ithaca Hours is Ithaca’s local currency and can only be spent on local services and in local shops and restaurants, altogether at over 1500 locations (see the “HOUR Town” newspaper for a complete listing). The purpose of Ithaca Hours is to strengthen the local economy and community by encouraging use of local services. Each hour is worth an hour of labor or $10. For more information, check out the website.

“Ivy League”

The idea of an Ivy League was derived from James Lynah’s policy that called for the “formation of a League, to reassert amateur principle, to adjure the current athletic sordidness and cynicism, to save, in short, athletic idealism” (Morris Bishop, History of Cornell). The origins of the name “Ivy League” for this collection of schools are debated; one explanation is that in 1930 the four schools (Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Cornell) that competed against each other and were called the Intercollegiate Teams were unofficially dubbed “the Ivies” after the Roman numeral IV by a sportscaster. Others theorize it is after the common plant life on the buildings at each of these schools. In 1952, the name “Ivy Group” was made official.

The eight schools comprising the Ivy League are: Brown (Providence, RI), Cornell (Ithaca, NY), Columbia (New York, NY), Dartmouth (Hanover, NH), Harvard (Cambridge, MA), Princeton (Princeton, NJ), University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), and Yale (New Haven, CT). Cornell and the other Ivy League schools have entered into an agreement to not offer any academic merit or athletic scholarships, only financial need-based ones. That is the main reason why the Football and Basketball squads of the Ivies are not competitive on a national level.
“Lake Source Cooling Project”

<http://www.utilities.cornell.edu/LSC>

Cornell took the initiative to find alternative means of cooling the campus in the summer while limiting environmental impact (by reducing reliance on electricity produced from fossil fuels and virtually eliminating freon and other chemicals). The Cornell Campus is now cooled by a system which provides chilled water by using a heat exchanger and the cool deep waters of Cayuga Lake. Cayuga waters are returned to the lake just slightly warmer than before, and water in the campus cooling loop is returned to Cornell cooler than before. The system uses only 20% of the electricity which was required by the chillers it replaces, and the lake is being closely monitored for any signs of environmental impact (none are expected). Even so, the project was highly controversial among the local residents of Ithaca and many remain skeptical about its safety for the environment to this day.

“Libe Slope” (B4)

The hill that leads from West Campus to the Libraries and the Quadrangle of the College of Arts and Sciences is referred to as Libe Slope. It is the site of “Slope Day” on the final day of classes in the spring semester.

“Slope Day”

On the last day of the spring semester, the students of Cornell have a tradition of celebrating the end of the year by throwing an all day party on the Library Slope near the Uris Tower. Though primarily undergraduates attend, graduate students have enjoyed the festivities as well. In recent years the party had slowly converted into a drinking orgy. Check out <http://parallaxis.net/cornell/sd> for a taste of slope day 2001. In 2003 the university responded by changing the nature of Slope Day, despite massive protests from the undergrads. You were no longer allowed to bring your own alcohol to the slope. The slope was fenced and you were required to buy alcohol once you made it inside. In return the university hired bands that performed on the slope. That didn’t deter students from once again celebrating the end of classes on the slope.

“Statutory vs. Endowed Colleges”

There are two categories of colleges at Cornell. The statutory colleges receive direct funding from New York State and were created by Acts of the state legislature. The endowed colleges are privately funded and do not receive any direct funding from New York State. The College of Engineering is an endowed college, as is the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, among others. The statutory colleges include the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Suspension Bridge” (B3)

The present bridge, spanning Fall Creek just north of the Johnson Museum of Art, was built in 1960 and was designed by Professors S.C. Hollister and William McGuire. It is 138 ft., 3.5 in. above the water. The original bridge was built during the 1880’s, 500 feet upstream from the present site, behind Risley Hall and was slung low over the stream. It was replaced in 1913 by a suspension bridge at the site and height of the present one; this second bridge was declared unsafe and closed August 1960. The legend says that if someone refuses a kiss while crossing the bridge, this one may collapse.
“Willard Straight Hall” (B5)

Sometimes called “The Straight”, Willard Straight Hall is the Cornell Student Union and contains non-academic and student organization offices. In 1969, a group of black students, alleged the university wasn’t doing enough to support black students, armed with rifles, took over Willard Straight Hall. Nobody was hurt. James A. Perkins who presided over Cornell from 1963 to 1969 resigned amid the controversy surrounding the Willard Straight Hall take-over. See Section 6.3.2 for more information on facilities in Willard Straight.

8.6 Did You Know Cornell Had A... 

Cornell is a large and diverse university with many interesting resources many members of the community aren’t even aware of. For example, did you know Cornell had a...

Alma Mater

Cornell’s anthem for fraternity and communion between alumni is one of the most memorable and beautiful among all the schools across the country. Its origin is picturesque: Archibald C. Weeks ’72 and his roommate, Wilmot M. Smith ’74, took great pleasure in singing together a lugubrious ballad of the period: “Annie Lisle”, recounting the gradual decline and death of a tuberculous heroine:

Wave, willows murmur waters; Golden Sunbeams, smile;
Earthly music cannot awake lovely Annie Lisle

They handily lifted the melody for Cornell’s Alma Mater, which is sung with reverence at all hockey, basketball, and football games. And as you don’t want to miss all the emotion of being part of this chorus, the complete Alma Mater appears at the end of section 6.1, even if only the first two verses and the refrain are the most heard on such events.

Archives

Located in the Rare and Manuscript Collections of Kroch Library, the University Archives has a large collection of records and memorabilia related to Cornell, including genealogical matter, information on alumni from the early years of the institution, and records of some of the doctoral works and papers of Cornell alumni and faculty.

Arecibo Observatory

<http://www.naic.edu>

The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico is operated by Cornell. One of the most famous observatories in the world, and home of the world’s most sensitive radio telescope, the facility is used by scientists from around the world. More information is available at their website.

On North Campus you can find Fuertes Observatory. Fuertes is no longer used for professional research. Instead, a few introductory astronomy classes hold lab sessions there. There are also public viewing nights on clear Fridays, from 9pm to midnight. Call 255 3557 to find out if Fuertes is currently open. Public viewing nights are run by the Cornell Astronomical Society (<http://www.astro.cornell.edu/CAS/cas.html> ).

Arnot Forest

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/Arnot>
The Arnot Teaching and Research Forest is run by the Natural Resources Department. Arnot has 10 ponds and is 1,619 hectares in size. Fires, overnight camping, unauthorized plant and animal collecting, off-road vehicles, and snowmobiles are not allowed. Hunting is allowed by permit only. Overnight or multi-day cabins and main lodge facilities may be rented for Cornell related events.

A variety of programs are held throughout the year at the forest, including field research and maple syrup production. Summer courses taught at Arnot Forest are listed through Cornell Summer Sessions Office.

Cornell Daily Sun

<http://www.cornelldailysun.com>
(607) 273-3606

Founded in 1880, The Cornell Daily Sun, one of the nation’s oldest daily college newspapers and one of the strongest organizations on campus, is and always has been completely independent from Cornell University. The newspaper serves the Cornell campus and its surrounding community in Ithaca, New York. The Sun is entirely student-run, publishing Monday through Friday during the academic year, with special Graduation and Freshman issues during the summer. It’s a great source for news and information about what is going on at Cornell, in Ithaca and around the world.

Cornell Electron Storage Ring (D4)

Wilson Synchrotron Lab
255-4882

The Cornell Electron Storage Ring (CESR) is one of seven major laboratories worldwide doing research in elementary particle and accelerator physics. The lab’s electron-positron storage ring was designed and built by its members and has produced most of the current information about the b quark. The ring itself lies 12 meters below a parking lot and an athletic field and has a circumference of 768 meters. The lab trains graduate students in accelerator physics and has supported the development of superconducting radio frequency accelerating cavities. The lab’s theoretical physics group leads the development of supercomputers for use in theoretical science research and investigates problems in astrophysics and the structure and dynamics of matter. Tours are available by calling the number above.

Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (F6)

<http://www.chess.cornell.edu>

The Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) provides state-of-the-art synchrotron x-ray facilities to the national scientific community. It supports both Cornell-centered and collaborative research and development. The CHESS focuses on developing experimental facilities that utilize the high intensity, high-energy x-ray photon flux produced by the Cornell Electron Storage Ring.

Cornell Orchards (HJ6)

255-4542

Located on route 366 near the Veterinary Medical Center, the Cornell Orchards is run by the Department of Fruit and Vegetable Sciences. Apples and apple cider are available in the orchard sales room from September to May. Pears, grapes, and raspberries are sold in the fall. Other incidental fruit is often available although there is no set list. Hours vary depending on the season; call for current information.
Cornell Plantations (F4, GH3–4, J3)

<http://www.plantations.cornell.edu>
plantations@cornell.edu
255-2400

The Cornell Plantations is a living plant museum covering 3000 acres of University land. There are three major areas: the Arboretum, the Botanical Garden, and the Natural Areas. The Plantations are managed and preserved for conservation and to be used for outdoor teaching labs, workshops, and recreation. They are free and open to the public for self-guided visits; maps and information are available in the Plantations Gift Shop.

Guided tours of Plantations are free to Cornell students, faculty, staff, and alumni and can be arranged on weekdays, year-round. For weekend tours, free Saturday “drop-in” tours are available in the summer.

A variety of non-credit courses and lectures are offered through the Plantations that are open to the Cornell and greater Ithaca community. Topics covered include cultural and natural history of plants, ecological horticulture, design, and others. You can call or write to Cornell Plantations to be added to their free education mailing list.

The Plantations has a variety of individual gardens with peak seasons at different times during the year:

- Mundy Wildflower Garden: early April through May
- Bowers Rhododendron Collection: May through June
- American Peony Society Garden: May through October
- Robison York State Herb Garden: June through September
- Pounder Heritage Garden: mid-July through September
- International Crop and Weed Garden: June through early October
- Young Cutting Garden: July though September
- Ground Cover Collection: May through late September

Cornell University Press

<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu>

Cornell University Press was the first university press in the United States, established in 1869. The Press’s Board of Editors, which must approve all books for publication, consists of members of the Cornell faculty. Cornell University Press, and its Comstock Publishing Associates division, publish general and specialized nonfiction in all fields of interest as well as selected works of serious fiction. Current output is 150–170 titles a year.

Fashion Shows

Every spring, students from the Department of Textiles and Apparel, through the Cornell Design League, produce a fashion show in order to exhibit student work outside of the classroom. These shows are open to the public, and often members of the Cornell community are solicited to act as models.
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art (B3–4)

<http://www.museum.cornell.edu>

The Johnson Museum of Art has free admission to their several permanent and visiting exhibits. The museum, which opened in 1973, was designed by world-renowned architect I.M. Pei. Other museum buildings designed by I.M. Pei include the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the West Wing of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, MA, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH, and the Pyramids at the Louvre in Paris, France. The Johnson Museum was a gift of Herbert F. Johnson ’22, president and chairperson of Johnson Wax Company. The Johnson has become one of the best-known art museums in upstate New York. Information about the current exhibits is available on their webpage. More information about museums in Ithaca is available in Section 7.6.

Lindseth Climbing Wall (E5–6)

<http://www.coe.cornell.edu/goto.jsp?page=wall>

Located in the Field House, the Lindseth Climbing Wall is the largest natural rock, indoor climbing wall in North America. The climbing wall is named after John Lindseth ’56, now a trustee and an avid climber. See Section 6.2.4 for more information.

Nobel Prize Winners

The professors at Cornell and graduates of Cornell listed in Table 8.2 have been awarded Nobel Prizes in the specified fields.

Nuclear Reactor

<http://www.osp.cornell.edu/vpr/ward/wens.html>

The Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences (C6) operates a TRIGA nuclear research reactor. The reactor can be operated at steady state power levels of up to 500 kW, but it can also be operated so as to deliver its power in pulses which last several hundredths of a second and reach a peak of 2000 MW. Since 500 kW is about 6000 times smaller than a typical large nuclear power reactor, the TRIGA reactor can be operated in an open pool of water instead of a sealed pressure vessel — the fuel temperature cannot reach a level to induce boiling of the water. In the Spring of 2001, the Cornell administration announced that the nuclear reactor at Cornell would be shutdown and decommissioned, much to the dismay of many Cornell researchers and students.

Physical Education Requirement

When Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White founded the University, they believed that a sound body was as important as a sound mind. Therefore, from its earliest days, Cornell has required all undergraduates to prove their physical abilities either by means of a test or taking Physical Education courses. Graduate Students are exempt from this requirement, but are still eligible to take classes, such as swimming, golf, dancing, etc.

Tibetan Monastery

Officially called the Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies, this is the only Tibetan monastery in the U.S. — and it’s located in Ithaca! The Monastery is at 412 N. Aurora St. On a related note, there is also a major book press, Snow Lion Publications, for books about Tibet.
Table 8.2: Cornell’s Nobel Prize Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert F. Furchgott</td>
<td>Physiology and Medicine</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David M. Lee</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Osheroff</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert C. Richardson</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Fogel</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni Morrison</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Ernst</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre-Gilles de Gennes</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wole Soyinka</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara McClintock ’27</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth G. Wilson</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roald Hoffman</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Glashow ’54</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Weinberg ’54</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Holley</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans A. Bethe</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manfred Eigen</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard P. Feynman</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannes Alven</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter B. Medawar</td>
<td>Physiology and Medicine</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Beadle ’31</td>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
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<td>Vincent du Vigneaud</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John R. Mott 1888</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermann J. Muller</td>
<td>Physiology and Medicine</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James B. Sumner</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isador Isaac Rabi ’19</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<td>Pearl S. Buck</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter J. W. Debye</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>1936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
University Ombudsman

The University Ombudsman’s Office hears and investigates complaints about the operation of the university, especially complaints of injustice and the abuse of power. More information on the office and other places you can get help is available in see Section 3.7.2.