



Cornell University

Office of Volunteer Programs
President's Council of Cornell Women

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF
CORNELL WOMEN
NEWSLETTER
SPRING-SUMMER 2011

SAVE THE DATE – PCCW Annual Meeting, March 2-4, 2012, in Ithaca

SPOTLIGHT ON JULIE CROTTY – CHAIR OF PCCW

Julie, AB '86, JD '96, MBA '96, is a mediator and filmmaker who became chair of PCCW in June.

Julie joined PCCW as a student trustee and has been active ever since. She is Deputy Director of Mediation and Business Strategies for FINRA, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and manages the mediation program, conducts strategic planning and gives presentations for recruiting and new business development. She has written, directed, produced and appeared in award-winning videos. She won best directing for the short romantic comedy "The Sound of Mingling," which she directed, produced, co-wrote and acted in. She also has performed on stage in sketch and improv comedy. As an undergraduate at Cornell, she was co-captain of the basketball team, and after graduation, she played semi-professional basketball in Ireland and New Zealand.

She agreed to answer questions about her Cornell activities and her legal career.

Q. You've been very active in PCCW. What have been the most significant achievements in your work with PCCW? What have been your most memorable experiences?

A. I have been a member since 1993 when I was invited to join the organization as a student trustee on Cornell's Board of Trustees while in graduate school. Throughout that time, I have served in different roles, such as Vice Chair of what was called University Relations, Vice Chair and then Chair of Communications and Vice Chair of PCCW. The most significant achievements that come to mind are the most recent, which may say more about my memory than their significance! However, the first that comes to mind was creating and directing a tribute video for PCCW's 20th anniversary. We showed it for the first time at a dinner during the 20th anniversary celebration meeting when President Skorton was there. I love filmmaking and it was a gift I wanted to give PCCW. I made the video with a very low budget and members from around the country provided footage of interviews of people important to the organization. Being able to include voice over from President Emeritus Frank Rhodes was a real honor. I try to put heart, soul and humor into the films I make and I was touched by the positive reception. Also, I am grateful to Carolyn Landis for selecting me to serve as her Vice Chair and am especially proud of working with her to re-establish

periodic meetings between our leadership and the President and members of his administration. I feel that we're fulfilling the role of assisting the university with advancing the status of women at Cornell in the manner that our founders envisioned. Finally, working with the Membership Committee to help further diversify PCCW was gratifying and I love the vibrancy that has resulted from our wonderful mix of members. The annual meetings are always my most memorable experiences. Meeting amazing women with such varied backgrounds, establishing friendships and reconnecting with the University always leaves a lasting impression. I learn so much about what's happening in the world from everyone at those meetings, including the students!

Q.: What have you learned from your Cornell alum activities that you could share with PCCW members?

A.: You never know how your involvement with Cornell will evolve. My approach in life has always been to follow what moves me and it opens up unexpected worlds. For instance, there are so many wonderful people affiliated with Cornell who share an intellectual curiosity. In addition to that, people who are motivated to give back tend to be kind and generous – it's a great group to surround yourself with. As you get involved with the University, you not only encounter a rich array of alumni, but you also regain some of the experiences you had as a student by being exposed to faculty, administrators and students who offer a wealth of cutting edge knowledge.

Q.: You've had a very successful career in the legal profession. How did your education at Cornell help in your career?

A.: With the help of Cornell, I developed confidence and learned resourcefulness. I transferred to Cornell in the middle of my sophomore year from the University of Illinois and started playing on Cornell's basketball team mid-season. To be honest, when I first got in, I was surprised and wasn't sure I'd be able to handle it. But I found my way. Cornell has also been instrumental in teaching me leadership skills. It's been a place that has been very nurturing in that way. As an undergrad, I became co-captain of the basketball team and I served as house manager of the co-ed co-op where I lived, Von Cramm. As a graduate student, I ended up winning the election to be a student representative on the Board of Trustees. I was able to test my boundaries and grow while at Cornell in ways I didn't anticipate going in.

Q.: What do you attribute your success both at Cornell and in your legal career?

A.: I think qualities that have helped me are persistence, being open, curious and passionate. As cliché as it may sound, I truly love people and that helps too. It is part of what drives me – wanting to make a positive difference in peoples' lives and connecting people with each other. My interest in people also drives me to get involved, which tends to lead to opportunities and also creates a sense of community – something I found both at Cornell and within PCCW.

Q.: What advice would you give new PCCW members who are just getting started in volunteer activities for Cornell?

A.: Dive in. It's similar to finding your way as a student – the more involved you get the more connected you feel and the more rewarding it is. You have amazing women to meet and experiences to be had. You will find a sense of satisfaction as you contribute to PCCW's efforts that, I believe, make a genuine difference in the lives of faculty, students and administrators on campus. Our members tend to be open and receptive, so don't be afraid to reach out and ask others for guidance. I think the best way to dive in is to join a committee. We're all busy and they will only take up as much time as you want. It starts with figuring out which committee interests you the most and then join the calls. They tend to be an hour every other month or so. If you have the time and interest, you could join one or two committees and put your efforts into whatever projects or tasks appeal to you.

The committees we have are:

- _ Alumnae Engagement, which coordinates get-togethers around the country;
- _ Annual Meeting, which plans our annual on-campus meeting each Spring;
- _ Archivist, which maintains our records and materials over the years;
- _ Communications, which is continually improving and managing our communications internally and externally;
- _ Development, which helps raise funds to support our inspiring efforts to assist students and faculty;
- _ Diversity/ADVANCE, which helps us support the university in advancing women on campus;
- _ Grants, which determines how to allocate our funds to make a positive impact;
- _ Membership, which has the daunting task of nominating and selecting our members, ensuring our diversity, and helping to engage our new members efficiently;
- _ Mentoring, which creates rewarding opportunities to mentor students; and
- _ Transitions, which helps find ways to keep PCCW members engaged with Cornell as they wind down their terms and become sustaining members.

We've attached a list of the Committees with the names and email addresses of the Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee. You can start by reaching out to the leaders of the Committee(s) that interest you.

Q.: What are your GOALS?

A.: To begin with, of course I will focus on PCCW's mission of supporting the University in advancing talented women faculty, students, alumnae, administrators and staff, and fostering our mentoring and grants programs. I'm also aiming to work with our very able Steering Committee to efficiently engage our members – get people involved—ensure we maintain a rich diversity within our ranks and increase the percentage of our members who contribute financially to PCCW efforts that support our mission and Cornell's needs. Soon, you will

notice some new communication materials and mediums as well as events to help our members understand what PCCW is about and connect with each other.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2011 PCCW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, March 3-5 in Ithaca

Thursday, March 3

Thursday afternoon 3:00 -4:15pm *International Rankings*

Introduction

Kent Fuchs, University Provosts

Speaker

Alice N. Pell, Vice Provost for International Relations: Professor of Animal Science, CALS

Provost Fuchs Introduced the Meeting Theme of Cornell's Global Presence. In the big picture he hoped this weekend can showcase *Cornell's* presence in the *World* and *World* who comes to *Cornell*.

Rankings reflect students, faculty, and the University as a whole. Cornell has something to offer the world. We can make a difference and we are positioned to become the "Land Grant Institution for the World".

Vice Provost Pell noted that Cornell's goals for a global presence are those appropriate for Cornell's strategic plan rather than achieving ranking. After many examples were presented it became clear that ranking is an inexact science.

Cornell's Strategic Plan has as a goal to be in the Top 10% of International Research Universities. At his moment 71% of the universities want to be in the top 25% of these same rankings.

During the presentation, vice provost Pell shared with PCCW the rankings from: Webometric, Green Metrics, U.S. News and World Reports, London Times Higher Education Supplement, QS Top University Rankings and Shanghai Jiao Tong,

The world coming to Cornell is 20% of the student population. 33% of our Graduate and Professional students are international, while 9% of undergraduate population is international students. 112 countries are represented in the student body with the countries most represented are China, South Korea, Canada, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey and Mexico.

Since 2000 Cornell has expanded opportunities for students to engage in an international experience, whether it be a full semester or one during a winter or summer break. During this decade, increase in participation has come from 1 on 1 student exchanges, internships, consortia programs with peer institutions and increase in faculty involved programs in Nepal, areas of nutrition(new Global Health minor for pre-med students) and applied research teams.

Providing additional financial aid and summer overseas experiences are 2 key ingredients that will increase student participation in global educational experiences.

Gloria Lang

Welcome Reception and Dinner

PCCW members met with the 2010 Affinito-Stewart grant recipients in the New Physical Sciences building. After an informal cocktail hour, the grant recipients gave brief talks about their areas of research which ranged from creating high level control systems for robotics, to using theater as a tool to promote cultural understanding to using biomaterials and biomedical engineering approaches to both analyze and therapeutically target microenvironmental conditions in tumors, to designing for occupant health and individual and organizational productivity, to understanding the effect of obesity on fertility, to understanding the interaction between gene-nutrient interaction as a predictor of disease susceptibility, to studying how government policies affect the prevalence of criminal activity as well as the structure of criminal justice systems. The presentations were not only interesting, entertaining and informative, they also highlighted the extraordinary breadth and depth of study at Cornell. The 2010 Affinito-Stewart recipients were:

- Melanie Ann Dreyer-Lund
College of Arts and Sciences—Theatre, Film, and Dance
- Claudia Fischbach-Tecschi
College of Engineering—Biomedical Engineering
- Ying Hua
College of Human Ecology—Design and Environmental Analysis
- Hadas Kress-Gazit
College of Engineering—Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Marla E. Lujan
College of Human Ecology—CALS Nutritional Science
- Joann M. McDermid
College of Human Ecology—HE Nutritional Science
- Emily G. Owens
College of Human Ecology—Policy Analysis and Management

The evening was concluded after the grant recipients and PCCW members were entertained by Nothing but Treble and Cayuga's Waiters.

Friday March 4

Buffet Breakfast with Scholarship and Leadership Grant recipients

Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs Chris Marshall opened the breakfast with an update on the “Reimagining Cornell” program, which is examining the traditional alumni programs with an eye to determine what is important and what needs updating, as well as adding new programs. One new program is “Cornell for Life” which targets current students and young alumni to help build long lasting ties with the University after graduation. He is also seeking to expand affinity programming to address groups whose members may not all fall within a single class or geographic area, but who all share a common interest.

But the guests of honor for breakfast were the recipients of the PCCW scholarships and leadership grants.

This year’s **scholarship recipients** were **Nadia Raynes**, '13 (ILR), the recipient of the PCCW Leadership Scholarship recipient., and **Holly Lau** '11 (CALS) who received the Elizabeth C. Everett '97 PCCW 20th Anniversary Undergraduate Scholarship recipients.

PCCW Leadership Grants were awarded to the following:

Athletics recipients: **Beverly Yang** '13 (ENG) (fencing), **Madison Pearsall** '11 (ENG) (gymnastics), **Olivia Boyd** '12 (ARTS) (field hockey), and **Marissa Amiraian** '11 (HE) (softball)

Carol Tatkon Center Student Workers - **Elizabeth Onyango** '11 (ARTS)

Cornell Public Service Center PCCW Student grant fund 2009-2010: **Mona Yousif** '11 (ARTS)

Hunter R. Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar: **Maya Madhavan** '13 (ENG)

Greek Women Networking Initiative: **Nora Allen** '13 (ARTS)

CU-ADVANCE Center: **Yael Levitte**, director

Volunteering: Looking Back and Beyond, Friday morning

Friday’s morning panel on volunteering, PCCW and Beyond, displayed an array of PCCW talent while exploring a topic basic to PCCW’s history. Four members – Alison Levasseur '88, Nancy Clark '62, Martha Coultrap '72, and Irene So '61 – described their paths to rewarding volunteer positions beyond PCCW.

As moderator, Julie Crotty (2011 chair-elect) first cited the “phenomenal job” of Chair Andrea Williams and PCCW’s Transition Committee. It was formed in 2009 to assist PCCW with a mandated downsizing that introduced shorter term-limits and the concept of “sustaining” members. This new category includes scores of long-term, active and high profile members who will no longer vote or serve on PCCW committees, yet are urged to attend annual/regional meetings and to still serve Cornell, perhaps in new voluntary ways.

As Julie explained: “Many members loved PCCW so much that few moved off and it was bursting at the seams. Now, we need a better way to raise awareness so that sustaining members stay involved and transition to other leadership roles.”

Ironically, in 1989 founders Lilyan Affinito and Pat Carey Stewart proposed a PCCW to President Rhodes partly because they had difficulty coming up with names, when asked to recommend committed alumnae for leadership positions.

Laura H. Denbow, senior director of Volunteer Programs, spoke next. “Cornell already has a terrific volunteer program, but we’re looking inside to leverage the strengths of all the programs Cornell offers,” she stressed. Two such goals: a new Career Development Service, and “more seamless” information for alums. She also noted her advisory Task Force that includes PCCW member and former trustee Karen Keating and is chaired by Diana Daniels, a former vice chair of PCCW and the Board of Trustees. “I hope we will be working together. We want your ideas,” she added. Denbow came to Cornell from Bucknell in July 2010 to fill a position created by Alumni Affairs and Development AVP Chris Marshall.

Panel Highlights

Talent and Focus – After Alison Levasseur, a painting major and decorator, told a former professor that she wished to reconnect with AAP, the dean called her the next day. Soon she was invited to join AAP’s Advisory Council, a nominated position, and loves it. “What you put in comes back tenfold,” she observed. “Men are comfortable giving large sums while women want to be engaged. Sometimes (on a council) you realize even the small things you do really matter.”

Staying Connected – Nancy Clark is “basically an entrepreneur” who, with an education degree, home decorating skills and an enterprising Cornell husband “has moved all over . . . I always loved Cornell and always volunteered to interview students,” she recalled. Today, their upstate NY shepherding farm and cheese/yogurt business connects them to the Ag College, and perhaps inspired their endowing an entrepreneurship chair within Human Ecology. Nancy is active on the advisory boards of Hum Ec, the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Council and Entrepreneurship at Cornell, which she and Tom helped start.

Natural Interests – Dr. Irene H.S. So, a specialized orthodontist now teaching dental surgery in Bethesda, Md., first volunteered by interviewing prospective students for a Secondary Schools Committee (now WHAT, “because I love that age.” She even joined bus trips to campus for seniors to get their first impressions. As a president of the Cornell Asian Society she worked to help her colleagues gain a greater voice on campus. She is most pleased to be a founding member of the Library Advisory Council, after she and former chief librarian Sarah Thomas met at a Cornell Council Dinner.

Since Student Days – Martha Coultrap, a PCCW chair (2001-03), Cornell trustee and law firm partner in New York, got her start in student government, was elected to the Cornell Association of Class Officers at her first reunion, and later became CACO president. She says friendship was an important part of these

moves. Later, she “followed her passion” when, by then a trustee, she asked about joining the new Library Advisory Council.

“There used to be a clear distinction, with most Cornell organizations clearly run by the guys,” Martha noted. “Lilyan Affinito has been an extraordinary role model,” and the challenge now, with PCCW in transition, is to assure that there still is this push for wider diversity.”

[Links to volunteer-program spreadsheets posted in April are available at PCCW’s website, <http://www.alumni.cornell.edu/pccw/>, under Tools & Tips.]

By Barbara Orlando

Alice Cook House, Friday morning

Susan Murphy, Vice President of Students and Academic Services, provided a quick update on student life on campus. She started with the steps the university is taking to address mental health on campus in light of the recent suicides. She noted that there has been great progress in looking at the educational environment to try to mitigate some of the stresses. There is an orientation video for students about the “bumps in the road” they might experience as they transition to Cornell. In addition, the university has made a greater effort to outreach and to recognize students who were in distress and to provide more services at Gannett. Additionally, the various staff communities of campus police, college housing, psych services and the dean of students meet weekly.

The campus has become more diverse—now less than 50% of the students identify themselves as white. Ten percent of the students are international. The university has been reconfiguring its staffing to address this diversity. There are two new positions—a vice provost for diversity and an assistant dean of students to address diversity issues.

Introduction to the Alice Cook House.

PCCW members were welcomed to the Alice Cook Language House in five languages by Astrid Jirka, the director of the Language House Program at Alice Cook, and three students who represented both native speakers of languages other than English, and native English speakers enthusiastic about learning another language in depth.

The foreign language house program was started in 1984 under President Rhodes with the French and German departments. It has expanded to 50 to 60 students a year. It has been housed in the Alice Cook House for the last 6 years. The house brings together native speakers and students. The languages offered depend in part on the native speakers available in any given year. Each language

group has its own house fellow, but all language groups dine together in the same hall four times a week.

Lunch

Jane Brody facilitated the ever popular 30 seconds! in which members get a chance to boil down their essence to the briefest of elevator speeches, and glimpse into lives of the wide variety of fascinating women who make up PCCW

Global Programs at Cornell, Friday afternoon

Opportunities for students to conduct research abroad have expanded beyond the standard semester abroad. Daphne Mobley moderated an interesting panel discussing some of the many interesting and important ways Cornell and its students are reaching out as the World's Land Grant College.

Beth A. Medvecky, Assistant Director of the Cornell International Institute for Food Agricultural and Development (CIIFAD) and Associate Director of the Food System and Poverty Reduction IGERT. The mission of CIIFAD is to strengthen the Cornell community's capacity for making significant contributions to sustainable global development by supporting multi-disciplinary research teams with a problem-solving focus, partnering with developing country institutions and facilitating campus-wide dialogue on critical development issues. CIIFAD has four different programs providing students the opportunity to tackle real world problems.

The Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Team (SMART) Program. This innovative program brings together teams of students and faculty from diverse disciplines and pairs them with firms, organizations, or community groups located in developing countries. The teams work on well-defined assignments that challenge students to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in real world settings. SMART assignments vary from team to team, as does the length of engagement. For example, past teams have assisted promising new companies to develop strategic business plans, worked with an international NGO to pilot IT training in four African countries and collaborated with grassroots development professionals to enhance learning outcomes for farmer groups seeking to increase family food security. Teams work on location with the company or partner group for at least two weeks and sometimes up to eight weeks, depending on the type of engagement planned and the university academic calendar.

The CIIFAD SMART Program is designed to help Cornell's students span the gap between knowing and doing. It facilitates experiential learning opportunities that strengthen students' ability to develop innovative approaches to complex problems surrounding markets, food, agriculture, and development. By learning to collaborate on real-world issues, SMART students gain valuable personal experience, make significant contributions that are valued by the company or organization they partner with and raise Cornell's profile as a University that is strongly committed to global engagement for positive change.

Cornell's Food System and Poverty Reduction **IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program, funded by the National Science Foundation)** addresses the challenges faced by the 1.2 billion poorest people on the planet who live in rural areas in developing countries and depend on food systems for their livelihoods. Food systems are dynamic systems that are characterized by complex webs of connections, dynamic linkages and feedback loops among many spatially and temporally distinct sub-systems. Therefore, understanding how to manage them to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and environmental degradation poses a complex challenge that necessarily involves people from multiple disciplines who are able to collaborate and communicate with one another effectively.

The **Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Group (FANG)** promotes interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach focused on the development of food systems that support human health and well-being sustainably. The group is a collaboration between CIIFAD and the Program in International Nutrition, and the membership is comprised of graduate students and faculty members from a range of disciplines. FANG's approach is to consider food systems holistically with human nutrition and environmental and human health as explicit outcomes. Faculty, staff and students who wish to join the group are welcome.

The goal of the **Stimulating Agricultural and Rural Transformation (StART)** initiative is to encourage and facilitate faculty and graduate students with strong disciplinary expertise to interact, and where appropriate to actively collaborate, at the high-return intersections between fields of study in a way that develops strategically valuable "connective tissue" among related, cutting-edge research programs and between Cornell research groups and external practitioners who can both implement scientific discoveries and identify and pose important researchable questions. We assemble flexible working groups of faculty, students, visiting scientists and external partners organized in specific integrative themes of strategic importance to agricultural and rural transformation.

The **Hunger Chronicles** is an ambitious global media project designed to engage millions of people in a well-informed, action-oriented discussion of one of humanity's most urgent challenges--to ensure that all people have access to adequate food. Anchored in world-class documentary journalism, the Hunger Chronicles is a collaborative effort of Homelands Productions, an independent media cooperative specializing in public radio documentaries, and Magnum Photos, which is widely considered the most prestigious photo agency in the world. Key partners include NPR, Cornell University, and the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. CIIFAD is contributing to the project by bringing together faculty members with expertise in hunger, food security and poverty to assist in story development and linking the radio producers with graduate students who can provide assistance with background research.

Rebecca J. Stofitzfus, Professor and Director, Program in International Nutrition, Program in Global Health, College of Human Ecology. The Program in International Nutrition trains individuals who are dedicated to eliminating hunger, malnutrition, and chronic disease. The Program faculty addresses nutritional problems through research, nutritional education and training; applied nutrition programs in the community, government, and international organizations; and institutional development. The Cornell Program in International Nutrition is dedicated to training those committed professionals whose previous training and international experience provide a solid foundation for benefiting from Cornell's rigorous intellectual environment.

Students graduating from the Program in International Nutrition work for government ministries and other action agencies (such as UNICEF and non-governmental organizations), agencies that deliver technical assistance (such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Health Organization), applied research institutions, and universities. Recent graduates, almost without exception, have found the job of their choice when they graduated.

The Program in International Nutrition tailors the curriculum to meet each student's career goals. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, students may focus their curricula on biological and clinical aspects of nutrition, or on the social, economic, or cultural aspects of nutrition. The Program is managed within Cornell's Division of Nutritional Sciences, but involves faculty across the university. The faculty members have had experience in many parts of the world, and their expertise covers the spectrum from basic biology to population-based interventions and policy.

Courses are offered in the political, economic, sociological, clinical, and public health dimensions of nutrition. Numerous seminar series offer presentation and interpretation of issues, and informal discussion of modern methods of research and research results.

Study in international nutrition begins with a solid basis in human nutrition, and should include biochemistry, physiology, and laboratory methods. In addition to courses in the biological aspects of nutrition, students are expected to take courses that recognize the social, cultural, agricultural, economic, and public health policy impacts of nutrition, and courses that provide them with expertise in the analytic methods used to describe and understand these impacts. Many students minor in areas such as development sociology, agricultural economics, anthropology, epidemiology, communication, food science, and policy analysis because their research is multidisciplinary.

The breadth of knowledge and the emphasis on the sociopolitical and biosocial contexts of nutrition are the distinguishing features of the Program in International Nutrition at Cornell. Students and faculty benefit from the opportunity to integrate the foundations of basic biological aspects of nutrition and their interactions with population-based intervention and policy.

Collaborative ties with research and training institutes throughout the world ensure that the study of nutrition at Cornell is truly global in scope.

The faculty members of the Program in International Nutrition are involved in many research areas. The following is a list of some current subject areas:

* Maternal and Child Nutrition

Human lactation and reproduction

Child growth and development

* Nutrition and Health

Nutritional causes of deficiency and chronic diseases

Nutrition and parasites

Sociocultural determinants of nutritional status

Functional consequences of malnutrition

* Nutritional Epidemiology, Assessment and Surveillance

Nutritional epidemiology

Surveillance for program planning and policy development

Nutritional anthropometry and body composition

Food insecurity

* Food and Nutrition Policy

Impacts of macroeconomic and agricultural policies

Impact of economic policies on poverty, consumption, and malnutrition

* Program Development and Management

Monica A. Touesnard, Associate Director, Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise, the Johnson School

The Center was created in 2005 through the generosity of Sam Johnson, who envisioned a hub for the generation and dissemination of critical knowledge and research related to business and sustainability. At the Center, solutions to environmental and social problems are viewed as business opportunities, not a cost of doing business. Solutions to these complex issues are framed as new business growth rooted in innovation and enterprise development. The Center maintains a global network engaged in collaborative research and field work focused on strategy formulation and implementation in two domains: sustainable innovation and base of the pyramid enterprise development.

Students and managers collaborate to develop a deep theoretical and practical understanding of a complex set of interrelated economic, social, and environmental issues. The Center focuses on building the skills and capabilities needed to formulate and implement practical, operational solutions that have value in today's marketplace. Combining the business and entrepreneurship expertise of the Johnson School and the vast resources in science, technology, and the study of humanities at Cornell University, the Center is attempting to advance the global knowledge base in sustainable enterprise.

An Evening with President Skorton and Dr. Robin Davisson

The evening started with an announcement by Laura Wilkinson, chair of the Nominating Committee, that Julie Crotty had been nominated and agreed to serve as the next president of PCCW.

President Skorton opened by expressing his thoughts on Gabby Gifford and the University's great sadness at the attack, and he offered his wishes for her speedy and complete recover. He also expressed his gratitude to Carolyn and Julie and the rest of PCCW, saying that PCCW does an enormous amount of good for the university, noting the financial and moral support for Cornell women in the form of leadership grants, the ADVANCE Program, and supporting the advancement of women faculty.

President Skorton stated that his highest priority is to increase the availability of need based scholarships. As a result of the recession, many families whose students have been offered a spot in the new freshman class have been unable to send their child to Cornell. Cornell has increased the need based scholarships offered by 35%. To do this, the University took some money out of the principle of the endowment. Cornell is now the 7th most economically diverse campus of its caliber.

He also ran through some of the challenges facing the University. Women remain underrepresented, in part because of preferences for careers focused on people rather than research. There is a big wave of retirements expected—47% of the faculty is over 55 years old. The University eliminated 900 staff positions, which has implications for the community around Ithaca. The reductions have helped in reducing the overhead and the resulting cost of a Cornell education; President Skorton noted that President Obama gave a shout-out to Cornell for trying to reduce the cost of college without reducing quality. He also expressed his concern for the state of the Humanities, noting that funding for the NEH and the NEA has plummeted. He urged PCCW members not to let the NEH and the NEA disappear.

President Skorton expressed his excitement for the new strategic plan for the next five years as Cornell approaches its the upcoming sesquicentennial. The plan covers seven strategic initiatives. The plan is available at <http://www.cornell.edu/strategicplan/>

The president then showed his comedy chops as he engaged with the campus improve group, Whistling Shrimp.

Saturday, March 5

Weill Cornell in Qatar, Saturday Morning

Moderator: Jeannette M. Perez-Rossello '91, radiologist, Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School; vice-chair, PCCW Annual Meeting Committee.

Panelists:

- Robin L. Davisson, professor of molecular physiology; joint appointments in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Weill Cornell Medical College
- Barbara B. Friedman '59, vice chair, Board of Overseers, Weill Cornell Medical College; trustee emeritus, Cornell University.
- M. Elizabeth Ross MD '79, PhD '82, professor of neurology and neuroscience, Weill Cornell Medical College; attending neurologist, New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar is about to graduate its fourth class of new physicians from many Mideast countries but also from Europe, Asia and the United States – a sign of its growing global stature.

At a panel on Saturday, March 4, Barbara Friedman, vice-chair of the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell in New York, who is on the Joint Advisory Board of the Qatar college, recalled that the board thought establishing a campus in the Middle East would help Cornell "move out globally and help the medical college grow."

Weill Cornell in Qatar is the first American medical school ever set up overseas and began operating in 2002 as a partnership between Cornell and the Qatar Foundation. It offers a six-year American curriculum, including premedical and medical education, leading to the same M.D. degree awarded to graduates of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

Friedman recalled that when Sanford "Sandy" Weill visited Qatar after the first students arrived, he told them: "You're our students. We're going to be here for you. Now don't screw up!"

Since 2002, she said, students have done very well and Cornell has established an academic hospital in Qatar that is offering a top quality medical education to women as well as men.

But beyond education, Dr. Elizabeth Ross, a professor of neurology and neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medical College, said "for a world-class medical school, you need world class research."

She described Weill Cornell's focus on building up medical and scientific research in Qatar in the past few years in areas such as advanced imagery and genomics, including doing the genome of date palms.

Professor Robin Davisson, who holds joint appointments in molecular physiology at Weill Cornell and the College of Veterinary Medicine, said she has been fortunate to host students from Qatar in her laboratory.

"They are so excited to be in a laboratory setting," she said. "Most of them have not had that experience."

Davisson added that in a new program students from Ithaca have also had the opportunity to do research in Doha, which has been "a life-changing experience."

"It's an expansive experience for our students," she said. "It's the people-to-people contact and understanding that will save this world – and this is one small step toward that."

During the question-and-answer session, there were many questions about difficulties for women in Qatar and at the college.

Friedman said she couldn't deny the difficulties that women students face because of cultural differences, but she stressed that at the college all students are treated equally, and all the graduates have found jobs, some at home, some abroad.

"We are participating in building more female role models in the region," Davisson said. "Time will tell how that works out. But I'm very proud of that."

By Edie Lederer

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Hazel Szeto, MD '77, PhD '77, professor of pharmacology at Weill Cornell Medical College, was featured in the online issue of Ezra Magazine. (ADD PHOTO)

<http://ezramagazine.cornell.edu/update/April11/EU.Szeto.profile.html>

Hazel joined PCCW in 2001. As a faculty member of the Medical College, she has distinguished herself as a scientist and an educator. She has an international reputation in fetal development, winning a number of grants and awards, most

recently a Merit Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She has served on many advisory and editorial boards, including the editorial board of the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. At the Graduate School and Medical College, she has served on committees that established curriculum, reviewed policies on ethics, improved living conditions for students and postdoctorals, and maintained relations with alumni. She helped establish the Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences Alumni Association. She has been honored with a Teacher-Scientist Award by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, a Teaching Award from the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College, and an Alumni Award of Distinction from the Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University.

PCCW SUSTAINING MEMBERS SHOWCASE

The PCCW Newsletter is showcasing its very valuable sustaining members. Lynda Gould and Meredith Clark Shachoy answered questions about their service on PCCW.

Lynda Gould joined PCCW in ??? (ADD PHOTO)

Q.: What are the main benefits you derived from your PCCW membership?

I have reconnected with Cornell on so many levels through PCCW and have gained a much better understanding of the complexity of a leading institution of higher education and the issues that affect women, both students and faculty. On a personal level, I have made lasting friendships with members and gained support from women who understand the challenges of the workplace. Even though I became a sustaining member this year, I decided to attend the Annual Meeting in Ithaca in March, which proved to be as gratifying as ever. Seeing old friends, hearing about campus activities and the contributions that PCCW programs continue to make was, as always, a terrific experience. I was delighted to meet new members and to see that PCCW was moving along with new faces and new enthusiasm.

Q.: What were your most significant achievements in PCCW?

When I chaired the Development Committee, in addition to raising funds, we worked hard to communicate to our members the programs that would be funded with their contributions and in doing so, highlighted the mission of PCCW. It's one thing to raise funds but another to motivate members to focus on the programs and mission PCCW stands for and be able to meet, for example, the winners of the Affinito-Stewart grants and hear about their research.

Q.: What were you most proud of during your years in PCCW?

I was proud to host a number of regional meetings for members at the French Designer Showhouses in Manhattan that I produced when I was the President and CEO of the American Hospital of Paris Foundation. I was able to invite my PCCW colleagues to gather at the Showhouse not only to see the work of some incredibly talented interior designers, but also to get to know one another, to network and just have a good time in a very beautiful setting. It pleased me enormously to be able to do this.

Q.: What was your most memorable experience?

The most memorable experiences for me have been the student lunches included at the annual meeting where junior and senior women come to talk to us about our careers and get advice as to how to proceed once they leave Cornell. It is very rewarding to be able to stay in touch with young people, to understand what they are striving for and what they anticipate when they graduate and to give them some insight into the challenges and hurdles they face. The fact that they take our advice seriously and want to stay in touch with us speaks to their respect for women who have achieved success in their professions and their own desire to achieve. For them, leaving Cornell and the environment where they have been looked after for four years and going out into the unknown is daunting and the fact that we can be helpful is very important.

Q.: Any surprises?

Yes. Referring back to the student lunches, my own professional area of not-for-profit and public service was a not very sought after career path and when we would break up after lunch into professional groupings, I always found myself more of a traffic cop than a provider about specific job information, directing students to those who could be helpful with the worlds of finance or publishing or media – but in 2009 when we headed for our designated areas there was a line of students waiting to talk with me. I felt like a rock star. Public service and teaching and the not-for-profit world suddenly took on a new attraction. This may have been due to the economy and the lack of jobs in the more "glamorous" professions or the election of a president who inspired young people to make a difference, but it was very gratifying for me.

Q.: What advice or suggestions would you give to new members to optimize their PCCW experience?

Join committees and try to be active in your geographic region. You will meet great women and contribute to the success and mission of PCCW.

Meredith Clark Shachoy joined PCCW in XXXX (ADD PHOTO)

Q.: What are the main benefits you derived from your PCCW membership?

Getting to know other Cornell women in different years and in your local areas. Building a network and your rolodex of professional and accomplished woman has been very beneficial. The ability to reach out to other PCCW women as a resource for Cornell women.

Q.: What were your most significant achievements in PCCW?

Mentoring young alumni and current Cornell seniors.

Q.: What were you most proud of during your years in PCCW?

Being with my mother, Nancy W. Clark, Class of 1962, and getting to know other women in all different fields of studies.

Q.: What was your most memorable experience?

I really enjoyed being on a panel discussion about “Women in Corporate America and Glass Ceilings.”

Q.: Any surprises?

When we were asked to no longer be involved as an active member of PCCW. You have an incredible group of women who like to be together, network, socialize and feel a part of a group. They want to be actively involved in the committees and events. Being a “sustainer” takes the prestige out of the membership and the commitment level decreases. This is your target audience and in order to sustain members involvement you need to keep them engaged in the organization.

Q.: What advice or suggestions would you give to new members to optimize their PCCW experience?

Meet as many women at the events, network and get to know the PCCW members. Attend local and Cornell events. PCCW members are a great resource to help with your career, brainstorming, personal issues, etc.

Q.: What other Cornell Volunteer experience would you recommend to you fellow PCCW members? Why?

Get involved in what you were passionate about while on campus or what you are passionate about today. Support athletics or join an advisory committee at your college. Support young alumni, students and go back to campus.

Newsletter Content

Please send your news and updates to Alison Weir at weir_alison@yahoo.com and Sally Jacobsen at sallyjacobsen@optonline.net so that we can include you in our next Newsletter.

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