President's Council of Cornell Women
Monthly eNews | July 2014

**CHAIRS’ CORNER**
A lot has been happening since our annual meeting in Ithaca.

**New York City PCCW Meeting, September 12-13:** Read more below!

**New Members**
We warmly welcome our 2014 class of new members, whose terms began on July 1. We are so excited to have you join us! Please review the new [member list](#) and reach out to any of the new members in your home locations so that you can get to know one another. For contact information, write to us at [pccw@cornell.edu](mailto:pccw@cornell.edu).

**Liz Everett is Elected Alumni Trustee**
We extend congratulations and thanks again to Liz Everett, 2013-2014 PCCW Vice Chair, who began her service as an alumni-elected trustee on July 1.

**PCCW Leadership Team**
We are delighted to announce that Daphne Mobley, who has just completed her term as Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, has agreed to serve as PCCW Vice Chair for 2014-2015.

Since the committee leaders on the PCCW Steering Committee generally serve staggered two-year terms, we also have several new Committee Chairs: Alumnae Engagement (Stephanie Fox), Annual Meeting Planning (Erin O’Connor), Communications (Tara Murphy & Heidi Grenek), Diversity & Inclusion (Dale Bernstein), Grants (Wendy Schoppert) and Mentoring (Yonn Rasmussen). The Chairs of the Archives (Barbie Stern), Development (Eileen Weingarten), and Membership (Terri Brown-Edwards) Committees will remain in their roles for another year. Going forward, there will be no stand-alone Transitions Committee, but the functions of that committee will be assumed by the Membership Committee. To view the full list of Steering Committee members for 2014-2015, including the Vice Chairs of each of the committees, click [here](#).

Our sincere thanks to each of the outgoing Steering Committee members – Liz Everett, Dianne Renwick, Penny Haitkin, Liz Ngonzi, Rita Redberg, Laura Granger, Deborah Landis, Shirine Boulos-Anderson, Sara Emerson, and Christine Perry - for their outstanding service to PCCW and to Cornell.
New York City PCCW Meeting – September 12 and 13

You will not want to miss this meeting. We’re going to have a great program and a great time! The full schedule will be out soon, but a few highlights include getting a taste for what’s happening at the medical school and the NY Tech program; hearing from Susan Chira, an editor at the New York Times; having a stimulating, interactive book discussion about how women are transforming business; and partaking in some fun optional activities to take advantage of our New York City location. We’ll cap off the meeting by attending the Cornell-wide Sesquicentennial Kickoff celebration Saturday night at Lincoln Center.

By now you should have received a “Save the Date” message by email about this meeting. We strongly encourage you to make your hotel reservations using the link contained in that message ASAP, as availability of the room block is limited. Registration materials for the meeting itself and the Lincoln Center event will follow in August.

That’s all for now. Meanwhile, have a great rest of the summer and see you in September!

A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING COMMITTEE CHAIR, LIZ NGONZI MMH ’98

I would like to take this time to recognize two fantastic women who have served as the other two-thirds of the Communications Committee leadership—Tara Murphy and Heidi Grenek—and whose efforts have significantly increased PCCW’s engagement with members and thought leadership. I am very pleased to announce that they have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs and that Lisa Rangel, my very dear friend, will join them as Vice Chair. We’ve accomplished a great deal in the last two years, with respect to internal and external branding and we owe a great deal to their tireless efforts. I would also like to recognize the following faithful committee members who are always ready to jump in when we need them and often times identify ways in which they can be helpful: Gloria Lang, Barbara Orlando and Debra Wein. I can’t say enough about Immediate-Past PCCW Chair, Julie Crotty who convinced me to step up as a Co-Vice-Chair of the Communications Committee before my PCCW term even officially began and empowered me to innovate to increase our engagement of our members and increase our brand’s visibility externally, including developing our PowerPoint deck and Fact Sheet; creating the template for our new member event series; establishing our social media presence through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and livestreaming elements of our Annual Meetings. Jill and Linda, with whom we’ve had the pleasure of working over the last year as Co-Chairs, have been great about getting those of us who are more entrepreneurial and less risk averse to adhere to Cornell’s rules and I look forward to celebrating PCCW’s 25th Anniversary under their leadership. Finally, I sincerely thanks Tina Gourley and Mary Faber, whose invaluable support has helped us to keep our ongoing train moving forward at breakneck speeds….THANK YOU!

Finally, I’m proud to report that as I step down as Committee Chair, we have 700 Twitter followers, 172 Facebook group members and 163 LinkedIn group members. If you haven’t already done so, please connect.
with us on any of the platforms and share your writings, upcoming speaking engagements or press coverage with us. I will continue to tweet from our account.

I hope to see many of you either in person over the next months or in Cyber Space...I’m @LizNgonzi on Twitter and am always up for a great #tweetchat!

WELCOME, HEIDI AND TARA!
INCOMING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Congratulations to Heidi Grenek '92 and Tara Murphy '94 on assuming the roles of committee co-chair for 2014-15!

Heidi and Tara both became PCCW members in July 2011 and served as co-vice chairs over the past year. They are thrilled to welcome Lisa Rangel '92 as committee vice-chair and look forward to keeping you updated on the latest PCCW events and accomplishments, member achievements, and news related to women's leadership in the year ahead. PCCW will continue to be active on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter -- if you haven't already, please be sure to connect with us via these channels and contribute to the conversation!

LIZ NGONZI COMMENTARY: GLOBALIZING OUR OUTLOOK

As a way to wrap-up my term as PCCW Communications Chair, I’ve chosen to write about where I see our brand potentially going, based on my numerous travels overseas; interactions with women at grassroots, corporate and political leadership levels; and as an observant Virgo who constantly seeks to understand the similarities and differences between people.

As many of you who know me personally are aware, I spend a great deal of time traveling between the US, Europe and Africa consulting to or training nonprofit organizations on brand development and fundraising. Among the hundreds of organizations with which I’ve engaged, quite a number of them in one way or another work on issues related to the empowerment of girls and women, ranging from providing them access to economic opportunities, education, healthcare and safety. From a US perspective, oftentimes the assumption is that women and girls in developing parts of the world, including most African nations are all impoverished, desperate, disease-ridden and in need of saving. While I do concede that the aforementioned issues do plague a significant portion of many country’s populations, the middle class is estimated to be the fastest growing in the world, and we are seeing an increase in people generating and giving away wealth (55 billionaires and counting) —including Nigerian tycoon Folorunso Alakija-- whom I had the honor of meeting this past May in Nigeria -- the richest black woman with an estimated $7.3 billion. On a recent trip to Uganda, I had an opportunity to chat with three women entrepreneurs from whom I purchased my produce in Uganda’s Wandegeya Market. They were all leaders who are generating and giving away wealth...
However upon speaking with them, I discovered that each one of them had used their produce businesses to send all of their children – as many as seven – from primary school through university. And when I asked them what would make their lives better, they individually indicated that they weren’t looking for handouts, but means to scale their respective businesses so that they would amass enough capital to build their own homes so that they would be subsequently buried on their own land in dignity. I should note that cemeteries are a recent phenomenon in Uganda, as people traditionally bury the dead on their own land.

So how does this tie in with the future of PCCW? As I mentioned earlier, I always look at the similarities and differences between people, irrespective of cultural, economic, geographic or educational background. When I think about the increasingly diverse population at Cornell, I think about the possibility that we as PCCW have to consider that the daughters of the Nigerian tycoon and the Ugandan market women could potentially be accepted to and subsequently enroll in the university. So as an organization “working to enhance the involvement of women students, faculty, staff, and alumnae as leaders within Cornell University and its many communities,” we must ask ourselves who those women are and whether or not we are representing all of their needs, our composition reflects their diversity or that our thought leadership leverages all of their lessons learned and best practices. One such alumna is Dr. Eleni Zaude Gabre-Madhin, an Ethiopian economist and co-founder / former Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange— I’m pretty certain that we could learn a great deal from her experience as a market maker in a developing country. My Kenyan friend and contemporary, Eva Waithaka could sure teach us about the myriad of challenges inherent in serving as the Head of Portfolio Management, for the African Trade Insurance Agency—“a multilateral financial institution providing export credit insurance, political risk insurance, investment insurance and other financial products to help reduce the business risks and costs of doing business in Africa.” Additionally, by engaging with women like the aforementioned ones, PCCW has the opportunity to increase its brand presence and for sustainability purposes…brand relevance to new constituencies as we enter into our 25th Year Anniversary and Cornell’s Sesquicentennial.

Warm regards,
**NEW FEATURE! MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS**

As we continue to evolve the content of the PCCW eNews to inform, educate, and celebrate our members, we are excited to announce the addition of a new section in which you, the membership of PCCW, can contribute articles. Whether it is sharing memories from PCCW events you attend, PCCW-related success stores or highlights about PCCW members’ career and personal successes, we want to hear from you! We cannot accept articles that are solicitations for your respective businesses and projects, but welcome thought-leadership pieces of interest to the membership.

**Barbara Orlando ’58** is our first contributor, with a piece about a recent award Edie Lederer received from the Overseas Press Club.

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**Overseas Press Club Honors Edie Lederer ’64**

As the Overseas Press Club (OPC) celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year, it paid tribute to PCCW star journalist Edie Lederer ’64 in March, during a stylish breakfast at Bloomberg News in New York. Since 1998, the year she joined PCCW, Edie has been the Associated Press Chief Correspondent for the United Nations, reporting the “diplomacy side” of global conflicts from across the world and around the clock.

But before her UN assignment, Edie spent more than 25 years overseas, "covering wars, famines, nuclear issues and political upheavals" on every continent except Antarctica. In fact, Edie was party to a change in AP policy, in 1972 becoming the first woman assigned full-time to cover the Vietnam War. She later wrote: "What astounded me was that AP, which had been so fearful of sending American women overseas, let alone to war, was suddenly changing gears." *

This background underscores reasons why Edie was especially honored to become only the second recipient of the OPC’s Fay Gillis Wells Award given to a prominent woman journalist. Fay Gillis Wells was an illustrious journalist and an OPC founder, born in Minneapolis in 1908 and who lived to 94. As Edie described from her research, Fay was "an adventurer early on," and an aviation pioneer. i.e. "At the age of 21 she took flying lessons and gained instant fame when she bailed out of a biplane using her silk parachute -- the second woman ever to do so and survive."

Fay was also a fearless war correspondent (even on her honeymoon) and, with her correspondent husband, Linton Wells, a pioneer of radio broadcasts from Latin America. She became a White House correspondent in the late 1930s, and in 1939 went to China for...
President Nixon's groundbreaking trip. Moreover, as Edie was pleased to tell her attentive audience, including AP President Gary Pruitt, other AP colleagues and many working journalists, Fay Wells worked as a young reporter in the Soviet Union for the Associated Press - another link they share. Overseas Press Club President Michael Serrill who presided, presented Edie with her Award certificate and a $3,000 check.

As Edie graciously thanked AP, the OPC, Bloomberg News and all those present, she reflected on her life and career, noting that when AP hired her for temporary local reporting in 1966, "it was very easy to count the number of women reporting 'hard news.' . . . I realize how lucky I was to come of age at the dawn of the women's liberation movement, and to have a mother who was a teacher and encouraged me to live my dream. She celebrated her 102nd birthday in December and wished she could be here today. But she's a late sleeper!" The breakfast started at 7:30, early even for New York City.

This is not Edie's first such award. In 2008, the International Women's Media Foundation honored her for lifetime achievement, and in February 2012 she received the Washington Press Club Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award. That occasion was the Foundation's 68th Annual Congressional dinner for Capitol Hill notables, where she was touted as "an example and mentor to many a journalist throughout her extraordinary 50-year career." Go Edie!

* Edie also has a book to her credit. The quote above is from War Torn: Stories of War from the Women Who Covered Vietnam, Random House 2002. Another of the nine Vietnam correspondents, Anne Morrisey Merrick (ABC-TV) Cornell '55, was also a trendsetter. A sports editor of the Cornell Sun, Anne was the first woman allowed to report from Schoellkopf Field's press box.

By Barbara Orlando

MEMBER NEWS

- **Dale Bernstein '76** was a panelist during Cornell Reunion 2014 on the Mosaic Diversity Forum, "One Year Later: U.S. Law and Politics in the Post-DOMA World."

- **Ellen Bravo '66**, executive director of Family Values @ Work, spoke at the White House Summit on Working Families on June 23.

- Women's rights activist **Sandra Fluke '03** makes it to California general election.

- **Nagin Cox '86**, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, recently met with students in Pakistan to share knowledge and tips regarding space exploration, science and technology, engineering and mathematics.

- **Julie Crotty '86, JD '96, MBA '96**, PCCW immediate past chair, was named to the Advisory Board of the Women, Influence & Power in Law Conference (WIPL) to be held this September in Washington, DC.
CALLS TO ACTION

Meeting Planning Committee

*PCCW Fall Meeting*: Celebrate PCCW all year! Before our next Annual Meeting, which will recognize the outstanding 25-year history of PCCW and its members, please join us in NYC Friday, September 12, and Saturday, September 13, to celebrate the extraordinary Cornell women on three campuses: Ithaca, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Cornell NYC Tech. We will learn more about the latest developments and research at all three, and conclude our meeting by joining the university at the NYC kickoff of Cornell's Sesquicentennial. Details and registration material will be mailed at a later date.

Archives Committee

Did you take photos at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Ithaca? If so, we'd love to see them! Please send tagged photos to Barbie Stern and she will make sure they are saved to our Olin Library archive site.

The Archives team would also like to remind you that if you are planning any PCCW events (fun dinners, get togethers, etc.) please copy Barbie and Michele Chandler so they can keep track of the events.