Cornell University

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF CORNELL WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

REPORT TO PCCW

For me and many PCCW members, our Annual Meeting is a highlight of the year. Reuniting with members face-to-face is wonderful after many months of meeting by conference call, and meeting new members for the first time is amazing. Remember your first self-introduction session at a PCCW Annual Meeting?

Meeting women students never fails to inspire me. Plan now to come early to meet students in small group dinners Wednesday evening, March 2nd hosted by sororities and multicultural Greek letter groups. We've arranged some informal networking time with students in the evening, and we'll also mentor graduate students at lunch Thursday, March 3rd and undergraduate women at lunch Saturday, March 5.

You'll be "blown away" by the accomplishments of women faculty including past recipients of PCCW Affinito-Stewart Grants who will join us for a Welcome Reception before dinner Thursday, March 3rd. Several current Affinito-Stewart grantees will stay for dinner, present summaries of their work, and answer questions. Please make a special effort to welcome our women faculty guests.

At breakfast Friday, March 4, you'll meet students who have received PCCW scholarships and both faculty and students who have received PCCW Leadership Grants. Don't be surprised if you are overwhelmed with their accomplishments.

See you soon. Our Annual Meeting will be exhilarating!

Carolyn

PCCW Chair 2009-2011

PCCW's Annual Meeting – Cornell's Global Presence – March 3 - 5 in Ithaca

The upcoming Annual Meeting promises to be an exciting and informative session. The agenda is as follows:

Wednesday, March 3

5 p.m., Pre-conference dinners with a diverse group of sororities and multi-cultural women's groups.

Thursday, March 4

1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Meet and greet reception

3 – 4:15 p.m., Panel 1 – Cornell's international rankings

4:30 – 5:30 p.m., Orientation for new members

6 – 9:00 p.m., Welcome reception and dinner, with Affinito-Stewart grant presentations

Friday, March 5

7:30 to 9 a.m., Buffet breakfast with scholarship and leadership grants recipients

9:15 – 10:30 a.m., PCCW panel on volunteer opportunities at Cornell

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Language House Program

12 – 2 p.m., Lunch, with self-introductions by PCCW members

3:00 – 4:15 p.m., Global programs at Cornell

6:30 – 9 p.m., Reception and dinner with President David Skorton and Dr. Robin Davisson

Saturday, March 6

9:15 – 10:30 a.m., Cornell's medical school in Qatar

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Mentoring lunch with students

SPOTLIGHT ON NANCY MILLS

Nancy, '64, is a Hollywood-based entertainment writer whose interviews with celebrities appear in such publications as The New York Times Syndicate, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and USA Today. Her training in the College of Human Ecology helped prepared her to write cookbooks with her son, Kevin Mills, '93: "HELP! My Apartment Has a Kitchen," "HELP! My Apartment Has a Dining Room," "Chocolate on the Brain" and "Faster! I'm Starving." She is past president of the Cornell Club of Los Angeles and currently is co-chair of Cornell in Hollywood.

Nancy agreed to answer questions about her Cornell activities and her journalism 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?

My involvement with the Membership Committee, as vice chair and then chair, prompted me to track down well-known Cornell women who somehow had dropped off

Cornell's radar — for instance, highly regarded AP journalist Edie Lederer '63, a former classmate. Calling Edie in London and then seeing her again at a PCCW meeting was particularly memorable. Tracking down Oscar-winning film editor Thelma Schoonmaker '61 and convincing her to join PCCW, albeit briefly, was also a thrill.

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

My volunteer work with Cornell, both with PCCW and the Cornell Club of Los Angeles, has shown me what an eclectic group Cornell alumnae are. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet people you would never have the opportunity to meet otherwise. And it has given me the chance to work in areas other than what my day job provides. I have particularly enjoyed working on projects that involve interaction with students — both mentoring and assisting with finding summer internships.

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

My work at the Cornell Daily Sun, which began during freshman orientation and ended when I graduated, was excellent training for a journalism career. I also must credit late Prof. Charles Russell, who taught a magazine writing course in CALS. He told students that in order to get an A in the course, we had to sell an article to a magazine during the semester. He advised approaching trade (specialty) magazines rather than consumer magazines. I wrote to Forecast for Home Economics, a magazine published by Scholastic and aimed at Home Ec teachers, and proposed a story about the new wing that was about to be added to Martha Van. This was in the fall of 1963. The magazine commissioned the story. I wrote it, showed it to one of my professors, who helped me revise it, and eventually collected $75 for it – big money in those days. That March I wrote to the editor asking if any jobs were available, and when I graduated in May, the magazine hired me. Thus began my professional career.

Q: What do you attribute your success both at Cornell and in journalism to?

Persistence, hard work and flexibility.

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

Choose your activity carefully. You want to enjoy what you're doing; otherwise you won't do it – or you won't do it well. If you stick with it, you may rise to a leadership position and find yourself spending a lot more time than you envisaged. But that way you can make a real difference. Another point – consider volunteering in an area you'd like to learn something about – maybe a new skill or responsibility you haven't had before. Lastly, ask your Cornell contacts where they need help and then be sure to follow through.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee

In fiscal year 2009-2010, we raised **$304,837 for the PCCW Leadership Scholarship Fund – the highest one-year total in the history of PCCW!!** As of mid-January, we have already received 39 new donations to the Scholarship Fund and new dollars totaling $44,340. This is without active solicitations – thank you so much for your generous gifts!

Our active solicitations will be from April 1 – June 30, but for anyone interested in giving prior to then, please direct your gift to the **PCCW Leadership Scholarship Fund # 0006042**. Thanks so much in advance for your generosity in supporting our fabulous women undergraduates who exhibit leadership and are in need of financial assistance!

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has selected a new class of invitees to PCCW, and invitation letters have been received by the 75 invitees. Committee members are calling all new invitees to encourage them to join and attend the March Annual Meeting. We are hoping and expecting for over 50 new members. The committee is coordinating with the Meeting Planning Committee to ensure that we provide a hearty welcome and introduction of the new members to PCCW.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Jane Brody hosted a luncheon and concert for New York metro area members Jan. 23. Twenty-one members enjoyed an afternoon of networking, music and a delicious buffet luncheon planned and prepared by Jane '62 BS CALS, a PCCW founding and Emerita member. Jane welcomed PCCW members to her brownstone in Brooklyn's Park Slope neighborhood. New members quickly engaged with ongoing members in lively discussions. **Alison Levasseur**, Development Committee Vice Chair, reminded everyone of the student scholarship focus of PCCW's current fundraising campaign.

Following the luncheon, many remained for a wintry walk to the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza to hear classical Interludes by the Escher String Quartet, featuring Andrew Nolan.

Engraved near the stage of the library's impressive new auditorium is a quote by Marion Wright Edelman: "Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time." A wonderful thought to end a terrific afternoon. Many thanks to Jane, and to Boston-based **Calicia Mullings**, the University's Associate Director of Regional Programs for the Northeast, for her superb coordination of the event.

Judge Barbara Howe hosted a Cornell-Alumnae-Student Tea on Jan. 8 at her home in Buffalo, N.Y. It was attended by 20 Cornell alumnae and undergrads from Western New York. There was productive networking as well as a discussion facilitated by Mindy Hellenbrand on such topics as life after Cornell and undergraduate degree options: work, graduate school, public service, travel and the like. E-mail addresses and business cards were exchanged.

Randy Segal hosted a mentoring pot-luck brunch Jan. 9 at her home in Washington, D.C., attended by 35 students and alumnae, many of whom were PCCW members. Each alumna described her career path and answered thoughtful questions from the Cornell seniors about balancing work responsibilities and other ambitions, about interviews, resumes, pursuing work prospects, and about networking.

Rochelle Slovin, PCCW member and founding director of the newly expanded Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, NY welcomed PCCW members and other Cornellians and guests on February 16 or a private reception and tour of the country's only museum dedicated to the art, history, technique, and technology of the moving image. The evening included a cocktail reception, welcome remarks, a brief presentation and tours.

Rochelle Slovin welcomed the audience with an overview of the Museum's history and significance to the Moving Image industry and the neighborhood.

Guests gathered for a tour of the Museum guided by Educators from the Museum.

(Right To Left) PCCW Chair, Carolyn Landis; Host: Rochelle Slovin, Event Organizer, Dianne Renwick and Alison Levasseur, Development Committee Vice Chair welcomed guests to refreshments for the mind and the appetite.

Nancy and Tom Clark will entertain the Hudson Valley Cornell Alumni at their farm April 30. There will be demonstrations, sheep shearing and a border collie trial for entertainment. Nancy will be participating as a speaker at the Entrepreneurship @Cornell annual conference on April 14. The topic is local food.

CORNELL ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Cornell hosted the second Cornell Alumni Leadership conference in Washington, DC on January 27 through 29 at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel, and PCCW took a leadership role. PCCW co-sponsored with Mosaic a panels one on **Diversity at Cornell: Moving Forward…How Are We Doing? What Are We Doing?** featuring: Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources; Kent Hubbell, dean of students; and Barbara Knuth, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School moderated by trustee and PCCW member **Elizabeth Moore** ’75.

PCCW also hosted a discussion on **What is the CU-ADVANCE Center Advancing?** featuring Yael Levitte, executive director of the CU-ADVANCE Center; Marjolein van der Meulen, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, associate dean of engineering, and co-principal investigator for CU-ADVANCE; and Kim Weeden, associate professor of sociology and evaluation and co director and co principal investigator for CU ADVANCE. This session was be moderated by PCCW member and CEO of Daphne Mobley, LLC, **Daphne Mobley** ’83.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Linda M. Gadsby, vice president and deputy general counsel at Scholastic Inc., was recently selected by The Network Journal Magazine, a business and professional magazine, as one of their 2011 Top 25 Influential Black Women in Business. She will be profiled in the March edition of TNJ Magazine and there will be an awards luncheon on March 24.

Katie Brown, described by People magazine as "TV's meat-and-potatoes Martha Stewart," was the featured speaker Feb. 1 in the Conversations with Entrepreneurs series presented by the Leland C. and Mary M. Pillsbury Institute for Hospitality Entrepreneurship at Cornell University.

The fifth season of her series, "Katie Brown Workshop," is currently airing on public television. She has also had shows for the Lifetime, A&E, and Style networks; regular appearances on Oprah, Good Morning America, and Live with Regis and Kelly; and five books – “Katie Brown Entertains,” “Katie Brown Decorates,” “Katie Brown's Weekends,” “Katie Brown's Outdoor Entertaining” and “Katie Brown Celebrates.” Her weekly home arts column appears in The New York Times.

Susan L. Heller is the National Co-Chair of the Trademarks/Brand Management Group at Greenberg Traurig. She works with companies to protect and enhance their key brands and corporate images through strategic management of their worldwide trademark and copyright portfolios. She has also worked with numerous entertainment personalities to help increase the visibility and value of their names and images. Susan was named one of the "Top 100" Lawyers in California in 2010 by the San Francisco and Los Angeles Daily Journals, selected by Law360 as one of the "10 Most Admired Intellectual Property Attorneys" in 2010 and recognized by the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals as one of the "Top 25 Intellectual Property Lawyers in California" from 2003-2010.

Nell Cady-Kruse writes that she recently resigned from Credit Suisse, where she was Chief Risk Officer, Asia Pacific. She will be moving to Singapore this winter to work for Standard Chartered Bank in the role of Chief Risk Officer, Wholesale Bank (a global role). She is looking forward to gathering with Cornell and Johnson alumni when she gets there.

Anita Miller will be joining the Legal Department at the City of Albuquerque after many years of solo land use law practice in New Mexico. At the City, she'll be working on current land use legal issues in which the City is a party. She'll continue to teach Land Use Law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, and in the graduate Community and Regional Planning Program at the UNM College of Architecture and Planning. Anita's biggest anxiety, at this "transition" in her life, is how she'll get to the City office at 8 AM!

PCCW SUSTAINING MEMBERS SHOWCASE

The PCCW Newsletter is beginning a new feature showcasing its very valuable sustaining members. Phyllis Weiss Haserot and Eileen Corwin Mason answered questions about their service on PCCW.

Phyllis Weiss Haserot joined PCCW in 1997

My years in PCCW are not over. I will no longer co-chair a committee or chair the New York Metro events, but my friendships and bonds remain strong as a sustaining member. Isn’t that what “sustaining” means?

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

Great friendships, closer connection to Cornell in depth, opportunity to give back, business networking. I have to say I have been thrilled with my participation with this fabulous group of women. I think we have played a unique role in the Cornell family. Personally, I have formed many meaningful friendships with women in a wide range of classes, who have shared the richness of their experiences. My active participation has brought me closer to Cornell than anything else I've done so far.

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

When I join something, I jump in. I chaired the PCCW New York metro regional alumnae events for 10 years, which included inviting other alumnae to join with us such as the diversity alumni groups and students and alumnae we might want to consider as future PCCW members and initiating the first PCCW events involving charities. The New York region has by far the largest number of members, which meant complexity in planning and implementing, but I had a great committee each year to make it work. Through this I have helped Cornell alumnae network and grow friendships that engage them with Cornell.

Also I have had the *great privilege* of representing PCCW on the Committee that nominates alumni-elected trustees (CATN), a fascinating process!

I helped facilitate the member forum at a tense stage of PCCW's changing relations with the University. The result was a positive outcome, and members appreciated being involved in the process and having their views solicited.

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

I have served as co-chair of the Alumnae Engagement Committee, and we expanded the regional events and added an event during reunions.
On the mentoring side, I have hosted an extern for over a dozen years and mentored students – getting so much joy in return. I continue to do this as well as present and interact with students through Career Services.

My professional work has gotten exposure to PCCW members and Alumni Affairs staff, which led them to ask me to do programs and consulting (pro bono) on inter-generational challenges and solutions for alumni affairs and Human Resources' Workplace Diversity & Inclusions' generations initiative and conference.

Q.: What was your most memorable experience?

One serious one: representing PCCW on the Committee for Alumni-elected Trustees Nominations (CATN). One amusing one: Being part of the group serenading Hunter Rawlings the first time he retired as University President in top hats, canes, etc.

Q.: Any surprises?

How significant PCCW became in my life.

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

Find one or a few things you are interested in and become very active. It is gratifying and rewarding in so many ways.

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

Take an extern annually. It only requires one day a year, and the students get so much out of it – and you will in return. Mentor students.They are hungry for mentors, guidance and structure – even in good economic times, and especially now.

Eileen Corwin Mason joined PCCW in 2003

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

For me, the main benefits I derived from my membership in PCCW were reconnecting with Cornell by returning to our gorgeous campus annually, and making connections with fabulous, service-oriented women.

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

My most significant achievement was working with the University Relations Committee as Chair of the Dean and Diversity Officer Liaison Subcommittee to publish and distribute a compendium of best practices from universities for hiring and retaining women faculty. We presented it at a festive dinner we organized for deans, diversity officers and PCCW liaisons at the beautiful Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art.

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

I was most proud of the tenacious efforts of the University Relations Committee in getting the attention of Cornell's President, Provost, and Deans focused on instituting practices that did, in fact, correlate with the hiring of more women faculty in several of the Colleges.

Q.: What was your most memorable experience?

My most memorable experience was during my very first PCCW meeting in March 2004 when I shared my ideas as Senior Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts about the impact of the arts on our nation. After that I always felt I had my own arts support group of PCCW women. This really takes me full circle to what I value most about PCCW membership – this connection I have made with intelligent, fabulous, service-oriented women.

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

My advice to new members is simply to volunteer for and be active on the committee of your choice. Committee participation is the vehicle that will provide you with an opportunity to make a contribution and make delightful new friends.

Newsletter Content

Please send your news and updates to Alison Weir at weir_alison@yahoo.com and Sally Jacobsen at sallyjacobsen@optonline.net by March 20, 2011, so that we can include you in our next Newsletter.

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