Volunteer Spotlights: February 2014

Meril Ann Pothen ‘13
Valley Cottage, NY

Favorite Cornell Spot: Definitely the Bissett Collaborative Area in Mann Library. I love the big screens, workstations, and whiteboards!
Favorite Cornell Tradition: I’m torn between getting brunch at The Carriage House on Saturday mornings to avoid work and the exhausted but (sometimes) triumphant walk back home after a prelim.
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Human Ecology Young Alumni Council and The Nielsen Company Cornell recruiting team, focusing particularly on recruiting from Human Ecology
First CU Volunteer Experience: I clerked Reunion for the class of 1980 after my freshman year and it made such a huge impact on me, I could not wait to volunteer as an alumna!
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: I was at CALC in Boston last month and had so much fun reconnecting with other leaders, learning more about volunteer opportunities, and experiencing the many different alumni associations.
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: As a student, it was certainly serving as Secretary General for the 2013 Cornell Model United Nations Conference and welcoming over 800 attendees from all over the world for 4 days of inspiring international affairs debate. Seeing these high school students fall in love with Cornell over a weekend showed me how lucky I am to be part of this community! As an alumna, volunteering with my company at Career Fair for recruiting was incredible. Having the opportunity to uplift and guide fellow Cornellians towards their goals is unbelievably humbling.

Scott J. Pesner ‘87
New York, NY

Favorite Cornell Spot: The bench that sits atop Libe Slope
Favorite Cornell Tradition: Aardvarking (a Big Red Band tradition)
Cornell Volunteer Communities: CAAAN, CAA, CUGALA, Class of ’87, Big Red Bands Alumni Association
First CU Volunteer Experience: CAAAN
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Currently chairing Cornell’s first-ever LGBT reunion this June. Everyone is welcome to join us!
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: CAAAN. There’s nothing like running into a young alumnus or current student who says “You did my information meeting and it was one of the reasons why I went to Cornell.”

Richard B. Hoffman ‘67
Washington, DC

Favorite Cornell Spot: In the pre-e-mail era, there was a small bulletin board on the wall of a small alcove tucked next to the south entrance of what was then the Goldwyn Smith B lecture hall. Sun managing editors, of whom I was one, would stop there late every night after the next day’s paper was put to bed, sometimes after 1:00 a.m., to post the assignment sheet (known as the “mustrun”) for Sun staff the next day.
Favorite Cornell Tradition: Singing the Alma Mater at sports events, since we remain one of the few schools where most of us know the lyrics.
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Class 1967 Correspondent; Cornell Alumni Magazine; CACO; Cornell Daily Sun Alumni Association; ILR Alumni Association; CAAAN; Cornell Club of Washington, DC; Quill & Dagger Alumni Association
First CU Volunteer Experience: Helping to organize our class’s precedent-shattering but somewhat under-attended 5th Reunion, which aimed at enabling our alumni to be on campus when students were there and thus provide a more meaningful experience for both.
Volunteer Spotlights: February 2014

Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Attended CALC last month, where our class council labored long, hard, and productively to plan ahead, even though our 50th is more than three years in the future. 

Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: *Meeting a world of Cornell alumni for the first time at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Cornell Club of the Philippines in Manila, and recognizing Cornell's distinctive place in educating people all over the world to make a difference. *Editing the Class of 1967's 25th Reunion Yearbook. *Providing the idea for the main speaker (Kurt Vonnegut '44) at the Cornell Daily Sun's 125th anniversary banquet in NYC, the first one The Sun ever held.

Carlos A. Falcon '95
San Juan, PR

Favorite Cornell Spot: Top of Libe Slope, next to Uris Library; my last apartment on College Avenue
Favorite Cornell Tradition: I will never forget my first Cornell-Harvard game in Lynah Rink.
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Cornell Club of Puerto Rico, President; CAAAN volunteer; Cornell University Council
First CU Volunteer Experience: As a student, I started collaborating with the Cornell Club of Puerto Rico in putting together the Freshmen Student Sendoffs. My first official experience as an alumnus was volunteering for CAAAN.
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Second term on the Cornell University Council; Cornell Club of Puerto Rico
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: When I was President of the Puerto Rican Students Association, we hosted an event at the Statler Hotel that combined presentations of Puerto Rican art, poetry and music. We flew in 18 musicians that had never played outside the island and who will never forget what Ithaca winters felt like mid-February. For five years in a row we held a Cornell Family Weekend on the west coast of the island, during which multiple generations of Cornellians and their children spent time reminiscing and creating new memories at the same time.

Shigeo Kondo '43
Wellesley Hills, MA

Favorite Cornell Spot: Cosmopolitan Club
Favorite Cornell Tradition: Reunion
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Class Officer
First CU Volunteer Experience: Class Treasurer
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Class Vice President
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: Receiving the William "Bill" Vanneman '31 Outstanding Class Leader Award in 2014

Marie-Jouvelle Aubourg '06
Roselle, NJ

Favorite Cornell Spot: Top of Libe Slope, with laying on the Arts Quad a close second
Favorite Cornell Tradition: Midnight scream before finals and Dragon Day
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Cornell Alumni Association Board (Director for the Region, Metro NY); NYC Cornellians (VP); Class of 2006 Council (Reunion Chair)
First CU Volunteer Experience: EARS counselor training (it's OK to talk about it now, but we were a secret society of counselors on campus!)
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Attending CALC 2014!
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: On campus, all of my leadership positions helped plan HUGE events that connected all Cornell communities (Welcome Weekend, Haitian Student Association, Orientation, Cornell Tradition, etc.). As an alumna, I created a tradition for the NYC Cornellians—the Young Alumni Holiday party—which sells over 300 tickets annually in partnership with CBAA, CLAA, CAAA, CUGALA, Cornell Hillel, and Cornell Hotel Society

Martha J. Sherman ’73
Medfield, MA

Favorite Cornell Spot: Wee Stinky Glen (or a 2nd floor office at 626 Thurston when it used to be Alumni House, overlooking the gorge)
Favorite Cornell Tradition: All traditions related to hockey!
Cornell Volunteer Communities: Cornell University Council, Class of 1973 Council, Hotel School (Director), Sloan Alumni Association Board, Boston 150th Advisory Group, CRC
First CU Volunteer Experience: Philadelphia Chapter of the Hotel Society
Most Recent CU Volunteer Experience: Boston 150th Advisory Group
Most Impactful CU Volunteer Experience: Class President; Sloan Alumni Association Board