THE ESSENTIALS
Groundbreaking planned for Big Red Bands’ new home, Cornellians in the summer Olympics, Human Ecology’s media wall, celebrating M.H. "Mike" Abrams’ 100th birthday and more.

COVER STORY
The library that never sleeps
BY GWEN GLAZER
Today, a visit to a Cornell library, whether in person or online, provides a level of customization that would have been unthinkable half a century ago, when the massive card catalog ruled and students filled out carbon-copied punch cards to request items. Here’s a look at how the library’s rich collections and expert staff inspire research and teaching, on campus and around the world.

Salons highlight the role of research libraries
BY ANNE JU

Library-managed ‘arXiv’ spreads scientific advances rapidly and worldwide
BY BILL STEELE

You can make it happen:
at Cornell University Library

Big Red matchmaker?
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CORNELL NOW
Law School receives $25 million gift, new professorship honors Robert Langer, calligraphy fellow endowed and other campaign news.

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ON THE COVER
In reflection on screen: Jim Morris-Knower, public relations and outreach librarian, Mann Library, left, and Erin Grainger ’13, student library assistant, Mann Library. Photos by Jason Koski/University Photography; digital postproduction by Matthew Fondeur/University Photography.
From the publisher

The argument was doubtless about threats to the status quo when Johannes Gutenberg invented mechanical movable type printing in the 15th century: the new technology would put scribes and makers of wood blocks out of work and bring a decline in aesthetic values. Today the argument is that digital technology is keeping people out of libraries and limiting the purchase of physical collections.

Both arguments were and are clearly incorrect. Gutenberg started the printing revolution that spread learning to the masses; digital technology is revolutionizing research and already has expanded the role of libraries into sources of up-to-the-minute information. As Cornell’s Carl A. Kroch University Librarian Anne Kenney says in our cover story on Cornell’s “library that never sleeps,” digital access doesn’t threaten library services or spaces, “it just gives us new avenues to reach users.” Indeed, the library’s visitors have increased by a million a year over the past half decade, and the physical collection is bigger than ever.

This is just one of the fascinating facts in our cover package on the tsunami of change that has swept over academic libraries, Cornell’s in particular: No longer just information repositories, they are now facilitators of research, teaching and inquiry. Of course, our university has a rich history of a progressive library system, including the installation of electricity in 1885, allowing it to become the first library in the nation to stay open more than 12 hours a day.

Enhancing what Librarian Kenney calls “the life of the mind” has become a singular mission for our library staff, whether teaching, collaborating with faculty, or, as a cover story sidebar describes, reaching out to alumni across the country with Library Salons examining a diversity of ideas and topics.

It’s appropriate for an issue that examines the role of intellectual inquiry, that Ezra presents updated architectural views of our new humanities building, Klarman Hall, to be built behind and attached to Goldwin Smith Hall. Our clearly stated devotion to the humanities is proof positive that scholarship and creative expression will continue to challenge our faculty and students alike in the years to come.

Thomas W. Bruce
Vice President, University Communications
Mike Abrams turns 100!

Class of 1916 Professor Emeritus M.H. “Mike” Abrams reflected on his long career and a life in letters during a two-day public celebration organized by the Department of English in honor of his 100th birthday, July 23.

Abrams spoke with his trademark wit and candor in “A Conversation with M.H. Abrams,” held before a full house in Goldwin Smith Hall’s Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium July 21. President David Skorton; Jonathan Culler, the Class of 1916 Professor of English; Geoffrey Harpham, director of the National Humanities Center; and Donald Lamm, chairman emeritus of publisher W.W. Norton, also spoke. The next day, an “Open Mike for Mike” featured tributes from friends, colleagues and former students (including literary critic Harold Bloom ’51, who sent a video message), and Abrams lectured on “The Fourth Dimension of a Poem,” the title of his forthcoming book.


For more information, see http://as.cornell.edu/abrams/.

Here she is ... 

Joanna Guy ’13 earned a $10,000 scholarship when she was crowned Miss Maryland June 23. She will represent her state in the 2013 Miss America pageant in Nevada in January.

The American studies major beat 23 competitors by winning the swimsuit and talent preliminary competitions, but this is far from Guy’s first honor. Among other achievements, Guy is an Intel International Science Fair winner, holds a Congressional Award for Youth and sings with an all-woman a cappella group on campus.

“Not only is she science-smart and politically interested, she’s funny,” states the daily news and lifestyle website Baltimore Fishbowl. “Listen to her great phrasing in the silly song ‘Popular’ – the Garrett County girl’s got a sense of humor about herself, and the world. We wish her all the luck at the Miss America contest next year, where levity’s bound to come in handy backstage, and more importantly, in real life after Cornell.”

Nate in the House?

Nathan Shinagawa ’05, M.A. ’09, took more than 60 percent of the vote June 26 to win the Democratic Party endorsement in his run for New York’s 23rd Congressional district seat.

Shinagawa, 28, a liberal member of the Tompkins County Legislature, faces conservative Republican Tom Reed.

A hospital administrator with a strong interest in health care, Shinagawa will need to sell his progressive agenda in the newly drawn 23rd district, which extends from Ithaca to Jamestown.

He can always turn to another young Cornell pol: Shinagawa’s roommate Svante Myrick ’09 was elected Ithaca’s mayor last fall.
Earth Day goes POP

On Earth Day, six design and environmental analysis students in the College of Human Ecology led a transformation of the Human Ecology Commons – the new community space between Martha Van Rensselaer Hall and the Human Ecology Building. Among the dining areas and meeting spaces, the students unveiled a surprise sustainability “POP” – their term for a spatial intervention – that united college students, staff, faculty members and visitors around a common theme.

During the week prior, hundreds of sustainability factoids across a series of infographics throughout the college acted as a buildup to the main event April 22, which was a veritable takeover of the commons with a combination of sustainability-themed multimedia presentations on the media wall, Andy Goldsworthy-inspired rock formations, and scratch paper covering walls and tables to capture anyone’s inspiration or ideas.

“Every other day of the week the commons space is like our living room. The buildup and surprise of the Earth Day POP transformed the space [and] ... created a sense of community around something we all care about no matter what your major,” said design team member Sara Lesage ’12.

The media wall will continue to play a strong supportive role in welcoming visitors to the college and highlighting the college’s mission.

AROUND CAMPUS

Big Red Bands’ new home

Groundbreaking for the Cornell Big Red Bands’ new facility is planned for Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 21.

The new 6,400-square-foot facility for the marching and pep bands will be adjacent to the bands’ primary performance space, Schoellkopf Crescent on Kite Hill (see rendering at left).

For nearly 50 years, the Big Red Bands have been housed in Barton Hall; ventilation, instrument storage and practice spaces are not optimal.

Band alumni David Fischell ’75, M.S. ’78, Ph.D. ’80, a trustee, and Sarah Thole Fischell ’78, M.Eng. ’79, gave the lead gift to the Big Red Bands’ facility fundraising campaign. The Big Red Bands Alumni Association has continued to fundraise toward the facility’s $1 million goal; student band members have raised money through a spring phone-a-thon, and the first building space has been named with a gift from David ‘92 and Christine ‘93 Stuhlmiller.

More than 50 band alumni attended a reception during Reunion Weekend where updated building designs were shared, and several alumni played with student band members during the all-alumni lunch in Barton Hall (including David Fischell, see photo above, who also guest conducted the alma mater).

Baird Sampson Neuert Architects of Toronto, designers of the award-winning Cornell Plantations Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center, is designing the new facility.

The Fischells hope that the facility will be complete and dedicated a year from now, at Homecoming 2013, when it is planned that 500 band alumni will be on hand to play.

Gayatri Spivak wins Kyoto Prize

Columbia University professor and literary critic Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, M.A. ’63, Ph.D. ’67, has won the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy.

The prize, announced June 22, is Japan’s highest private award for global achievement and comes with a cash award of 50 million yen (about $630,000).

Chakravorty Spivak was recognized as “a critical theorist and educator speaking for the humanities against intellectual colonialism in relation to the globalized world.”

The prize is presented annually in three categories (the others are advanced technology and basic sciences), fields not traditionally covered by the Nobel Prize. It recognizes outstanding work in these fields and contributions to humanity. The award will be presented Nov. 10 in Kyoto.

Cornellians at the London games

Morgan Uceny ’07, who made it through all the qualifying rounds, finishing third in the semifinals, to run for gold at the 1,500-meter final Aug. 10 at the London Olympics, fell during the final lap and was unable to finish the race.

“Once I hit the ground, I was just devastated,” Uceny told the Associated Press. The disappointment was undoubtedly amplified by familiarity; Uceny suffered a similar fate in the 2011 world championships.

Also at the Olympic games: Muhammed Halim ’08 delivered his best performance of the year with a long jump of 53 feet, 9 3/4 inches, earning him an 18th-place finish while representing the U.S. Virgin Islands; and in rowing, Ken Jurkowski ’03, representing the U.S., advanced to the quarterfinals of single sculls before being eliminated from medal contention.
BY GWEN GLAZER

The library that never sleeps

24/7 access, on campus and around the world
Several months ago, assistant professor of comparative literature Tom McEnaney heard whispers that the library was about to acquire a massive new punk archive.

The rumors were true: Cornell University Library received more than 3,000 items on English and American punk, the rock music-based subculture that originated in the 1970s, as a gift from Johan Kugelberg, a collector and Cornell parent. He carefully collected original manuscripts, fliers, posters, fanzines, sound recordings, clothing, photographs and original art for more than a decade. In March, the collection arrived in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, which houses some of Cornell’s greatest treasures in a climate-controlled vault two stories below the Arts Quad.

McEnaney was intrigued. He knew that punk studies – “punkademia,” as coined by a Boston Globe writer – was just entering the academy, and he is teaching a course this fall on the literature, art and music connected to punk. Throughout the semester, McEnaney will introduce students to the archive, and they will examine early works by Patti Smith, listen to recordings and look at vintage T-shirts and other artifacts.

“It will make the course unbelievably richer and give the students a real sense of the specific material culture around punk, but it will also give them a sense of how to do research. It’ll be the sugar with their medicine,” he jokes. “Hopefully, they will be drawn to the excitement and adventure of punk music, and along the way learn these important research skills.”

Examples like this – anticipating teaching needs in emerging and established fields, and providing resources to support it – are key to the way Cornell’s library functions, facilitating research, teaching and inquiry for the entire university.
Faculty and students at Cornell have long benefited from a progressive library system. In 1872, when the university’s early library of 15,400 volumes moved to McGraw Hall, it became one of the first academic libraries in the country to serve undergraduates. In 1885, it became the first academic library to install electricity; lighting allowed it to stay open for more than 12 hours a day, longer than any other library in the country.

Andrew Dickson White, Cornell’s co-founder and first president, built a great library with a focus on collections that allowed students to gain hands-on experience with primary sources. He preserved items relating to recent history, like abolitionist pamphlets and scrapbooks documenting the Civil War, which traditionally would not have been taught in university classes.

"Both A.D. White and Ezra Cornell knew that you taught through experience. It’s not just books; it’s not just ancient history," says University Archivist Elaine Engst. "They recognized the importance of documenting great events in your own time. Pamphlets and broadsides, things that were pasted up on walls … that’s not typical.

"Their philosophy fits into our current punk and hip-hop collections. Once again, we have fliers that were tacked on walls or handed out on the street.”

The idea that recent events are vital for teaching and learning is part of the library’s enduring philosophy.

Students flock to the library’s study spaces. Cornell’s library buildings saw more than 4 million visits during the 2010-11 academic year; outside the library buildings, library.cornell.edu received about 10 million visits.

A library legacy

Today, a visit to a Cornell library, whether in person or online, provides a level of customization that would have been unthinkable half a century ago, when the massive card catalog ruled and students filled out carbon-copied punch cards to request items.

Digital access in particular has revolutionized research, expanding the role of bricks-and-mortar libraries into sources of constantly updated information. The library not only collects information, from scholarly journals to e-books to specialized databases, it facilitates its digital flow.

"Digital access doesn’t threaten library services or spaces, it just gives us new avenues to reach users,” says Anne
Enhancing the “life of the mind” while promoting Cornell University Library’s rich historical offerings beyond its physical walls is the driving force behind library salons.

Starting in 2008, Cornell Library Salons have gathered alumni and friends for discussions around a dazzling diversity of topics. Most recently, alumni in Beverly Hills, San Francisco and New York were invited to hear about the origins of the Moosewood Collective, which inspired the vegetarian and vegan movements of the 1970s.

In October 2011, in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the library invited Stephan Loewentheil, J.D. ’75, a noted photography collector and enthusiast, to showcase his collection of the photojournalism of Mathew Brady, who produced some of the 19th century’s most iconic images.

“As I imagined this series of salons, it really was in the historical tradition of literary salons devoted to the life of the mind,” says Anne Kenney, the Carl A. Kroch University Librarian. “We thought of this as an opportunity to engage Cornell alumni in the library’s intellectual offerings, especially in the New York City area, where some 50,000 Cornellians reside.

“The deaths of mostly immigrant workers during that tragedy helped galvanize the nation behind issues of worker safety and unions. The library salon held in March 2011 commemorated the 100th anniversary of the fire. A website with history, documents and images from the event drew from Cornell’s Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives.

The library salons are geared particularly toward engaging Cornell alumni in the library’s intellectual offerings, especially in the New York City area, where some 50,000 Cornellians reside.

“The notion of a research library in the 21st century is not self-evident in some people’s minds, in the age of Google and the Web, so it’s important to understand and to express the research library as a really vital place,” Kenney says.

Next in line: a library salon later this year on the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land Grant Act, a piece of history deeply rooted in Cornell’s origins. See http://staffweb.library.cornell.edu/Salons for more information.

– Anne Ju
Kenney, Cornell’s Carl A. Kroch University Librarian. “In some areas, there may be less need for immediate physical access to books, and libraries are responding by consolidating print collections based on a fine-grained disciplinary approach that’s specific to particular audiences and how they do research.”

Digital services account for more than 60 percent of the library’s $16 million annual expenditures for collections. Five million articles are downloaded from the library’s digital subscriptions every year, so seamlessly that some people don’t even realize they’re accessing the library at all. The “virtual library” – its online presence – saw 10 million visits last year, up by more than 2 million just two years ago.

Constant evaluation

Those numbers might suggest that as digital access increases, people would find fewer reasons to go to a physical library building, but that’s not the case at Cornell. The library’s campus locations saw about 4.5 million visits during the 2010-11 academic year – close to a million more than five years ago. At nearly 8 million print volumes, the library’s physical holdings are bigger than ever.

But challenges persist: Due to lean economic times and severely restricted budgets, total library expenditures have dropped by 6 percent in the last five years (adjusted for inflation).

“We need to constantly evaluate what we’re doing and how well we meet the needs of our users, and tracking use patterns and trends carefully is the best way to do that,” Kenney says.

The library has consolidated several of its physical collections during the last few years. It is saving money on lesser-used circulation locations, like entomology, engineering and physical sciences, and books and periodicals from the hotel and management libraries have been combined into a single location at the ILR School.

Much of those savings fund the online resources that a 21st-century research environment demands and help retain expert librarians. These subject specialists help patrons in a variety of ways, online and in person, and stay close intellectually and physically to the departments they support.

‘Digital access doesn’t threaten library services or spaces, it just gives us new avenues to reach users.’

— Anne Kenney
The ‘everywhere’ librarian

If a modern-day academic library is everywhere in the virtual world, librarians themselves are everywhere too – especially in the classroom, teaching students and taking collaborative roles with faculty members.

Over the course of a typical Cornell academic year, more than 22,000 people (students, researchers, faculty and others) participate in a presentation led by a library staff member.

These presentations take on a variety of formats, from one-off, drop-in workshops and library tours to semesterlong, for-credit courses like the Hotel School’s “Information Survival Skills” or the Law library’s

LIBRARY-MANAGED ‘arXiv’ SPREADS SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES RAPIDLY AND WORLDWIDE

Publishing in a scientific journal can be a slow process, so for decades scientists circulated “preprints” of their research papers to a few colleagues. As a young physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the early ‘90s, Paul Ginsparg, Ph.D. ’81, realized that this gave him an unfair advantage.

“I was receiving preprints long before graduate students further down the food chain,” Ginsparg recalls. “When we have success we like to think it was because we worked harder, not just because we happened to have access.”

So he created a service where physicists could post their preprints as “e-prints” accessible to anyone with an Internet connection.

The idea caught on, submissions multiplied, and subject matter expanded to include mathematics, astrophysics, computer science and, most recently, biology and statistics.

Eleven years ago Ginsparg joined the Cornell faculty, bringing what is now known as arXiv.org with him. (Pronounce it “archive.” The X represents the Greek letter chi.) It is managed by Cornell University Library, allowing Ginsparg to devote more time to his research.

As a theoretical physicist, he has made substantial contributions in quantum field theory, string theory, conformal field theory and quantum gravity.

“The arXiv is an information system, and it’s the library’s role to manage scholarly information systems,” says Oya Rieger, arXiv program director for the library. “Although his role is changing, Paul is still a very important part of the work.”

“The goal has always been to convert it to a long-term sustainable resource, epitomizing the expanded global role of libraries and universities in the online environment,” Ginsparg adds.

Along with his physics research, Ginsparg holds a professorship in information science and works with that department’s Digital Library Group to develop enhancements to the arXiv’s capabilities. Electronic publishing can make supporting data available alongside a paper and offers new ways to manage information, including searches, data mining and detection of plagiarism.

What began on a single workstation under a desk at Los Alamos now runs on three high-powered servers in Rhodes Hall – and 15 mirror sites around the world – storing more than 770,000 papers. In 2011, more than 75,000 new articles were submitted and more than 70 million full-text articles were downloaded.

The annual budget is approaching $500,000, and much of Rieger’s effort has gone into creating a system to ensure permanent financial support by evolving the arXiv from an exclusive Cornell initiative to a collaboratively governed, community-supported world resource. In 2011 arXiv received contributions from 133 institutions, representing 18 countries, and 123 universities, libraries, research laboratories and foundations have pledged to become supporting members of the new organization, each contributing $2,300 to $4,000 per year based on how much their researchers use the service. Their contributions will be matched with up to $300,000 per year from the Simons Foundation over the next five years.

Members elect a member advisory board, chaired by Rieger, which advises on business and technical matters. A scientific advisory board, including Ginsparg, advises on content policies. The arXiv has no peer-review process, although it does restrict submissions to those with scientific credentials. A team of volunteer moderators around the world screens submissions for appropriate topics.

Besides leveling the playing field for a few graduate students, the system has spread the field around the world: Scientists in developing countries have the same instant online access to new research materials as faculty members at Ivy League schools, and the same opportunity to distribute their own work. However wide the new field grows, it is still level.

– Bill Steele
courses jointly taught by a librarian and a professor. Last fall, Olin Library hosted an immersion program for Ph.D. students in the humanities that helped students transition from students to scholars.

That program and many others address information literacy, or the ability to find, evaluate and effectively use information from reliable sources. Helping to increase that skill is one of the library’s primary goals, and it was recently included among seven essential learning outcomes as part of Cornell’s assessment of student learning.

“There’s a really common perception that you can just Google something and find perfectly reliable information,” says Camille Andrews, learning technologies and assessment librarian. “Most students entering Cornell haven’t had any training in information literacy before. They’ve never been introduced to thinking about doing research for in-depth academic purposes.” Information literacy is incorporated into curricula across the university, in regular classes and targeted workshops.

“It’s absolutely critical for not only a successful academic career, but also for just living in a democratic society,” Andrews adds. “All the time, people make truth claims. If you can’t think critically about how to evaluate information, you can’t function in the modern world.”

And the library itself is a central source of information: Cornell library staff members answer about 84,000 research and other substantive questions every year. They answer in person, at reference desks and on the phone, and via blogs, live online chats and text messages. In a survey of Cornell seniors this year, 87 percent said the library contributed to their ability to conduct research; 85 percent said that the library contributed to their academic success and efficiency. These numbers show a 2 percent to 5 percent uptick from 2010.

Library staffers also curate exhibitions, bringing historical and often valuable items to the public for free. The Rare and Manuscript Collections’ current exhibition displays treasures from Jay Walker’s library of the history of human imagination. At Mann Library, an online exhibition
features photographs about the origins of limnology, or lake and freshwater studies.

“Beyond exhibition-worthy materials, the library simply collects research material for both the archives and for everyday use, ensuring that scholarship can continue,” says Engst. “The library is preserving the historical record, whether it’s rare and valuable materials or the most pedestrian ones.”

Ambitious collaborations

The world of Cornell’s library is quickly expanding beyond the confines of the campus. In 2009, Cornell and Columbia University libraries embarked on the first deep collaboration between two Ivy League libraries.

The partnership, which started with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, means that the library systems work together to coordinate collection development and share expert librarians and catalogers. Last summer, the libraries implemented a plan for joint borrowing – meaning that Cornell and Columbia students and faculty members can register for library cards, check out materials from both institutions’ libraries, and enjoy expedited delivery to their own campuses.

“The premise is that owning the most stuff doesn’t mean you’ve won the race of excellence,” says Xin Li, associate university librarian for central library operations. “This
agreement between Cornell and Columbia is really about sharing, about maximizing our strengths together to benefit the users. Thankfully, physical distance has been redefined by technology.”

The first sharing of a subject librarian – for Russian, Eurasian and East European studies – between Cornell and Columbia won high praise in an anonymous satisfaction survey. One faculty member said that the “connection to the Columbia University research community is of great benefit to me due to the librarian’s great understanding of scholarly needs at a comparable research university.”

International collaborations are actively expanding to include projects in Africa and Asia. Li lived in Taiwan for the last two years, forging relationships with publishers and research libraries in Taiwan and China, including Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her efforts follow a decade of cooperation between the two universities, and she notes that collaborations across cultural and geographic boundaries not only strengthen the library, but also support Cornell’s mission as a land-grant university.

“Higher education is more and more collaborative and less and less location-based,” Li says. “We cannot just be local anymore, because our students and faculty could be in China or Qatar or Africa.”

The library collaborates with faculty, too, working to help with their research and make it accessible to new and different audiences.

One local example is the “Chats in the Stacks” series, initiated more than a decade ago, which invites Cornell-based authors to give brief talks at libraries on campus.

Sera Young, a nutritional scientist at Cornell, recently gave a “Chats” talk on her latest book, “Craving Earth: Understanding Pica, the Urge to Eat Clay, Starch, Ice and Chalk.” “My topic is really arcane and esoteric in some ways, but when you talk about pregnancy cravings, people can really relate to it,” Young says. “‘Chats in the Stacks’ was a way for me to reach across all those boundaries and silos academia can set up. … The interdisciplinarity of Cornell blows me away, and the library is emblematic of just how connected this university is.”

Anne Kenney puts it another way: “The library does so many different things, but each one of them is connected to a single goal: enhancing the life of the mind.”

Keep in touch and be in the know

A Cornell degree has many benefits; one of them is continued access to valuable online Cornell University Library resources, including the recently added JSTOR, a popular database of scholarly journals. Alumni can also benefit from the expertise of Cornell librarians by asking them at alumni.library.cornell.edu.

Like the Library on Facebook, facebook.com/CornellUniversityLibrary, or follow it on Twitter, twitter.com/Cornell_Library.
During Ithaca’s dreary winters, romance can bloom in unexpected places – like at Cornell University Library’s Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections.

One Friday last February, two undergraduates came into Kroch Library. The young man had called ahead, asking the staff to set aside the library’s first edition of J.D. Salinger’s 1961 classic “Franny and Zooey.” A staff member brought the book out for the young woman and she took it into the reading room.

“Her hands went to her face, and she gasped and started crying – we had to ask her not to get tears on the book. It was clear that this was really special for her, and he was going all-out to pay attention to what was important to her,” remembers archivist Brenda Marston.

The two students sat together for nearly an hour, talking quietly and studying the book. Privacy reigns at the library, so staff members didn’t dig for details, but the couple walked out holding hands.

“You’re never sure about the reverberations of the interactions you have,” Marston says. “You know the library affects scholarship, but it affects people personally too. We all hope that the things we help them see, and the connections we help them make, will do something wonderful like this.”

**Work it out**
Endow a position for a student worker at the library, which is the second-largest employer on campus and gives jobs to more than 500 students every year.

$100,000

**e-Lectrify**

Purchasing 500 e-books from the major electrical engineering computer society, IEEE, would assist students and professors in multiple fields.

$15,000

**The sound of music**

Many original music department programs are preserved only on cassettes and digital audio tapes, which are very fragile. With funding, the library could rescue and digitize these recordings, ensuring their availability in the future.

$5,000 - $10,000

**Networking tips**

The international version of the BNA HR Decision Support Network – a service for human resources professionals – would support ILR’s students and faculty.

$10,000 per year

**Picture this**

Access to a huge collection of scanned and searchable images from the American Antiquarian Society would open up more than 6,500 periodicals published between 1691 and 1877.

$300,000

**Backfile to the future**

Older journal articles – or “backfiles” – are often impossible to find, either electronically or in print. Purchasing archival files from “Elsevier Environmental Science” would empower users to go the whole way back to the first issues of 88 separate titles, contributing to important scientific research.

$20,400

**Home grown**
Save a piece of Cornell’s unique home economics history by providing funds to convert original, fragile films to DVDs, enabling access for all.

$5,000

**In the trenches**

Offer Cornellians a window into the everyday lives of people during World War I through a database of searchable letters, diaries, memoirs and ephemera.

$30,000

**BIG RED MATCHMAKER?**

- $100,000
- $15,000
- $5,000 - $10,000
- $300,000
- $20,400
- $5,000
- $30,000

You can make it happen at Cornell University Library

Cornell University Library

Andrey Prokhorov

Nikki Bidgood

JoKMedia

Ernest Brooks/Imperial War Museum
Enthusiasm for professor’s ideas sparks new organization

Their discussions will examine the ties that bind countries of the Global South and help create a more democratic and egalitarian global culture.

“We’re at a moment where there are new possibilities,” says Mohanty. “While we need to be aware of the way colonial ideology shapes us, we also need to recognize that there are ways of going beyond it.”

GSP’s first initiatives are two forums, intended to begin building South-South links and to shape academic discussions of world literature. The first forum, consisting of responses to Mohanty’s interview, appeared in India’s Journal of Contemporary Thought (JCT) in August, as well as in magazines and newspapers in Kenya, China, India, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Africa and elsewhere. In December, a special issue of JCT will feature scholars and writers working in the Global South responding to noted Kenyan author Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s new collection of essays “Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing,” which will also be published in numerous academic and popular media worldwide.

An inaugural conference is also being planned and will be held at Shanghai Jiaotong University.

Mohanty’s interview comment that “the long intellectual shadow of the age of European empire seems to be receding a bit, and we have remarkable opportunities to work across cultures to learn from one another” inspired wa Thiong’o to write an essay titled “Asia in My Life.” Through efforts by Mohanty and wa Ngugi, this essay has now been published around the world. The essay was a magical moment, says Mohanty, triggering even greater interest in GSP.

“The idea of GSP has grown so much that we are now literally trying to catch up,” says Ngugi. He sees Cornell as a natural home for GSP, since it is “a place that practices serious scholarship while welcoming intellectual risk-taking as equal partner.”

Mohanty attributes the enthusiastic response from editors and readers of popular magazines such as India’s Frontline, which published the first excerpt from Mohanty’s interview, to the reigniting of cultural memory.

“Right after decolonization in the ’40s through the ’60s, there were important connections made between countries of the Global South, but these have been forgotten,” Mohanty says. “There is a great deal of willed forgetting that we need to reverse. A revitalized cultural memory will also help us uncover some of the international roots of our current social movements for environmental and gender justice, and minority, indigenous and LGBT rights.”
Klarman Hall, Cornell’s new humanities building, will be constructed between Goldwin Smith Hall and East Avenue. President David Skorton announced in June that the building will be named Klarman Hall in recognition of the efforts of Seth ‘79 and Beth Klarman to enhance the humanities at Cornell.

The architectural design firm is Boston-based Koetter, Kim and Associates, whose founders are both Cornell alumni.

**Top:** The external promenade, running the entire length of Klarman Hall along East Avenue, offers extensive gathering spaces, as well as a view into the interior courtyard. Stairways on either end provide outdoor access to the Arts Quad.

**Bottom left:** A bird’s-eye view looking between Klarman Hall and the south wing of Goldwin Smith shows part of Klarman Hall’s living roof, which creates an elevated garden atmosphere for those using the outdoor tables. The living roof will reduce stormwater runoff and minimize the heating and cooling loads of the building.

**Bottom center:** Klarman Hall will be the first new humanities building built on central campus in 100 years and will provide 33,250 square feet of extra programmable space. With numerous environmental features, the building is planned to be LEED Platinum certified. Groundbreaking is scheduled for summer 2013 with a projected opening in 2015.

**Bottom right:** This view from the north end of Klarman Hall toward East Avenue shows the living roof and terrace atop the ground-floor auditorium, which are bordered by the glass-enclosed first floor hallway.
From the microcosmos to the cosmos, a Cornell researcher’s hobbies allow him to understand different worlds.

By day, Jarek Pillardy, director of the Computational Biology Service Unit within the Life Sciences Core Laboratories Center, helps bring advanced computational tools and techniques to life sciences investigators. At work, he and his group have helped plant geneticists analyze the global population diversity of maize and rice and have worked with others to determine the genetic makeup (called genotyping) and evaluate the genomes of grape populations; and his team has aided microbiologists to collect genotyping information for food pathogens, for example.

But once home, he is devoted to his family and his two time-consuming hobbies: Creating complete ecosystems to raise tropical fish, and astronomy, which he enjoys from a fully equipped observatory in his backyard.

“I am a scientific type,” says Pillardy, a native of Poland who moved to the United States 15 years ago after receiving his Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry in 1996 from Warsaw University. Regarding his hobbies, he said he wants “to understand and enjoy and see how a system works. It’s beautiful.”

Though Pillardy’s interest in fish began when he was 5, the first thing he did after getting married was buy an aquarium. He and his wife, Ewa, decided to start a tropical fish business, breeding clownfish and other varieties, which she managed while home with their two children.

At the business’s peak, the Pillardys had some 1,500 gallons of water in their saltwater tanks. They sold the fish regionally, transporting them in plastic bags with oxygen and an ammonia neutralizer inside styrofoam coolers. But about three years ago they closed the business as it grew too large and would have required Pillardy to quit his Cornell job to keep it going. “Breeding fish is like farming; it takes a lot of manual labor,” Pillardy says.

Now, about 700 gallons of water in brightly lit fish tanks teem with clown fish, gobies, shrimp, anemones and coral in the large family room in the basement of Pillardy’s house. The tanks are almost completely biologically filtered by bacteria and crustaceans in the sand and rocks, as well as algae in separate tanks and carbon filtration. Yet other tanks that serve as a type of filter — called a “skimmer” — bubble and create waste foam that Pillardy manually skims off the top and tosses.

“This is a whole biosystem that you can simulate in your house,” he says. “It’s about re-creating an entire microcosmos.”

Pillardy’s other hobby looks to the cosmos. When he moved to his Freeville home in 2008, he built a small observatory on his four-acre lot, which is exceptionally dark at night for the area. The observatory is a 15-by-15-foot shed with a roof on a track with a motor that slides it open to one side, exposing the night sky. The observatory also has a deck with a small section in the middle cut away from the floor, so it is free from the deck’s vibrations. Here, Pillardy mounted a telescope that won’t shake from footsteps.

Pillardy owns three key telescopes, two for imaging and one for observing. For imaging, the observatory includes a small control room with computers where data is collected from the scopes. In turn, the telescopes are synched with computers that track stars, planets, galaxies and comets, and motors make tiny adjustments as the Earth turns, thereby keeping the field of view on target. In fact, Pillardy’s iPhone is fitted with a planetary program app that knows the coordinates of celestial objects.

“I can actually control the telescope with my iPhone,” he says.

His love of astronomy and astrophysics dates to middle school in Poland, and since then he has read extensively on the subject.

“I know a lot about the objects out there, and so observing them makes it very interesting,” he adds.

By Krishna Ramanujan
Opposite page, top: Jarek Pillardy with fish tanks in his basement. Bottom: Some of Pillardy’s clown fish and sea anemones.

This page, top: This image of the Pelican Nebula (also known as IC5070) in the constellation Cygnus was made by Pillardy with a 10-hour exposure. Bottom: Pillardy on the deck of his backyard observatory.
Diagnostic labs analyze anything from bugs to toenails

F
ound an odd bug in your closet? Rhododendrons inexplicably wilting? Need a toenail analyzed? There’s a lab for that.

Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is home to several diagnostic centers that analyze scientific samples and those sent in by citizens.

For $25, anyone can send their mystery bugs to Jason Dombroskie, director of the Insect Diagnostic Lab. Sometimes he can make an identification from a digital photo; others require a full-on dissection.

Homeowners, farmers and pest control companies are common customers among Dombroskie’s average of five insect identifications per week. In one case, Dombroskie’s analysis of plaster beetles from a woman’s closet led to identifying not only the insect, but a mold problem. In another, he’s helping find the source of insects squished in plastics manufactured by a company in Norway.

This summer, Dombroskie worked with New York state to monitor for various potential problem pests, including the light brown apple moth – a “huge pest” in California that is notoriously difficult to identify and also the subject of his Ph.D. dissertation.

At the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, specialists analyze about 600 plant samples a year for researchers, extension associates, homeowners, arborists and golf course managers.

The Forest Service and New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets are big customers, and their samples sometimes drastically increase the clinic’s workload, as when the plum pox virus first made an appearance in the region.

“The year we found it for the first time in New York state, we went from 15,000 to 65,000 samples in a few weeks,” said clinic director Karen Snover-Clift. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Cornell’s diagnostic clinic was also tapped to become a regional center in the federal government’s efforts to protect the nation’s food supply. Since 2002, whenever a National Plant Diagnostic Network member laboratory diagnoses a plant pathogen or pest, they send their identification to a national repository.

“The objective is to have this national network of experts all looking for certain pathogens, and when new things come in, we’re alerted to that,” Snover-Clift said.

So far, there have been no intentional attacks on the food supply, but the national repository has proven tremendously useful in spreading the word about newly introduced pathogens, such as boxwood blight and Japanese apple rust, Snover-Clift said.

The Cornell Nutrient Analysis Laboratory has the most varied samples of all: from toenails and hair to mushrooms, lemons, ink, cement, wine and nearly anything else you could think of.

The lab can offer a dizzying array of information on each sample. On soil, for example, most labs do a standard chemical test with information on nutrients, metals and acidity. The lab adds an assortment of physical and biological tests that gives a better picture of total soil health and allows farmers to maintain productivity without resorting to over-fertilization. Home gardeners curious about whether there’s too much lead in their soil can also send in a sample and have it analyzed for just $14.

“The more parameters we can monitor and measure, the better we can increase agricultural production and minimize environmental damage,” said lab director Michael Rutzke.

Lab specialists have helped an organic mushroom farm determine why its produce was sending customers to the hospital (high arsenic in the soil). They’re helping North Dakota farmers figure out how to reduce cadmium in their wheat so they can export to Europe. They’re testing Kenyan soil and plants to help a researcher learn more about children’s nutritional status.

As for toenails, they and hair are the best indicators of long-term toxicity exposure, Rutzke said.

Krisy Gashler is a freelance writer for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
With Cornell’s tech campus now firmly planted in Manhattan, leaders are busy ramping up efforts to get academic programs up and running. A small number of currently enrolled Cornell students will be spending time this fall at the campus’s temporary space in Chelsea to attend workshops and programs, and applications are now being accepted for a “beta” class of computer science master’s degree students, who will start the program in January 2013.

In other recent tech campus news:

The first of a series of academic workshops held July 26-27 at Weill Cornell Medical College brought together tech campus leadership from Cornell, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Weill Cornell Medical College and industry leaders to brainstorm potential facets of one of the campus’s interdisciplinary academic hubs, titled Healthier Life.

Effective technologies for patient-centered health care, medical devices and mobile health, sensor-enabled smartphones, improved electronic medical records, and human implanted and biomorphic electronic chips were just a handful of ideas voiced at the workshop for a hub that promotes a natural collaboration between the tech campus, Ithaca, Weill Cornell and the Technion.

“One of the objectives of this workshop is to bring together all the people involved to figure out what are the main challenges and problems in this field that have to be solved,” said Craig Gotsman, director of the Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute, which is a key part of the tech campus.

“If we want this campus to have an impact – a real effect on the world – we have to figure this out.”

Similar workshops on the other two hubs – Built Environment, which concentrates on architecture and urban planning, and Connective Media, with ties to a broad range of industries such as advertising and media – will take place this fall at the Chelsea campus.

The tech campus’s academic and administrative leadership is also expanding with some outstanding new hires. Deborah Estrin, a professor of computer science at University of California-Los Angeles, was recently named as the campus’s first faculty hire.

The founding director of the Center for Embedded Networked Sensing, Estrin is a pioneer in networked sensing, which uses mobile and wireless systems to collect and analyze real-time data about the physical world.

Estrin’s work has shown how the data streaming from networks of such devices as smartphones and cameras can enrich our understanding and management of complex problems – from personal and public health to traffic patterns and civic engagement. She has also shown a commitment to K-12 education, spearheading a groundbreaking internship program for Los Angeles high school students in mobile technologies and data.

Sharon Marine, associate dean for external relations at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, has been named vice president for development. Marine will lead all fundraising efforts for the pioneering technology campus when she assumes the post Oct. 1.

As associate dean at Stanford’s business school, Marine was responsible for completing the business school’s portion of Stanford’s $6.2 billion comprehensive capital campaign by raising $884 million, which surpassed the original goal of $500 million.

She also served as director of development, including major gifts, reunion and annual giving – which comprise about 90 percent of all development funds raised at the Graduate School of Business. Previously, Marine was the director of development, western region, for the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

Meghan French, assistant vice president for government and community relations at Pace University, was named director of external relations for the tech campus in August. She began work Sept. 4 and will develop collaborations with tech companies in the city and nationwide, the broader corporate community, and government offices and community groups. French will also guide the campus’s communications and marketing programs.

At Pace she directed business development for the university’s business incubator and led community relations for the university.

Information: tech.cornell.edu
**CORNELL NOW**

**FAR-REACHING IMPACT**

**Cornell Law School receives historic $25 million gift**

On June 8, during the Cornell Law School Reunion Alumni and Faculty Lunch, Stewart Schwab, the Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law, announced that the school had received a $25 million commitment - the largest single gift in the school’s history and one of the largest in the history of legal education - from an anonymous donor.

The gift will be placed in the school’s endowment and used for faculty research, student financial aid, and a diverse array of national and international academic programs.

At the announcement, Schwab said, “This is a truly monumental gift that will enhance the quality of Cornell Law School for generations to come.”

President David Skorton noted that the gift would allow the Law School to “further enhance its interdisciplinary scholarship and programs that enable Cornell University to engage with the world.”

The gift represents a significant portion of the school’s fundraising goal of $35 million during the Cornell Now campaign.

– George Lowery

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**EAST ASIA PROGRAM**

**Chinese calligraphy fellow endowed**

“The path of letters is long and the course of learning runs far,” reads the poem “The Art of Learning” (right) by distinguished educator, philosophical scholar and calligrapher Wong Chai Lok.

To honor this ancient Chinese art form and her 88-year-old father’s accomplishments in it, Wong’s daughter Vivian Webb, parent of Adam Webb ’13, made a gift of $100,000 to establish the Wong Chai Lok Chinese Calligraphy Fellow Endowment in the East Asia Program. The gift will support short residencies for prominent calligrapher-scholars from China, during which they will hold workshops and lectures and exhibit their work at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art.

“Professor Wong and his family’s generous gift will offer us a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of Chinese art, culture and history,” says Hirokazu Miyazaki, director of the East Asia Program.

“Calligraphy has been revered for thousands of years in China and its practice closely associated with the life of the scholar,” notes Ellen Avril, chief curator and curator of Asian art at the museum, which jointly administers the fellowship.

“I hope that this fellowship can bring artists to exchange ideas and share appreciation of this truly magnificent art form,” Webb says.

– Metta Winter

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**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

**New professorship honors Robert Langer**

Perhaps the world’s most lauded and oft-cited biomedical engineer, Robert S. Langer ’70, the David H. Koch Institute Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has hundreds of patents to his name, was the first to develop controlled-release formulas for macromolecular drugs, and has invented materials, devices and new ways to engineer veins and other tissues and organs.

Langer’s research and inventions have had such a significant impact on medicine that he has been awarded hundreds of prizes and honorary titles and awards, including four of the most prestigious: the United States National Medal of Science; the Charles Stark Draper Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for engineers; the Priestley Medal; and the Millennium Technology Prize.

In June, several anonymous donors made a commitment to name a professorship in Langer’s honor: the Robert S. Langer ’70 Family and Friends Professorship.

“Bob is extremely innovative – clinically, commercially, intellectually,” says Mike Shuler, the James M. and Marsha McCormick Chair of Cornell’s Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), home to the Langer professorship, which will be awarded to a distinguished new member of the faculty.

The new professorship comes at an ideal time, explains Shuler, who is also the Samuel B. Eckert Professor of Chemical Engineering; BME is making plans to establish an undergraduate program and has set a goal of attracting funding for three new professorships.

Expanding the department to include an undergraduate major in addition to its current master’s and doctoral programs would, if approved by the college and board of trustees, require an increase of the faculty by at least 50 percent, from a current 12 professors to at least 18.

“Cornell’s biomedical engineering program, which is dear to my heart,” says Langer, “has achieved a national reputation for excellence and now needs to grow in order to meet increasing student demand. And so, I am especially pleased that the timing of this professorship will allow BME to bring in a star faculty member fairly quickly to join the distinguished faculty who are already part of the program.”

In an unusual gesture at a department meeting this summer, the members of the BME faculty voted unanimously to contribute their own money to the Langer professorship endowment, to “convey our role as friends as well as beneficiaries of the new chair.”

– Emily Sanders Hopkins
What the campaign is doing for Cornell so far

**Academic Program Support: $1.5 billion**
(examples):
- Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future
- Tata-Cornell Initiative in Agriculture and Nutrition
- Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
- Pillsbury Institute for Hospitality Entrepreneurship
- Faculty Renewal Initiative

**Endowed Position Support: $441 million**
(examples):
- 43 new Ithaca campus professorships
- The Kenneth F. Kahn Deanship for the ILR School
- The Gale and Ira Drukier Deanship for the College of Architecture, Art and Planning

**Support for Students: $572 million**
(examples):
- Ithaca undergraduate scholarships
- Ithaca professional school scholarships
- Ithaca graduate school scholarships
- Weill Cornell scholarships and fellowships
- Living and learning initiatives

**Facilities: $701 million**
(examples):
- Johnson Museum Expansion
- Lynah Rink
- Belfer Research Building
- Klarman Hall
- Milstein Hall
- Gates Hall

**Total: $3.74 billion**
(as of September 2012)

**Which Campus?**
- $2.4 billion to Ithaca campus
- $1.3 billion to Weill Cornell Medical College
There was no Carol Tatkon Center in 1959. “Our only practical alternative was to just deal with it,” recalls Dick Lynham ’63 of being a freshman at Cornell before there was a comprehensive program and center to provide guidance to first-year students.

“When we made our 45th Reunion class gift of $150,000 to the Carol Tatkon Center four years ago, our hope was that our gift could enable the center to provide additional resources for first-year students,” Lynham said. “This resonated strongly with our classmates because in our day, such resources were scarce.”

A first-year student’s to-do list can be summed up in one all-encompassing task: Take advantage of everything Cornell has to offer and take it in stride. Students’ introduction to the Cornell community begins during orientation and continues throughout the year at the Carol Tatkon Center, which serves as an umbrella for the hundreds of events, programs and resources available for first-year Cornell students.

Orientation starts at the end of August when new students first arrive on campus. Dozens of groups and offices come together during a coordinated week of events on campus to familiarize students with their college and its faculty, address important topics like health and well-being and gorge safety, introduce them to academics, university resources and services, and let them know where they can go if they need help.

Other orientation events are less formal and bring students together in a fun way so they can get to know each other. Andrew Ebanks ’13 is on the Orientation Steering Committee, the student group that helps organize orientation and sponsors events like Silent Disco, Trivia Night and Big Red Blowout.

“Everyone begins feeling like they are part of the community,” Ebanks says, “even though they have only been on campus a short time. Cornell starts to feel like home, and that’s a good thing because they will be living here and calling it home for the next few years.”

Once orientation is over, freshmen and transfer students can still benefit from advice and insight about getting the most out of Cornell. Located on North Campus, the Carol Tatkon Center, which the university refers to as “Cornell’s intellectual, support and resource center for first-year students,” is the hub of such support. At the center, students can informally interact with faculty members, get tips from upper-level students, learn about research and courses of study, attend faculty workshops and presentations, get help with writing, and find answers to casual questions and serious concerns.

“What we’re doing is creating a shared first-year experience. We introduce students to the university and help them transition by supporting and inspiring them throughout the year,” says Carol Grumbach ’78, J.D. ’87, the Jack and Rilla Neafsey Director of the Carol Tatkon Center and associate dean for New Student Programs. “We want them to be a part of the academic and social community, find their passion and explore.”

Ebanks, a student manager at the Tatkon Center, embraces the student staff’s motto – “Ask us anything” – and recalls how the center helped him during his first year at Cornell.

“Events like coffeehouses, where students can meet faculty and learn about different areas of study and research opportunities, made me feel connected to something from the beginning. It’s that sense of community that helps you out and gives you direction,” he says.

When Dick Lynham was a freshman, Carol Tatkon ’59, whose bequest made the center possible, was a senior, president of Balch Hall and managing editor of The Cornellian. After graduation, she went on to a successful career as an economist in the oil industry, and she served on the Cornell Board of Trustees, including as vice chair, in the 1990s.

Center seeks full funding

The Division of Student and Academic Services, which has a campaign target of $15 million, hopes to raise $3 million to fully fund the Carol Tatkon Center’s endowment. All funds raised will support first-year student programs and services at the center. The Tatkon Center also falls under the university’s campaign priority for funding educational excellence.

Carol Tatkon Center naming opportunities include: Office and classroom, $25,000; entrance lounge, $150,000; and café/lounge, $200,000. Endowments include a student worker fund, $100,000, and a director’s discretionary fund, $100,000.
Cornell exhibit, screening celebrate Ithaca Silent Movie Month

Renwick Park (now known as Stewart Park) on the southern shores of Cayuga Lake in Ithaca. For six years, the Wharton studio thrived while hundreds of silent serial episodes and feature movies – such as “Patria,” “The Romance of Elaine,” “Mysteries of Myrna” and “The Great White Trail” – were filmed and produced in Ithaca.

Cornell’s campus and Ithaca’s gorges were favored filming locations for many of these movies; the diverse landscape provided dramatic natural settings for silent movies filled with romance, exploits and danger. It was common for students to serve as extras, often in large crowd scenes, or as assistants.

Cornell was “a very important part of the Whartons’ inspiration to create a movie studio in Ithaca in 1914,” says Constance Bruce, co-founder of IMPP, a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Central New York’s silent movie history. Earlier this year, Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick ’09 signed a proclamation declaring October as Ithaca Silent Movie Month.

“Pratfalls & Paramours” is just one portion of the eight-part multimedia exhibition “Romance, Exploits & Peril: When Movies Were Made in Ithaca,” designed by Zwigard and the Ithaca marketing and design firm Art & Anthropology and written by Julie Simmons Lynch.

“My primary focus in the design of these exhibits is to engage the viewer in a theatrical way, bringing this unique local story to life and making it memorable,” Zwigard says. “The materials and details used are meant to recall the beautiful utility of stage sets and rigging.”

Other parts of the IMPP exhibit will be on display throughout the month of October at multiple Ithaca locations. IMPP, in partnership with the city of Ithaca, is applying for state funding to turn the former Wharton silent movie studio building at Stewart Park into an Ithaca silent movie museum. Zwigard has already created concept design renderings and interior layouts as part of the grant application. The concept designs for the museum and the plaza adjacent to the building have been incorporated into the Stewart Park Rehabilitation Action Plan, produced by Ithaca landscape architect Rick Manning ’87.

Bruce hopes that as Cornellians and Ithacans learn more about the region’s role in silent movie history, they may discover that a grandparent or great-grandparent appeared in a Wharton movie as an extra or worked as an assistant to the Whartons or other filmmakers who made movies in Ithaca a century ago. IMPP plans to create a permanent exhibition featuring photographs, letters and memorabilia about moviemaking in the region for the proposed museum. Personal accounts of working on a Wharton movie documented in writing or photographs will, of course, enliven the exhibition, she says, but may also provide valuable information about silent movie production.

“Creating a museum is a tremendous opportunity for that personal history to find its way into the bigger story of Ithaca and the Whartons’ legacy as pioneers in the movie industry,” she says.

Visit www.ithacamotionpictureproject.org
Cornell University’s sesquicentennial is three years away, but let the festivities begin: This July marked the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land Grant Act that some have called the greatest piece of legislation to come out of the United States Congress.

The Morrill Land Grant Act expanded higher education opportunities for a young nation driven by westward expansion, the advancement of the industrial era and the aspirations of its citizens in the mid-1800s. Until this watershed legislation, higher education was mostly the domain of the privileged with curricula focused on the classics in mostly sectarian institutions.

The Morrill Act’s purpose was to provide for “at least one college in each state where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific or classical studies, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts [engineering] ... in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes.”

“The Morrill Act is the basis for one of Cornell’s most enduring qualities as a land-grant institution – a deep commitment to developing knowledge that benefits communities around the world,” President David Skorton said. At Cornell’s 2012 Commencement, he mentioned the coming anniversary, calling the act “a hopeful, optimistic piece of legislation, premised on the belief that through the education of people from all backgrounds in an expanded range of fields – from agriculture and the mechanic arts to liberal studies – we could become a better, more prosperous nation in a changing world.”

The legislation set the stage for Cornell to be founded as New York’s land-grant college; the act secured the initial finances of the young university and positioned it to become one of the world’s leading educational institutions. The university’s unique Land Grant Act story involves a perfect storm that includes Ezra Cornell’s altruism, the nation’s largest state, the lack of federal lands in that state and what some consider the greatest land speculation deal in U.S. history.

The idea

The bill provided a grant of federal land to each state (proportional to its population with New York being the largest), which could be sold or developed, with the proceeds used to build and operate that state’s land-grant college, where agriculture and the mechanical arts would be taught. Nearly 80 percent of the nation’s gross national product came from agriculture and manufacturing, yet little attention was given to teaching and research in these fields. Progressive education reformers advocated for curricula that would prepare the nation’s workers to take advantage of modern approaches and for government to make higher education available to all citizens.

In 1861, Vermont Rep. Justin Smith Morrill submitted an amended version of the land-grant bill that called for institutions to teach military tactics as well as engineering and agriculture. Aided by the secession of numerous states
that did not support the plan, the bill was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln July 2, 1862.

**Ezra Cornell**

In 1865, Cornell was founded as New York’s land-grant institution; Ezra Cornell, then a state senator, offered $500,000 as an endowment and the gift of his Ithaca farm to create the eponymous university. The new university immediately found itself with significant financial burdens from building construction and faculty recruitment.

The land grant would provide New York state with 990,000 acres of land. But with no federal land available within its borders, New York was given paper scrip to acquire land in other states. The flood of suddenly purchasable land created by the Land Grant Act depressed the price of the scrip. Ezra Cornell offered to purchase most of New York’s scrip and hold and manage the land until its true value could be realized.

He also magnanimously offered to return all net proceeds from his land investment to the new university, and secured agreement from the university and the state to place these funds in a newly established Cornell University endowment fund.

While most other states simply sold the land or scrip for the immediate cash, Cornell’s pragmatic vision ultimately resulted in a substantial endowment for the university that secured its place among the nation’s elite institutions.

**The place**

Ezra Cornell sought investment advice from fellow Ithacans, university board members, and lumbermen Henry Sage and John McGraw. He quickly set his sights on the northern pinelands of Wisconsin – the richest tract of pine forest west of the Allegheny Mountains. He surveyed some initial acreage and ultimately purchased 500,000 acres of this valuable land. Crucially, he convinced the university’s board to not sell the land right away. He correctly predicted that once the abundance of newly offered land-grant acreage diminished, and as the country’s westward expansion increased demand for construction materials, the pine forests and the land would dramatically appreciate.

Ezra Cornell died in 1874, but Sage took the baton protecting the founder’s intentions. It was an excruciating wait for the cash-needy university – but well worth it.

**Land grant legacy: Money, mission and more**

While many states sold off their land grant allocations quickly for as little as 30 cents per acre, Cornell’s investment and Sage’s decadal management provided revenues averaging $9.69 per acre (with a high of $82 per acre). Exceeding all aspirations, $5,051,000 was returned to the university’s endowment once the last parcels were divested in the 1920s. Without this significant endowment in its earliest years, Cornell may not have become one of the world’s premier research universities.

While the land-grant mission of service was initially focused on outreach to the respective states, today this land-grant ideal extends the contributions of Cornell to communities around the world.

Cornell’s commitment to educating a broad, diverse population drives its admissions. While teaching and research in agriculture and engineering continue, service learning and community engagement permeate all corners of the campus and beyond, as students and faculty use knowledge, effort and creativity to improve the lives of others.

Daniel Mansoor ’79, MBA ’80, a Wisconsin native, has traveled to Cornell, Wis., to discover Cornell University’s connections to that town, also named for Ezra Cornell. He’ll be in those northern woods in 2013 to help the community of 1,644 celebrate that city’s centennial. See [http://cornellpines.blogspot.com/2010/06/evening-at-turks.html](http://cornellpines.blogspot.com/2010/06/evening-at-turks.html) for more information.
$20 million boosts competitive edge for aid initiative

Competition is a driving force not only in business but also in higher education, believes Arthur Wolcott ’49, founder and chairman of Seneca Foods Corp., the largest processor of canned vegetables and fruits in the nation. This year he and his wife, Audrey, and the Seneca Foods Foundation made a $20 million commitment in support of Cornell’s Award Match Initiative (AMI). Launched in fall 2011 as the third wave of significant financial aid enhancements begun in 2008, the AMI matches need-based financial aid offers from any of the seven peer schools in the Ivy League (as well as Duke, MIT or Stanford) to benefit undergraduate applicants extended admissions and aid by these schools and Cornell.

While strengthening Cornell’s financial aid for all eligible students, the gift also provides leveraging power for student-athlete recruitment, according to Andy Noel, the Meakem*Smith Director of Athletics and Physical Education.

“Art Wolcott’s extraordinary financial commitment to ensure that Cornell’s recruits receive need-based financial aid equal to our Ivy League peers impacts the quality of Cornell athletics profoundly,” Noel says. Pointing to disadvantageous differences such as peer schools’ endowment sizes and need-based aid calculations, he explains: “For decades, an imbalance in the financial aid landscape within the Ivy League has been a serious challenge. … Art’s support will allow radical change for the better.”

A life member of the Cornell University Council who was appointed a presidential councillor in 1991, Wolcott has been a loyal and generous supporter of Cornell’s athletics program – particularly football – among other areas of the university. He is also a former chairman and member of the Athletics Advisory Council and has served on the Athletics Campaign Committee.

“Athletics is important in building the Cornell University brand,” Wolcott explains. Using the men’s basketball team’s excellent performance in 2010 as an example, he adds that winning teams can create great excitement within the Cornell community and generate wide interest and attention from audiences around the nation. Underscoring the need to support the AMI in keeping pace with Ivy League peers, he says: “If we neglect athletics we will miss the opportunity of attracting outstanding people. We should compete against our rivals in a way that will make athletics very important while continuing to make academics most important.”

Barbara Knuth, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, who also oversees undergraduate enrollment, emphasizes that the initiative “can bring to Cornell a highly qualified and deserving student body.” She adds, “The universities that we are matching against are the top universities in the country, so arguably the students who are admitted at multiple institutions within that very elite group of undergraduate institutions are truly among the best students that any of us can hope to enroll.”

An entrepreneur who started his business by purchasing a bankrupt grape juice company in Dundee, N.Y., two months after graduating from Cornell in 1949, Wolcott sees the gift as an initial investment to increase the university’s future competitiveness. “This is just the beginning. We need to raise significantly more to make this program successful,” he says. “Others are going to have to step up and support it, too, if they want Cornell to have a fighting chance against our peers.”

— Jose Perez Beduya

$500K gift supports CALS Faculty Renewal Initiative

It’s been more than 50 years since George Mueller graduated from Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), but the dairy farmer still remembers the professors that shaped his professional life and personal worldview.

Now, in an effort to ensure that future generations of Cornell students are similarly shaped by inspirational teachers, Mueller ’54 has made a $500,000 gift to support the hiring of a faculty member in Farm Business Management as part of the college’s Faculty Renewal Initiative.

For Mueller, owner with wife Mary Lue of Willow Bend Farm in Clifton Springs, N.Y., it was Stan Warren and Herrell
Win, place or show
Support the important work of the Equine Hospital, part of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, by making a current-use gift that will advance patient care, education, clinical investigation and scientific innovation.

$1,000, $100,000 or $1 million

Educate business leaders
The Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management is in a tight race for the world’s top business students. Graduate scholarships factor in a student’s decision about where to enroll. Johnson has 75 named scholarship endowments; endow the 76th.

$1 million

A class(room) of your own
Cornell’s 80-year-old Warren Hall is undergoing a $51 million revitalization. Home to the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and the Department of Development Sociology, the building includes dozens of faculty offices, several conference rooms, lounges and classrooms. Name a 1,358-square-foot, tiered classroom.

$250,000

Mindful giving
Also in Warren Hall is the kitchen of the Food and Brand Lab run by Brian Wansink, the John S. Dyson Professor of Marketing and author of the best-seller “Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think.” Name this space to support research on overeating and obesity.

$175,000

Give to the globetrotter fund
Through a gift to the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, sponsor a student travel grant fund to open a whole new world of experiences to four undergraduate students annually, enhancing their courses of study and positioning them for internationally oriented careers.

$100,000

Location, location, location
Name one of three offices in the Center for Real Estate Finance, and your gift will go toward the $17 million tower addition, which houses the School of Hotel Administration’s centers and institutes.

$50,000

How do you get to Carnegie Hall?
Practice! Give students a music practice room in William Keeton House and enhance undergraduate life at Cornell.

$30,000

F. De Graff who had the greatest impact on his education.
“I have the fondest of memories of Stan Warren’s classes in farm management and farm appraisal,” Mueller said. “The knowledge and wisdom I learned from Professor Stan Warren have been the foundation of my farming decisions.”

De Graff was a highly sought-after international adviser following World War II, as nations scrambled to restore their agricultural production, and his popular introductory course in worldwide agricultural geography, history and economics was eye-opening for Mueller.

“The seed that Professor De Graff planted in me, as to the benefits of freedom and the free market capitalist system for feeding the world and keeping world peace, has been nurtured and grown in my mind for the past 60 years,” Mueller said.

“Teaching is highly valued at CALS. This generous gift from the Muellers shows that it is also valued by alumni,” said Kathryn Boor, the Ronald P. Lynch Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

– Stacey Shackford
FLORA ROSE

A beloved teacher and co-director of Cornell’s College of Home Economics (now the College of Human Ecology), Flora Rose (1874-1959) served Cornell for 33 years, helping develop and guide the study of nutrition, child development and other topics relating to health and daily life. Her idea of bringing home economics to higher education began before she arrived on the Hill. In 1905, one year after her graduation from Kansas State Agricultural College, Rose sent letters to Cornell and Stanford universities, urging the two schools to consider creating home economics departments.

Two years later, Cornell gave Rose the opportunity to do just that, hiring her to teach nutrition and head a fledgling home economics department along with Martha Van Rensselaer.

In a 1950 issue of Alumni News, Dean Howard B. Meek, founder of Cornell’s School of Hotel Administration, said of Rose: “It was an interesting experience to see Flora Rose come up with a new idea, sell it to Miss Van Rensselaer, and then by force of personality enlist for it the enthusiasm of the staff.”

Under Rose and Van Rensselaer’s instruction and leadership, the Department of Home Economics grew into a School of Home Economics in 1919 and became the College of Home Economics in 1925. In 1969, it was renamed the College of Human Ecology.

During her years at Cornell, Rose also served as deputy director of the Food Conservation Bureau of the New York State Food Commission. She helped lead research and development of the low-cost, vitamin-enriched cereals Milkorno, Milkoato and Milkwheato, and was awarded the Insignia of the Order of the Crown by King Albert of Belgium for organizing food relief for malnourished Belgian schoolchildren.

In a memorial statement for Rose, some of her faculty colleagues summarized their memory of her:

“The abiding picture is one of vividness and warmth, of poise and strength, of open-door hospitality, of instant and personal interest and of loyal friendship.”

– Sarah Smith

ALEXANDER DE LAHUNTA

Looking back on his 45 years at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Alexander de Lahunta, DVM ’58, Ph.D. ’63, retired James Law Professor of Anatomy, believes he “just happened to be at the right place at the right time.” And what a time it has been for “Dr. D.,” as he is fondly called by colleagues and students.

“Dr. de Lahunta is a pioneer in veterinary neurology, renowned worldwide for his rigorous scholarship and his initial identification of many neurological diseases,” says Michael I. Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “Fundamentally, though, he epitomized the term ‘teacher’ in its broadest sense. In rounds, neurological exams, in the lecture hall and in one-on-one examinations, he communicated an extraordinary passion for knowledge and inspired generations of veterinarians.”

The doctor has served as chief of the medical and surgical sections of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, hospital director and chair of the clinical sciences and anatomy departments. By his retirement in 2005, he had received the college’s Norden Distinguished Teacher Award four times, among other laurels.

A wide-ranging scholar, de Lahunta has published more than 250 scientific articles and written the seminal textbook “Veterinary Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neurology.” This year, he co-authored the fourth edition of “Miller’s Anatomy of the Dog” with his mentor, Howard Evans ’44, Ph.D. ’50.

He points to establishing the clinical neurology program and “successfully teaching veterinary students” as his greatest accomplishments. Responsible for core courses from anatomy to neuropathology, de Lahunta incorporated teaching into all of his endeavors, including his weekly neurology and neuropathology rounds and his famous 2 a.m. consultations. “His whole life is dedicated to the pursuit of training veterinarians,” explains neurologist and neurosurgeon Eric Glass ’89, DVM ’95, a former student-turned-coauthor.

Now 79 years old, de Lahunta still enlightens veterinarians through guest lectures. “There must have been 150 practitioners there, and two-thirds had to have been former students,” de Lahunta says of a recent appearance. “It was wonderful.”

– Jose Perez Beduya
Soumitra Dutta, the 11th dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, is the first Cornell dean to be recruited from abroad. Dutta, who began his term as dean July 1, came to Ithaca from INSEAD, a top international management school with campuses in Fontainebleau, France; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Singapore. He is a computer scientist, an entrepreneur, an adviser to governments on national information and innovation policies, and an expert on new and emerging media.

“As the world globalizes, I do expect that we shall see more colleges and universities reach outside America’s borders in their searches for leadership talent,” Dutta says.

With a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of California-Berkeley and an undergraduate degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Dutta founded INSEAD’s eLab, a research center on technology and innovation in the digital economy. He raised some $15 million to endow the eLab, where he led a team of 15 researchers. Previously, Dutta had led the school’s global nondegree executive education (with annual revenue of $110 million) and was dean of external relations, where he successfully led the school’s second capital campaign to raise $300 million.

“The world is inherently multicultural, and a global business leader has to feel comfortable dealing with multiple languages and cultures,” Dutta says. “Global challenges such as health, environment and energy require multidisciplinary approaches – an open mind that integrates traditional business disciplines with related arts and sciences is essential. I hope that my own multicultural background and the fact that I have integrated engineering sciences with business in my research will help me to better lead Johnson.”

The Cornell and Johnson “brands” attracted him to the position, he says. “The quality of the Johnson community is what clinched the deal for me,” Dutta says. “I was very impressed by the warmth of the Johnson community and the excellence of its faculty, staff, students and alumni. The award of the NYC tech campus to Cornell came after I had accepted my position, but that certainly further convinced me that I had made the right choice. Given my background in technology and entrepreneurship, the NYC tech campus will be one of my key priorities during my tenure as dean at Johnson.”

As dean, Dutta will do some research and teaching. “Though leading Johnson will consume the majority of my time, I plan to give time to my key research projects, including the Global Information Technology Report (with the World Economic Forum) and the Global Innovation Index (with the World Intellectual Property Organization).”

Dutta says he will build on the work of Johnson Dean Emeritus Joe Thomas: “While I do need to consult more intensively with the Johnson community to articulate our collective vision, I expect that a lot of it will revolve around furthering the academic reputation of Johnson, increasing its global impact and leveraging the NYC tech campus opportunity. I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead this unique community, and I expect not more, than I will contribute during my tenure as dean of Johnson.”
No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Those words are from Title IX, a section of the education amendments signed into law 40 years ago by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972.

While the amendments dealt with widespread inequities in educational opportunities, Title IX rocked the foundation of athletic departments nationwide and led to scores of women participating in athletics at far greater rates than ever before.

Women’s athletics at Cornell was still in its infancy in 1972 – just a handful of sports were available for women; but today, more than 450 female student-athletes participate in 18 varsity sports.

Andrea Dutcher, the Robert E. Browning ’56 Director of Physical Education, has seen this transformation firsthand. A standout golfer and basketball player at Penn State, she came to Cornell in 1974 to teach physical education. Dutcher had been on the job just two days when she was given the head coaching positions for volleyball and skiing as a way to supplement her income. She is the all-time winningest volleyball coach in Big Red history, and the Ivy League’s championship trophy is named in her honor.

“I knew nothing about volleyball,” says Dutcher. “But that’s the way women’s athletics was at the time. All the women held several positions, and sometimes they weren’t really qualified” for some of them. Overlapping coaching duties is something Big Red head women’s lacrosse coach Jenny Graap ’86 remembers well from her undergraduate days at Cornell. A two-sport athlete competing in field hockey and lacrosse, Graap points out that her field hockey coach, Shelby (Pontz) Bowman, served as the women’s lacrosse assistant coach despite having never played the sport.

“Assistants also headed up the junior varsity squads,” adds Graap. “So you had a coach with very little experience in that sport running a program, and that really limited the ability to develop a student-athlete because the expertise wasn’t there.

“When you look at the women’s programs now, coaches are well paid, so you can actually make a living being a coach, even as an assistant. So now you have multiple trained, experienced coaches on the field, which expands everyone’s knowledge and allows you to really develop talent in a way that wasn’t possible in the early days of Title IX.” The size and quality of coaching staffs are not the only things that have

AS THE COACH ... I CLEANED THE FLOORS, I TAPE THE KIDS, I WROTE THE STORIES FOR THE NEWSPAPER ... AND WE RAN THE REFRESHMENT STAND TO MAKE MONEY FOR THE PROGRAM.’

– ANDREA DUTCHER

Above left: Andrea Dutcher (center) coaches the women’s volleyball team in 1979. Above right: In 1989, Lisa Olshein and her Big Red teammates won their second consecutive New York state crown while sporting a perfect 7-0 record against Ivy League opponents.
changed over the years. Women’s sports now enjoy the full range of support from the athletic department.

At most women’s sporting events today, the facilities have been set up by department workers, the student-athletes have been taped by an athletic trainer devoted solely to their team, game programs have been provided by the Department of Athletic Communications, and refreshment stands are run by Premiere Catering.

In Dutcher’s days, the scene was much different. “As the coach, I set up the gym and tore it down afterward,” she recalls. “I cleaned the floors, I taped the kids, I wrote the stories for the newspaper, we made our own programs, and we ran the refreshment stand to make money for the program. … The men’s and women’s athletic departments were separate at the time and what I was doing was what all women’s coaches were doing, so we thought it was normal. And honestly, we had a blast and we were just happy to have the opportunity to play!”

As time went on, just having the opportunity to play wasn’t enough, and more and more female athletes and coaches began to demand a more level playing field. In the late 1970s, the men’s and women’s athletic departments at Cornell merged, and with lawsuits being filed around the country to enforce Title IX, Dutcher began to see positive changes.

“The excitement and involvement of the female student-athletes were really the driving force for change,” she says. “The beauty of sports is that you learn self-confidence and assertiveness. And that is what those women then used to demand more of the department. Sports gave them a voice, and they used it.”

Female student-athletes have continued to use their voices, and Cornell continues to make strides in equality. Recently, a commitment to upgrade women’s facilities has come to the forefront. Inequities in the men’s and women’s rowing facilities led to the department’s recent $8 million renovation to the Cornell University Rowing Center. Field hockey has a new home in Marsha Dodson Field, and the women’s lacrosse coaches have new offices adjacent to Schoellkopf Field. The women’s lacrosse and women’s ice hockey teams have seen upgrades in their locker rooms, and this past winter, Andy Noel, the Meakem*Smith Director of Athletics and Physical Education, announced plans for a significant upgrade to the Niemand*Robison Softball Field.

“There have just been a million little changes for the better,” says Graap. “When I was here in the mid-’80s, we didn’t have our own locker room. … We [the lacrosse team] also shared uniforms with the field hockey team, and when I was hired in 1997, they were still sharing uniforms. I told Charlie Moore, the athletic director at the time, that I would not take the job unless women’s lacrosse got its own uniforms. It seems like such a small thing, but I remember that experience as an athlete and I thought that it was important to give my team its own identity and to instill program pride and to give them a better experience.”

She adds: “As a coach, it is important to focus on all we do have. I feel like our women’s teams have what we need to compete and be successful. We went from being regionally competitive during my time as a player to being nationally competitive in my time as a coach, and that’s a direct result of increased money, resources and support. We’ve crossed a huge threshold, and I’m proud of how far we’ve come as an athletic department.”
In 1940, the Cornell Cooperative Society (the group that founded what became the Cornell Store) published an illustrated look at Cornell University, past and present, wholly written and illustrated by then-undergraduate student Steve Barker ’41. According to a Cornell Alumni News blurb at the time, the 54 pages of full-page cartoons “illustrate and explain the University and Campus life ... humorously and often with real insight. ... It will be well thumbed and chuckled over in many a Cornellian’s home.” The self-taught Barker became a decorated World War II veteran and then spent a career as a marketing executive and management consultant in Connecticut. He died in 2006.
Kenney shares library’s philosophy: ‘Think locally, act globally’

Anne Kenney, Cornell’s Carl A. Kroch University Librarian, chatted with Ezra magazine recently about Cornell University Library’s changing roles, the vast reach technology’s infrastructure has made possible and what the future may hold.

What roles does Cornell University Library play today in the lives of students?

The library continues to draw more and more students through its doors every year even as the number of online library users has skyrocketed. The 4.5 million visits to library spaces in 2010-11 averages out to 150 visits per person. Most of those visits are from students – grads and undergrads alike. They come to study. They come to access resources, physical and digital. We still top a million physical transactions a year, and interlibrary borrowing is up sharply. They come to consult with our superb staff (84,000 times!) and, yes, they come to drink coffee (more than 300,000 cups sold last year). In a survey of graduating seniors, the library retained its top spot among student services and facilities for student satisfaction, with a total of 96 percent of responders being either satisfied or very satisfied. Eighty-five percent of seniors in 2012 reported that the library contributed to their academic success and efficiency. We’re also the second-largest student employer on campus – nearly 500 students perform critical functions.

Has the library adopted new ways of interacting with students and faculty in the last few years?

Absolutely. We’re very active on Facebook and Twitter. We also do a tremendous amount of outreach about our virtual libraries, and we’re part of a 24/7 chat consortium that allows people to ask reference questions. Our librarians even answer reference questions via text message now.

How do collaborations like the 2CUL partnership with Columbia affect the library?

Most people are familiar with the bumper sticker “Think globally, act locally.” We think it should be stated the other way around: “Think locally, act globally.” In this highly networked world, with more scholarly resources being created every day, we can no longer assemble everything our faculty and students need to succeed academically. So we partner with research libraries around the world to provide our faculty and students with what they need. The partnership with Columbia University is a good example of this. There is only a 35 percent duplication rate between their libraries’ collections and ours, which means that through this partnership, we’re now able to offer the Cornell campus 65 percent more unique materials than we were able to previously. We’re also partnering with the rest of the Ivies to enhance interlibrary lending and to build complementary holdings. I think our focus is not to compete with other leading libraries to have the biggest collection, but together to reduce the delta between what is published and what we collectively can identify, make available now and preserve for future generations.

Can you describe your vision of Cornell University Library 10 years (or 20? 50?) from now?

It’s hard to predict what 3 years out will look like, let alone 10 or 20 or 50! When Olin Library opened in 1961, it was built to house more than 2 million books. Yet some likened its façade to an IBM punch card, foretelling a future much driven by technology. At that time, something like 30 percent of IBM’s business was in selling blank punch cards. Imagine if they, and we, had banked on a future in which punch card computing continued to dominate technological advances! I do firmly believe that the research library will remain at the very core of the university. We will become even more essential in empowering Cornell’s research and learning community as it grapples with changes in technology, intellectual property rights, data-intensive research and scholarly communication practices. The library is and will remain a neutral and trusted part of the university supporting information access, creative expression and new scholarship.
Cornell was a game-changer in your life. Now change the game for him!

Johnathan Gray ’13

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