

Alumni News

Five 1970s Rood House residents met for a reunion and hiked in Estes Park, Colorado. One was wearing a Cornell shirt that caught the attention of Mark Weston '74, who was there with his wife. They stopped and got acquainted before taking this photo. From left: Priscilla Russell '77, Mark Weston '74, Marianne Fischer '79, Linda Deuth '79, Rachel Cottier Noon '77, and Debbie Deuth '77.

1950s

Janet Miller Stacy '57, Kirkwood, Missouri, reports the passing of her husband of 66 years, **Ronald "Ron" Stacy '58**, on Oct. 29, 2024. Ron played football and basketball at Cornell.

1960s

Jim Bloom '60, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and Judy took a Viking tour of Paris and cruised down the Seine to Normandy and the D-Day beaches. "It was wonderful to see all the families out and enjoying this infamous landing spot. This is the whole reason for the invasion: freedom. Now it's our turn to protect our own freedoms at home."

Judy Hesler Jorgensen '60 and **Gary Jorgensen '60**: "We are healthy enough to enjoy friends, family, theatre, and, for Gary, golf! We live in two areas of the country: Milwaukee during the summer, where we can see lots of family and friends we've had for 50 years. We live in a senior living facility and have a lovely apartment with a fabulous view of Lake Michigan. The rest of the year we live in Naples, Florida, in a condo on the Gulf of Mexico beach. We have been living in Florida part-time for the past 20 years. One of my goals, when I retired, was to never have to drive or walk in ice and snow again. So far, so good! The Cornell Board often has its February meeting in Naples, so I see board members and staff annually. I miss serving on the Board, but this suffices! Gary retired from the church choir this spring but is hoping to resume that part of his life. He has sung in church choirs for 70+ years. He plays golf frequently and frets about

his score, which is higher than it used to be. I am still active on nonprofit boards. It's been a long time since we were students at Cornell. The love we have for the college has not abated. I am very proud of President Brand and his team who continue to strive for further excellence."

Dennis O'Brien '60, West Des Moines, Iowa: "**Sandra "Sandy" Brown O'Brien '60** retired in 2003 after a successful career as a classroom teacher and elementary school principal. I retired in 2000 after 32 years teaching geology at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. We have two sons and six grandchildren. Both boys live in the Des Moines area; the grandkids, except for one, are scattered around the country. After retirement we traveled quite a bit. Several river cruises, two ocean cruises, and several guided bus tours. We moved to a retirement community in West Des Moines in 2015. Sandy now lives in long-term care, while I continue in independent living. We spend time together every day. Cornellians continue to be a part of our lives. I see **Bill Keck '60**, **Chuck Pletke '58**, and **Harold Templeman '58** every Monday morning for coffee. **Phyllis Hogle Newton '57** is a fellow resident. **Barb Nelson Keck '60** and **Joyce Winegarden Templeman '60** are regular visitors. I have frequent FaceTime contact with **Don Utroska '60** and **Dave Conaway '60**. One final Cornell memory: I spoke at Dr. **Herb Hendriks '40**'s memorial ceremony as one of his former students."

Tim Frazer '63, Concord, New Hampshire: "I lost my wife, June, on Sept. 25. It was not a sudden death. It was a long ordeal with hospice nurses and

live-in, 24-hour help. She had a wonderful mind, but dementia robbed her of that little by little over the last few years. She is still a powerful presence around me. I continue an active life and 12-step recovery programs and also in the centering prayer movement. I meet via Zoom once a week with a group who are learning New Testament Greek and reading through John's gospel (which is the easiest to read in Greek). On my reading list for the coming year is to get the last volume of **Carole Baskerville Carson '63**'s memoir-novel."

Bill Horn '64, Clermont, Florida, writes that he and his wife Judi are both relatively healthy, with knees giving him problems—but years of football and track will do that. They do some traveling, especially to visit family.

Phoebe Green Meyer '64, Pottsboro, Texas, and her husband, Charles, traveled within Texas and then to Colorado to visit family. Their usual cruise and international travel has been curtailed as Charles, a retired minister, stepped up to take a larger role at their church when their pastor was in a serious accident.

Robert Blake '66 and **Janet Reynolds Blake '66**, Sawyer, Michigan, celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 24, 2024.

Kristin Zum Bahlen Richardson '66, Lincolnwood, Illinois, has become the president of the Lincolnwood Place Residents' Association. Lincolnwood Place is a retirement residence. "I am looking forward to meeting with several classmates in Chicago," she writes.

Beverly Van Winkle

Jacobsen '67, Yorba Linda, California, along with daughter Laura and her husband Matt; grandkids Parker, Sloane, and Paige; and Matt's dad, John, went on a trip to Niagara Falls from their home in Ohio and had beautiful fall scenery and weather. They saw both falls, took a boat tour and a cave tour, rode a cable car, experienced a whirlpool viewing, and stopped by the restaurant in Buffalo, New York, where buffalo chicken wings originated.

Paul Lubenkov III '67

La Grange, Illinois: "My wife, Terry Anne, and I attended a memorable performance of the opera 'Cosi fan tutte.' Mozart is irrefutable proof that there is a divine force in the universe. We also attended a concert by the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra. The extended violin solo that accompanied Mendelssohn's Concerto was performed on a 1708 Stradivarius. Breathtaking. I participated in an open mic reading at the La Grange

library, my recent poetry was accepted for publication by The Journal of Undiscovered Poets, and my fiction was published in a volume of 'Cutthroat: A Journal Of The Arts.'"

Carol Monson Reinhard

'67, St. Louis, Missouri: "In September 2024, **Tom Reinhard '65** and I were able to return to Turkey for the first time in 12 years. We joined a small group on a culinary tour organized by our friend Yildiz Yagci, director of Anatolian Artisans, a nonprofit arts-and-crafts organization empowering women in rural Turkey. We ate spectacular food, learned more history of this phenomenal place between two worlds, and made new friends."

Joe Gebhardt '68

Bethesda, Maryland: "My wife, Suzy, and I officially 'retired' 10 years ago, but, fortunately, we have stayed healthy and are able to work part-time in our fields. I do employment and civil rights cases, and Suzy does substitute teaching. The community has honored my work—most notable were

the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association in 2024 and the Top Washington Lawyers Hall of Fame in 2022. I also became active in local politics in a support role in 2017. That has led to the position I now have as senior advisor to the Maryland Secretary of State. This executive position enables me to help Gov. Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller as well as Secretary of State Susan Lee, a friend and former law firm colleague. Our two adult 'kids' and two grandsons live nearby. Son Dan is an employment lawyer like his dad, and daughter Sara is a proposal manager and writer for government contracting firms. Suzy and I stay healthy mainly through regular exercise. This summer, I swam 66 miles outdoors while Suzy did better, swimming 100 miles. In the fall, we took a fabulous bus trip from Paris to Monaco to Barcelona, seeing many beautiful sites and works of art. Last but not least, I find it rewarding to be an active supporter of Cornell College; in particular, I

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enjoy my regular updating visits with Lisa White."

Keith Collins '69, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: "In September 2024 I traveled to the WWII battlefield site near Château-Thierry, France, where my great uncle Cpl. Lee Roy Collins died in the Battle of the Ourcq River on July 28, 1918. He was an artilleryman in the Rainbow Division of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) which, on the day he died, was on the attack after the last great German offensive on the Western Front had stalled at the Marne River 50 miles from Paris. Ironically, he was blown off a horse while delivering a message to another part of his battery that the unit should move because of heavy German artillery fire. With the aid of a French guide, I located the approximate place on a forested road where he died, the French hospital his body was taken to, and the French military cemetery where he was first

buried, as well as two American WWI military cemeteries and monuments to the fallen in the immediate area. My father, the Rev. **Lee Roy Collins '56**, was named after this uncle and graduated from Cornell College when I was 9."

Bruce Day '69, Roach, Missouri: "I am retired to the Lake of the Ozarks, retired from the Air Force as a bomber pilot, and still flying as a flight instructor."

Kevin McPherrin '69, Boca Raton, Florida, took fourth place in the 100-meter freestyle (75-79) at the 2024 Masters World Championships in Doha, Qatar, in February. In May, at the YMCA National Championships, he took first in the 50-yard breaststroke and second in both the 50-yard backstroke and butterfly. On the 400-yard freestyle relay, his 75-79 team from the Palm Beach Y won first place and swam the fastest time ever recorded.

1970s

Tim Pearson '72 and **Sara Light Pearson '72**, Urbandale, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26 by going on a Mediterranean cruise with their children and spouses, then to Santa Barbara, California, with friends. Tim first met Sara in The Commons at "the rail" on Sept. 18, 1968, after picking her out from the freshman book for a date. Sara retired after serving 35 years as director of the Urbandale Public Library. Tim retired from his private law practice and now serves as a mediator and expert witness in family law-related cases.

Patty Alper '75, Chevy Chase, Maryland: "Excited to share that the college mentor program I've launched is now in schools across the country—Florida, D.C., California, Boston—where schools are bringing project-based mentors from varieties of fields to help students get real-world experience and know-how from mentors at their side. As described in my book, 'Teach to Work: How a Mentor, a Mentee, and a Project Can Close the Skills Gap in America,' I have just completed a video training program with the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship, such that mentors can be trained to work with youth. If you'd like more information, check out www.teachtowork.com. On a personal front, I'm the proud step-grandparent of three fabulous kids—Mason, 8, Madelyn, 6, and Charlotte, 4."

John Guthmann ’76, St. Paul, Minnesota: “On Aug. 7 the Minnesota Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates held its annual awards dinner at which I received the organization’s Lifetime Judicial Excellence Award. Although I retired in October, I will be continuing to work as a senior judge in the State of Minnesota and as a private mediator and arbitrator.”

Author **David Welter ’76**, Cedar Falls, Iowa, added to his Reflections from the Home Team book series with a fourth book released in December 2024 titled “Reflections from the Home Team ... Nearing Home!” More on the books and their purpose is on his website, reflectionsfromthehometeam.com. David spent much of his life teaching social studies and coaching baseball, and uses many baseball analogies as teaching mechanisms in his writing. In his fourth book, he continues in that vein by encouraging readers to learn from their successes and failures and to expect life’s fastballs while being ready for the curves that may come our way. He encourages all of us to seek out others with a kind word and a listening ear. David has been inducted into the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Cornell College Athletics Hall of Fame, as well as being named Iowa’s Middle-Level Principal of the Year. He continues to scout for the Atlanta Braves, works as an education consultant, drives medical transports for Western Home Communities, farms, and enjoys time with his grandchildren.

Sara Brummitt Gilbert ’77, Loveland, Colorado: “Recently passed six years since retiring. Loving traveling and volunteering. I’m a raptor monitor for two different organizations and enjoy singing in a large senior choir. Recently drove by the Cornell campus on our way home to Colorado. Campus looked great!”

1980s

Michelle Baird ’80, Knoxville, Tennessee: “I have been ‘homeless,’ with the exception of Airbnb and short-term rentals, for over two years. I have had a love of travel and a determination to see the world since I was a kid. After two years stuck at home during COVID, I decided that if I was to accomplish my bucket list of places and people to see, I had best get on it! I sold my home along with part of my belongings, put the rest in storage, and started my journey. I haven’t looked back! I have enjoyed many new places, met wonderful new people, and spent memorable times visiting with old friends, including a very enjoyable few days in California wine country with Woody and **Peg Laird Mosgers ’80**. Notes on becoming a minimalist: It’s my third pack-up-and-move-on in less than three years. One has no idea the stuff one accumulates until they start packing. I find I am constantly asking myself: Do you need this? Do you use this? When’s the last time you wore this? Do your kids really want to be left with this? I served in the Marine Corps for four years active duty and two years reserve. Though I had some less than desirable interactions at my last active duty station, Cherry Point in North Carolina, which led to my decision to not stay in, I still hold pride in having served my country.”

Ann Jones Coleman ’80, St. Louis, Missouri: “I still live in St. Louis, where I moved after graduating from Cornell. My husband, **Dave Coleman ’77**, is semi-retired and both of us enjoy spending time with our three grandchildren who live nearby. I volunteer at the Humane Society of Missouri three days a week, walking shelter dogs, training new volunteers, and helping with fundraising events. I also write a blog, www.muddlingthroughmymiddleage.com. We love to travel in our spare time and particularly enjoy European riverboat

cruises. I do hope to make it back for a Cornell reunion one of these days, as it would be great to see ‘old’ classmates again.”

Louesa Runge Fine ’80, Columbia, Missouri: “**Darlene Harbuziuk Melton ’80** and I enjoyed a long weekend in April 2024 with **Karen Smith Sumner ’81**, **Chris Stahl Reborra ’81**, and **Lori Zippe Ford ’81**, at Lori’s home near Georgetown, Texas. An evening boat excursion to see the infamous downtown Austin bats was part of the itinerary, as was a tour of Austin from the rooftop of a bus. Lori’s brother, **Kirk Zippe ’80**, stopped by to say hello since he lives near her.”

Larry Jacobs ’80 and **Kim Miller Jacobs ’83**, Waukegan, Iowa, have stayed mostly close to home for vacations this year (Minnesota, South Dakota, Colorado) involving bicycling, skiing, and/or hiking. Larry writes: “We are planning a Rhine River cruise from Basel to Amsterdam in 2025 so would appreciate any advice or comments from those who have cruised the Rhine. Grandchild No. 2 (Cameron Elizabeth Kleine) was born in March 2024, and we somehow survived an overnight with Cam and her brother, Philly, the following May while their parents went to a concert in Ames. We finally traded off our 18-year-old Tucson and bought an electric car, a Chevy Bolt EUV. Figured in my lifetime I’ve driven pretty close to 1,000,000 miles, so we are trying to do our part for the ozone.”

Carol Moser ’80, Des Moines, Iowa, writes of herself: “Between fending off inquiries of when she is going to retire, she continues to work for the City of Des Moines as chief deputy city attorney working with all departments on employment, litigation, and other municipal matters. If there is time left, she is traveling; most recently to Portugal, Norway, and around the UK. Local pursuits include playing in three golf leagues,

catering to her golden retriever, pulling weeds, and attending other people’s retirement parties. It was great fun to visit with our esteemed class editor when he was in Des Moines!”

Peg Laird Mosgers ’80, Santa Rosa, California: “**Michelle Baird ’80** and I enjoyed a wine tasting at J. Rickards Winery in Sonoma County, California. My husband, Woody, and I moved out here after 30 years in Chicago. Pretty happy to be here.”

Eric Sellen ’80, Phoenix, Arizona, was featured on the “Pop In: A Writer’s Oasis” podcast. He discussed his lifelong love for writing and language, and read aloud an essay that he wrote for the Cornell Report about the evolving English language. He writes: “I retired in 2021 after nearly three decades as program book editor for The Cleveland Orchestra, the last half-dozen years as managing editor. The pandemic delayed my retirement by a year and, ever since, my husband, Ron, and I have been making up for lost travel time, visiting all seven continents—and a five-month world cruise. In 2024 we drove cross-country in Britain and Wales, biked across Provence, and circumnavigated Japan. In a troubled world, we feel extraordinarily fortunate to have both the means and curiosity to travel and meet people around the globe. I’ve been re-aiming my interest and talents for writing, such as they are, toward a novel and a number of short stories. I’ve also become enmeshed with the Phoenix chapter of Shut Up & Write. In addition, I’ve found myself leading workshops and discussions about narrative techniques, editing, and more. Which, come to think of it, wasn’t storytelling what I’ve been doing all my life, including in my efforts in theater and music as a Cornell undergraduate?”

Scott Shattuck ’80 and **Terri Rosinski Shattuck ’83**, Ankeny, Iowa: “Along with many in our class who are retired, we are at the travel stage of our lives. Terri and I visited Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna in 2019 and greatly enjoyed it. We went to Italy last October and visited Venice, Florence, and Rome (among other smaller cities). It was quite a trip seeing awesome sites in world history. We were able to take a gondola ride through the canals of Venice for an iconic experience. The question now is where to go next. Other than travel, our lives include enjoying our six grandchildren and their families here in central Iowa.”

Edgar Thornton III ’80, Corydon, Indiana: “After long careers working overseas in Asia, Africa, and Jamaica with the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, my wife, Deborah, and I retired last year from the federal government. We sold the Iowa home and relocated to her ancestral small rural Indiana community outside of Corydon (pop. 3,000), the state’s first capital. We own 64 acres of farmland and are living a peaceful life here on Green Acres. **Omar Canty ’80** and his wife recently traveled with my family on an Alaska cruise. Omar lives in central Washington State.”

Tom Yates ’80, Oak Park, Illinois, and his wife, Diane Ratekin, rendezvoused with **Al Burgener ’80** to attend a performance by well-regarded folk singer Dan Bern in Berwyn, Illinois. Bern is a Mount Vernon, Iowa, native (Mount Vernon High School class of 1977) and the son of Julian Bern, longtime Cornell piano professor, and Marianne Bern, who also worked at Cornell. “Based in Hollywood for much of his professional life as a singer, songwriter, and balladeer, Dan has developed a broad following across the country and world, across all age groups, and puts on a great show,” Tom writes. [See a memory by Dan Bern of his days as a high school KRNL DJ, on page 2.]

Work by **Brian Lee Knopp ’83**, Asheville, North Carolina, continues to be published. His personal essay, “The Toughest Texan,” was published in the March 2024 issue of Hippo-campus Magazine. A collection of his essays, “Dreams I’m Never Gonna See: The Takeover of WDIZ Rock 100/FM and Other Essays,” is scheduled for publication Sept. 16 by Cosmic Pigbite Press. The title piece relates the Aug. 6, 1981, takeover of central Florida’s hottest rock radio station by the Ida Lupino Liberation Organization, of which Knopp was a proud member.

Mark Voyce ’84, Brownsdale, Minnesota, is scheduled to be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Minnesota Chapter on April 26, 2025. Mark coached the Hayfield, Minnesota, wrestling team to three state wrestling tournaments. After 10 years at the helm, he became a wrestling official and was selected to work the state tournament finals on three separate occasions.

Since 2007 **Dana Eness ’86** has served as the executive director of the Urban Conservancy in New Orleans, Louisiana, a nonprofit that strengthens the urban environment and local economy through equitable practices, policies, and programs. Dana received her master’s degree from Tulane University and has worked in nonprofit administration, community programming, and project development in New Orleans for 25 years. She became involved with the Urban Conservancy in 2003 as a founding board member of StayLocal, the Conservancy’s initiative to create a strong network of local independent businesses. She has served in leadership positions with the American Independent Business Alliance, Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee, and Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans.

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Justin Futrell '16 and Ellie Scripps '16, of Denver, Colorado, enjoy a dance at their Aug. 30, 2024, wedding.

Morgan Barnard '20 married Brett Davis on Nov. 2, 2024, with Cornellian friends in attendance. From left are Maya Peske '20, Erin Hosto '21, Zach Stoll '18, Morgan Barnard '20, Marissa Czaplá '20, Shay Rule '18, Paul Zemba '20, and Brady Tobin '19.



Dave Turnball '73, Gary Mick '73, and John McGrane '73 (from left) attended funeral services in Waverly, Iowa, for their former high school English teacher, Carl E. Dillon '54. Dillon, who spent two years on campus, was instrumental in encouraging them to attend Cornell.



Two generations of Cornellians in Falmouth, Massachusetts: Father Donald Rhoads '60 (at center) and sons Mark Rhoads '86 (left) and Douglas Rhoads '89 (right).

Scott Bacon '89, Thornton, Colorado, has retired from his software career to enjoy the last few years before his kids head off to college. He serves on the board of directors for Nature First, a conservation nonprofit, and continues to provide software product mentoring and coaching, which he says is incredibly rewarding. In this next chapter of life, Scott spends most of his time on personal passions—extended travel with Kim, his wife of 25 years, connecting to family history through genealogy, learning about the archeology of the Southwest, dabbling in auto mechanics, and continuing a lifelong hobby of nature photography (scottbaconphotography.com).

Beth Knickerbocker '89, Alexandria, Virginia, and her husband, Dale Carson, attended the Paris Olympic Games. Beth reports that they saw the women's gymnastics all-around competition where they cheered on Simone Biles to the gold and Suni Lee to the bronze. They also watched men's trampoline, women's beam and floor exercise, and men's parallel bars and high bar. They cheered the U.S. women's field hockey team to a victory against South Africa and the U.S. women's volleyball team to a victory against France, as well as some track events in the Olympic Stadium. After some hiking in the Alps, they stopped at the International Olympic Museum in Switzerland.

1990s

Kristin Schuchart Whitaker '90, Wausau, Wisconsin, retired on Sept. 1, 2023, from a 29-year career in family medicine and has transitioned to teaching and supervising family medicine residents. "For fun I renewed my lifeguarding certificate and lifeguard at the YMCA a few times a month," Kristin writes.

Ryan Grauberger '91, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: "The last few years have been a challenge as I have been dealing with a progressive neuromuscular

illness. Walking and fine motor skills have become a challenge, but through physical and occupational therapy I have rebounded somewhat—I was using a wheelchair for a while, but am back to walking with a cane or walker, at least for now. You'd never know that I was once a dancer to look at me now! But, I am keeping my spirits up, and while I am unable to hold a 'regular' job, I have been volunteering as a leader of support groups, as a music leader at church events, and at several community ecumenical retreats or gatherings, and with community theaters. I directed a show about a year ago, did behind-the-scenes work in other shows, and am writing scripts with the hope of them being performed someday."

Shane Konsella '91, Star, Idaho, has been promoted to the position of distinguished technologist at HP Inc. Shane, with his wife, **Alicia Dawson Konsella '91**, will set R&D strategies, lead software development, and mentor emerging talent for HP's Enterprise Printer and Workforce Services businesses. This promotion recognizes Shane's more than 31 years of innovation and leadership at HP.

Deirdre Walsh Oss '93, Denver, Colorado: "After a collective 14 years with the City of Denver and 25 years in public sector planning, where I worked with the best of the best colleagues and a wonderful development community, I am thrilled to share that I've accepted a wonderful position as senior land use advisor at Foster Graham Milstein & Calisher. I look forward to this new chapter in my career, embracing the opportunity to advise development teams across the state as they work to achieve outcomes that support our economy and our communities. We are also exceptionally proud of our two grown humans, Isabelle and Jordan, as they navigate the world."

Scott Gehler '98, Bettendorf, Iowa, was promoted to full professor of biology at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Scott and **Trisha Weydert Gehler '98** have two teenage boys, one of whom will be starting college in the fall of 2025. Trisha works as a physical therapist with a specialty in vestibular rehabilitation.

RJ Holmes-Leopold '99, St. Paul, Minnesota, is focusing his efforts toward finishing his EdD in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. During the fall he worked part-time career coaching at St. Olaf College to help with some staffing shortages. He will be a Law School Admissions Seasonal Reader for The College of William and Mary Law School through the spring. His husband, **Marvin Holmes-Leopold '11**, started a new role at Marvin Windows and Doors as Accounting Program Manager for Compliance in November. Both of their four-legged kids crossed the rainbow bridge in 2024—Tazz in April and Carlee in November.

2000s

BIRTH

Ayla Grace Loper, Aug. 26, 2024, to **Joey Crowley '09** and Brady Loper

Bobbi Buckner Bentz '01 was sworn in as the mayor of Ankeny, Iowa, in December 2024, and will serve the remainder of her predecessor's term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2025. Bobbi served on the Ankeny City Council for 12 years and was appointed mayor pro tem in December 2021. In her time on the council, she represented Ankeny on the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Metro Advisory Council, and the School/City Committee. She has also served on the Bravo Greater Des Moines board of directors, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the

Ankeny Comprehensive 2040 Plan steering committee. She works as associate director of evidence and outcomes for Eli Lilly & Co. She holds two master's degrees from the University of Iowa, in health administration and public health, and a doctorate from the University of Iowa.

Joe Hecht '02, Madison, Wisconsin: "I left a quality manager position at Epic (healthcare software) in March 2024 to become the single women's housing coordinator at the YWCA in Madison, Wisconsin. There have been many difficult and taxing days since I started, but I love our community and feel like I'm exactly where I belong."

Anna Norstedt '02, St. Paul, Minnesota: "I am now living separately from my partner since permanent work from home was not what I had in mind. We are maybe six blocks away from each other and he has the cats. I visit six times a week, and Fridays are reserved for Dungeons and Dragons."

In October 2024 **Chase Whitney '02** was named vice president of power supply for Guzman Energy, a wholesale power provider in Denver, Colorado. Chase has 20 years of experience in the development and management of utility-scale power supplies and previously served in business development, transaction, origination, and supply roles at Avangrid Renewables, Community Energy, Invenergy, and most recently Triple Oak Power where he served as vice president of business development.

Melissa Althoff '03, Rochester, Minnesota: "I'm currently living in Rochester with my partner, Matt, and his two children. I've been working in disability services for the past few years and started with the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development as a vocational rehabilitation counselor earlier this year. I'm excited to finally put my master's degree to use and love helping people reach their goals."

Eric Sudol '03, Frisco, Texas, joined Tepper Sports & Entertainment (TSE) in January 2025 as chief revenue officer. He will oversee all revenue-producing departments for the organization, including the Carolina Panthers (NFL), Charlotte FC (MLS), and Bank of America Stadium. Eric joins TSE from the Dallas Cowboys, where he was senior vice president of corporate partnership sales and services. He holds an MBA and a master of sports administration from Ohio University.

Joe Foley '06, Powder Springs, Georgia: "I've been a successful stuntman and actor in the film industry since 2010. Most recently I finished producing my first movie starring Tom Berenger, Mark Dacascos, and Milo Gibson."

Erin Casey '09, Iowa City, Iowa: "The writing nonprofit organization I founded, The Writers' Rooms, recently launched its sixth anthology, 'Iowa [W]rites of Winter.' We're very excited about the launch and will be opening submissions for our next anthology soon. Each book contains short stories, poetry, art, and photography, celebrating the creativity of our literary community. You can learn more at thewritersrooms.org. Our writing sessions are held in the Iowa Creative Corridor, and one is also hosted online. If you're looking for a fun group of writers, this is the organization to join!"

Emma Reicks '09, Grand Junction, Colorado, founded a Montessori school, Cactus Bloom Community School, in her hometown. The micro-school—a smaller school with very small classrooms—is part of the Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado network. It opened Aug. 13, 2024, and serves pre-kindergarten through third grade. "One of our teacher leaders, Emma Reicks, is from the Grand Junction area and has many years of teaching experience, in and outside of Colorado. She really wanted to bring back to her hometown her passion for education and Montessori, and to open a public Montessori," Wildflower Executive Director Kelly Gomes told The (Grand Junction, Colorado) Daily Sentinel. "She was really behind the movement of making Cactus Bloom Community School come to fruition in Grand Junction."

2010s

WEDDINGS

Grace Barker '15 to Cody Johnson, Oct. 21, 2023

Justin Futrell '16 to **Ellie Scripps '16**, Aug. 30, 2024

Nicholas "Nick" Bieno '18 to **Sara Renaud '18**, Oct. 19, 2024

Hannah Robertson '18 to Paul Draig, Jan. 15, 2024

BIRTHS

Madison "Maddie" McKenna Patzke, Oct. 5, 2024, to **Andrew Patzke '11** and Jiaqi Huang

Claire Wherry, Jan. 7, 2025, to **Emily Selindh Wherry '12** and **Daniel Wherry '12**

Kalliopi Jane Mattern, Oct. 10, 2024, to **Buddy Mattern '16** and **Ella Peitz Mattern '16**

Shire Feingold '11, New Hartford, Connecticut, recently took on the role of leadership gifts officer at Kent School, a small boarding school nestled in the hills of Connecticut. Shire will spearhead efforts to secure major gifts, playing a critical role in the school's ambitious capital campaign. The close-knit community and picturesque landscape at Kent remind her of the camaraderie and beauty she cherished most at Cornell. Shire is excited about the opportunity to make a meaningful impact at Kent School and hopes to inspire a few students to consider Cornell College for their own educational journeys.

Julia Morrison '11, Springfield, Illinois: "I'm about to start my third year as counsel to the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives and just finished training to be a foster parent. Barring paperwork complications I'll hope to have a kiddo or kiddos by this summer."

Andrew Patzke '11, Vancouver, BC, Canada: "My wife, Jiaqi, and I welcomed our second child, a daughter, on Oct. 5, 2024—Madison "Maddie" McKenna Patzke. I also started a new role as senior director for clinical operations at WELL Health Technologies.

Katelyn Hillmeyer '13, Durango, Colorado, started a position with SWCA Environmental Consultants as a project geospatial scientist and archaeologist.

James Hoeffgen '13 moved to Caribou, Maine, with his wife and infant daughter to work as a public defender at the newly opened Aroostook County Public Defenders.

Daniel Pawlak '13, Grand Canyon, Arizona: "I work for Grand Canyon National Park and run the park's Cultural Demonstration Program. I was asked to be part of a Colorado River trip set up by our nonprofit partner, Grand Canyon Conservancy, to represent the National Park Service and demonstration program. My purpose on the trip was to meet new prospective donors and share how the conservancy funds parkwide programs like the one I run. While hiking into the canyon for an overnight trip with friends, I ran into James Uqualla. James works with the park on many projects to increase Indigenous representation and is the spiritual leader for the Havasupai people who still live in the canyon."

Stephon Mikell Jr. '15, Tampa, Florida, joined the Tampa theatre community over the past year, acting in several shows. He also joined the executive board of a local swing dance organization and has been traveling internationally to dance and compete.

Nolan Schillerstrom '15, Charleston, South Carolina: "My wife had a baby on Nov. 25, 2024! This is our first child. The sleep deprivation reminds me of the end of a hard block. I didn't think Cornell was training us to be parents, too, but here we are."

Madeleine "Mads" Ball '16, Richmond, Virginia, earned their master of science in library science with a concentration in law librarianship and legal informatics (MSLS) at the University of North Texas, having previously received their J.D. from William & Mary Law School in 2020. They are joining the University of Richmond School of Law as their research and student services librarian. In this role, they will teach first-year Legal Research, provide reference consultations, and generally facilitate law student success through library services and resources. Before pursuing law librarianship, they practiced patent litigation with Latham and Watkins LLP.

Sarah Bertschy '16, Sunbury, Ohio: "After working full-time and going to school in the evening for the last three years, I have finished my coursework for my Juris Doctor degree from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio, as of December 2024. I will sit for the February 2025 bar exam."

Justin Futrell '16 and **Ellie Scripps '16**, Denver, Colorado: "We got married in August! Our officiant was **Andrew Joseph '17**, and many other Cornellians filled the wedding party."

Nicholas "Nick" Bieno '18 and **Sara Renaud '18**, Charlotte, North Carolina, were married on Oct. 19, 2024, in a small ceremony on a farm in North Carolina surrounded by their closest family and friends, and officiated by their good friend **Erinne Smith '17**.

Oriana Henney Camilleri '18, Medford, Oregon: "I recently accepted a position with the ITS Clinical Informatics Training Department as the EPIC principal trainer for ambulatory services at Asante Health Systems. My husband is committed to his job as a first responder on a local ambulance and is looking for roles within fire departments. Our oldest daughter recently joined the color guard team and our younger daughter cannot wait to follow in her sister's footsteps, using everything we own as a color guard flag."

Hannah Robertson Draig '18, Cardiff, Wales, married Paul Draig on Jan. 15, 2024, in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom.

2020s

WEDDING

Morgan Barnard '20 to Brett Davis, Nov. 2, 2024

Ollie Gielas '20, Peyton, Colorado: "I am finishing my first year working with the Millibo Art Theatre."

Devin Callahan '21, Boston, Massachusetts: "I passed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination and am one step closer to taking the bar exam in July 2025."

Maura Quinn '21, Miyazaki, Japan: "I started a new job last fall teaching English in Japan through the JET Program. I am now teaching English in a high school in Miyazaki Prefecture."

Kate Ratliff '21, Wellington, New Zealand: "I'm studying for my master's degree of conservation biology at Victoria University of Wellington."

Cleo Sullivan '21, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: "I started a new job as a TRIO student support services advisor at Coe College."

Marlo Webster '23, Minneapolis, Minnesota: "I have moved to Minneapolis and am working hard. My cat is still evil and still stinky."

Julissa Rivera '24, Houston, Texas: "I'm working at Houston Independent School District as a college and career advisor primarily with low-income minority students."

We want to
welcome
our newest
(and cutest)
Cornellians
into
the world!

Email
alumni@cornellcollege.edu
with the
full name and birthdate
of your newest
family member,
and we will send
your future Ram
a Wee C Club packet.

Losses



Wendell Weart '53

Wendell Weart '53, a pioneer in nuclear waste management, died on Sept. 26, 2024, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Weart grew up in Brandon, Iowa, and attended Cornell, following several family members, including his mother, **Mary Jamieson Weart** (1916 graduate of the Cornell Academy), and siblings, **Marjorie Weart Stephens '42** and **Richard Weart '43**. He majored in geology and mathematics, graduating as valedictorian and as a Phi Beta Kappa member. He then received his doctorate of philosophy in geophysics from the University of Wisconsin.

While working at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds (1957-1959), Weart was introduced to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site where he worked on measuring the effects of underground nuclear tests. He joined Sandia National Laboratories in 1959 and for 15 years studied the seismic effects of underground nuclear detonations. For 20 years he was also the chairman of the Department of Energy's Seismic Evaluation Committee, responsible for predicting the effect of nuclear-test-created, seismic waves on structures surrounding the Nevada Test Site.

In 1975 he became manager of the Sandia effort to select a site and direct the design of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, which became the first U.S. geologic repository for the disposal of defense-related transuranic waste. Once it was operational, Weart retired in 2000 with 41 years of service.

Weart is survived by his wife, Leanne, three children (**Craig Weart '83**, **Brian Weart '78**, and Kathleen Williams), two stepchildren, and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



James "Jim" Joseph Alberts '65

James "Jim" Joseph Alberts '65, an award-winning marine scientist, died on Oct. 25, 2024, in Athens, Georgia.

His lifelong passion for oceanography began with a degree in biology and chemistry from Cornell, where he played football and was a member of Alpha Theta Alpha. He received his master's in organic chemistry from Dartmouth College and his doctorate in chemical oceanography from Florida State University in 1970.

He began his research career at the University of Georgia (UGA) in the zoology department. Later he worked at the Argonne National Laboratory and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. In 1984 Alberts became the director of the UGA Marine Institute at Sapelo Island, serving for 16 years. He retired from the UGA's School of Marine Program in 2003. During his career he authored more than 100 articles in professional journals. He was the recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Senior U.S. Scientist Award and the Fulbright Research Scholar Award.

Both professionally and in retirement he was a world traveler. Since retirement he was able to pursue his interest in history, especially World War II. He was a board member of The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UGA and a frequent presenter. Friends will remember him through his sense of humor and the daily cartoons he shared.

Survivors include his wife, Monika Takacs, and daughter Jill Alberts.



Dean Riesen '79

Dean Riesen '79, a real estate and business developer whose nonprofit Tanzania Water Fund brought clean water to more than 200,000 people, died Nov. 22, 2024, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Riesen grew up in Iowa small towns as a minister's son. Driven to succeed and broaden his horizons, he became an Eagle Scout and a Rotary exchange student in Australia. He majored in economics and business and politics at Cornell, where he met his wife, **Bambi Hull Riesen '82**, and made lifelong friends in Beta Omicron. His liberal arts education propelled him as a lifelong learner who rose early every morning to read and study. He later became a Cornell Trustee and taught two Cornell economics classes.

He and Bambi married in 1982 just before his position with Ramada Inns took them to Dusseldorf, Germany. They moved in 1984 to Minnesota, where Riesen held multiple senior positions for Carlson Group. Later they relocated to Scottsdale, Arizona, where Riesen ran a commercial real estate firm and private equity investment company. After traveling to several African countries, Riesen founded the Tanzania Water Fund. In addition, he served in numerous founder and leadership capacities across business, politics, and philanthropy.

He is survived by his wife, mother, sister, three children and their spouses, and three grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m., June 7, 2025, at Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom, Golden Valley, Minnesota.



Thomas M. Shaw III librarian emeritus

College Librarian Emeritus Thomas M. Shaw III, credited with reorganizing and rebuilding Russell D. Cole Library's collection, died Jan. 26, 2025, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Shaw directed Cole Library for 17 years—from 1982 to 1999—and helped redesign the building for its major 1995 renovation. Although his training was in academic librarianship, Shaw wholeheartedly embraced Cole Library's role in housing the Mount Vernon Public Library, culminating in a successful referendum of tax revenue support for the public library.

Shaw also taught women's studies courses at Cornell on the goddess tradition and on the works of Willa Cather and Virginia Woolf.

As a person who was proud of his Choctaw heritage, he was a scholar of Native American history and served a sabbatical at the Navajo Community College in Arizona. After retiring from Cornell he taught humanities courses at The University of New Mexico-Taos for 19 years. In 2010 he earned his Ph.D. in humanities from the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Prior to Cornell, Shaw was in charge of acquisition at the University of Northern Iowa library for 13 years, following library positions with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., Georgetown University, and Arlington County, Virginia. He held a master of library science degree from the University of Oklahoma, master's degrees in history and literature from the University of Northern Iowa, and a bachelor's degree in history and English from the University of Alabama.

He is survived by his wife, Stephanie Shaw; two daughters; seven sons; and seven grandchildren.

Benjamin Houden '48, Burlingame, California, Aug. 27, 2022

Betty Musso Moles-Specker '48, Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 28, 2024

Eileen Phillips Nielsen '48, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 17, 2024

Grace McNeal Walsh '49, West Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 27, 2024

Betty Cain Boysen '50, Tampa, Florida, Oct. 18, 2024

Virginia Anderson King '50, Ashland, Oregon, Oct. 21, 2024

Jean Douglass Lauderdale '50, Pasadena, California, Aug. 5, 2024

James Swanson '50, Monument, Colorado, Jan. 17, 2025

Marilyn Ellis Bury '51, Flossmoor, Illinois, Nov. 25, 2024

Patricia Parsons Farley '52, Traverse City, Michigan, Nov. 21, 2024

Kenneth Bjorkquist '53, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, July 25, 2024

Carl Dillon '54, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Nov. 23, 2024

William Frei '54, Olympia, Washington, Feb. 6, 2025

Robert J. Anderson '55, Bryan, Texas, Oct. 8, 2024

Marilynn James Etzel '56, Marion, Iowa, Feb. 12, 2025

Galen Peckham '56, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Oct. 1, 2024

John Hausman '57, Waukon, Iowa, Sept. 22, 2024

Patricia "Patsy" Junge Peters Rinz '57, Gladbrook, Iowa, Jan. 6, 2025

John "Jack" Wendt '57, West Dundee, Illinois, Nov. 15, 2024

Richard Paul '58, Oswego, Illinois, Oct. 6, 2024

Ronald Stacy '58, Kirkwood, Missouri, Oct. 29, 2024

Nancy Tyson Mikus '59, Denver, Colorado, Oct. 31, 2024

Mervel Miller '59, Waterford, Wisconsin, Nov. 15, 2024

Martha Baker Phelps '59, Vero Beach, Florida, Dec. 20, 2024

William Lehnhardt '61, Mt. Zion, Illinois, Jan. 15, 2025

June Lieu Phillips '61, Lilburn, Georgia, Feb. 12, 2025

Gail Schaefer Stapert '61, Goode, Virginia, Oct. 5, 2024

Carolyn Melvedt Duncan '62, South Lyon, Michigan, Aug. 24, 2024

Janet Deppey Mitchell '63, Maquoketa, Iowa, Jan. 8, 2025

Janet Hartwell Bonzer '65, Charles City, Iowa, March 18, 2024

Cynthia "Jill" Cherny '65, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Jan. 14, 2025

John Staley '66, Iowa City, Iowa, Sept. 30, 2024

Jean Freeman Echterhoff '67, Shreveport, Louisiana, Dec. 29, 2024

Leslie Carlson Hanson '68, Wayzata, Minnesota, Dec. 19, 2024

Richard Gast '70, Bettendorf, Iowa, Dec. 13, 2024

Susanne Roche Sonik '71, Palos Hills, Illinois, Sept. 16, 2023

Cynthia Seman Hessin '73, Denver, Colorado, Nov. 22, 2024

James "Jamie" Thomas '75, Lincoln, Nebraska, Nov. 5, 2024

Annie Barnes Braland '76, Earlham, Iowa, Oct. 28, 2024

Edith "Edie" Brown '76, Traverse City, Michigan, Dec. 11, 2024

Clanton C.W. Dawson '76, Columbia, Missouri, Nov. 24, 2024

Mary Carr Cotton '77, Palm Coast, Florida, Dec. 14, 2024

Kurt Packingham '77, Center Point, Iowa, Nov. 5, 2024

Kenneth Springer '77, Huntersville, North Carolina, Jan. 5, 2025

Kent Geffe '79, Marshalltown, Iowa, Jan. 16, 2025

Fawn Davidson '83, Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 17, 2024

Scott Pameticky '84, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 17, 2025

Cynthia Ranzau Johnson '93, St. Paul, Minnesota, Dec. 4, 2024

Lois Stein, faculty in Spanish and literature (1973-1984), Phoenix, Arizona, Dec. 5, 2024

Celia "CeCe" Lynch Van Metre, honorary alumna, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 15, 2024