Alumni News



FROM LEFT, five Cornell alumni, including Addie Wallace Morrison '87, Mitch Corcoran '87, Diana Daskalos Corcoran '87, Michelle Krezek '85 (light blue shirt), and Elizabeth Heffernan '88 (purple shirt), along with two friends, completed a 12-day Tour du Mont Blanc. They posed for a photo with the Cornell pennant along the Val Ferret in Italy.

1940s

Fredric Taylor '43, La Mesa, California, who participated in Commencement with the Class of 2023, remains active in veteran-related activities, including Honor Flight San Diego. He was invited to lead the 2025 Fourth of July parade in his World War II Army Air Corps uniform in Rancho Santa Fe, California. He attended the Spirit of '45 luncheon at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. He was interviewed by historians from The National WWII Museum in New Orleans and the San Diego Air & Space Museum for its new P-51 exhibit, featuring the aircraft he flew during WWII. Just two days before Fredric's 104th birthday, he served as a grand marshal in the 2025 San Diego Veterans Day Parade in a car with a 1944 photograph of himself displayed in the background (pictured at right). He also joined veterans aboard the USS Midway Museum and answered questions from the public. Finally, his latest aviation adventure was a tour aboard the Goodyear Blimp.

1950s

Helen Irish Ackerson '54, Keokuk, Iowa, reports that her twin sister, **Dorothy Irish Kelly '54**, died on Nov. 10, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. She taught school in Colorado Springs for much of her professional life. Dorothy and Helen, known as the Irish twins, graduated alongside Helen's husband, **Merlin Ackerson '54**.

Peggy Bohstedt Kahr '58, Loudon, Tennessee, and her husband, Doug, took a Grand Circle riverboat cruise from Paris to Normandy. They also traveled to Abingdon, Virginia, to see "A Few Good Men" at Barter Theatre.

1960s

Joyce Winegarden Templeman '60, West Des Moines, Iowa: "My husband, **Harold Templeman '58,** and I were on campus this summer to see the daylilies in front of Thomas Commons, and I was thrilled, once again, to play the Imperial Bösendorfer piano in Ringer Recital Studio. Thanks to **Tom Hanschman '88** and Cheryl Wery for a nice visit."

Ernie Norris '63, Pittsboro, North Carolina: "On Sept. 6, my wife, Ann, and I were delighted to join **Bill Aossey '63, Fred Axmear '63** and wife, Jane, **Dennis Zuber '63** and wife, Elaine, and **Ron Schnack '63** for lunch at the Millstream Brau Haus in Amana, Iowa. We had a great time catching up and reliving the good old days. I'm also happy to report that everything is well with Ann and me. We are doing fine, with no major health issues to stop our active lives."

Jay Pieper '65, Wayland, Massachusetts, spent the summer in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the mountains and wildlife make it one of Jay's favorite places.

Thomas Reinhard '65, St. Louis, Missouri, joined the Peace Corps and was sent to a Turkish village after graduation from Cornell. When he returned, he married **Carol Monson Reinhard '67**, whom he'd met six weeks before graduation. The plan was to attend graduate school in Philadelphia, but the Vietnam War altered those plans, and he became an artillery officer. Upon discharge, Thomas earned a master's degree in public administration from The Wharton School in Philadelphia and spent a year working in the Philadelphia Finance Department, while Carol finished her master's degree in education. Thomas then took a job as city manager of Clive, Iowa, and they started their family. The couple's two children grew up and became attorneys. Thomas later took a position as vice president of operations for Heritage Communications, which was bought out, ending his employment in 1996. After 30 years, he calls himself a professional retiree.

Holly Hitchcock Wilson '65, Des Plaines, Illinois: "**Dan Wilson '66** and I never invested in vacation property, but we've traveled a lot instead. Italy is still my favorite. Dan is a real train buff, so in 2025 we indulged that love. In August we flew to Victoria, British Columbia, for two days, then ferried to Vancouver for a day, then we hopped on a train for a five-night trip to Toronto. In September we took a Viking River Cruise from Provence to Lyon, France, then transferred to Switzerland for five days of train side trips."

Gerald Beck '66, Shaker Heights, Ohio, retired after 41 years at the Cleveland Clinic. He worked as a biostatistician, primarily leading Data Coordinating Centers for NIH-supported multi-center clinical trials and observational studies of chronic and end-stage kidney disease and, most recently, pulmonary hypertension. Gerald received professional recognition with his designation as a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Society for Clinical Trials. He and his wife, Pam, plan to continue traveling; their last trip was cruising the Norwegian coast on the Hurtigruten Ferry. They also enjoy visiting their two daughters and their families.

Contribute

We love receiving your updates. Submissions may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Submit your news to crnl.co/classnews

In order to provide the most robust alumni news possible, we include news submitted from class agents (unless the alum requests that it only appear in their class letter). Since that news runs first in the class agent letter, some items here may be several months old.





Alumni Board President Justin Futrell '16, Angela Miller '13, Mark Van Etten '76, RJ Holmes-Leopold '99, James Swift '76, Darrell Wheeler '81, President Jonathan Brand (from left).

Cornell proudly honored these alumni during Homecoming

James Swift '76

Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. James "Jim" Swift '76 is an internationally respected oral and maxillofacial surgeon, educator, and researcher. A tenured professor at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, he has authored more than 100 publications and has led major professional organizations in dentistry and surgery. A dedicated mentor, volunteer, and Cornell Trustee, Swift has advanced patient care, dental education, and scientific research throughout a distinguished career.

Darrell Wheeler '81

Distinguished Achievement Award

Darrell Wheeler '81, who has a doctorate in social work, is president of SUNY New Paltz and is a nationally recognized scholar, researcher, and higher education leader. His pioneering work in HIV prevention, health disparities, and social work has influenced national policy and research priorities. A former president of the National Association of Social Workers and member of the U.S. Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, Wheeler has dedicated his career to advancing equity, education, and public health.

Mark Van Etten '76

Leadership and Service Award

Dr. Mark Van Etten '76 earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine and completed family medicine residency training in Rockford, Illinois. He and his wife, Dr. Bev Bohac, joined a small clinic in Spooner, Wisconsin, in 1983, where they spent their entire medical careers. Van Etten has dedicated 50 years of service to Cornell, including 30 years as a class agent and decades of leadership within the Class of 1976, helping classmates stay connected and engaged with one another and the college.

RJ Holmes-Leopold '99

Leadership and Service Award

RJ Holmes-Leopold '99 is a higher education professional, volunteer leader, and passionate advocate for students and alumni. Currently a university gift officer at Hamline University and an Ed.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania, he has dedicated his career to service, mentorship, and educational advancement. Through decades of leadership, community involvement, and enthusiastic support of Cornell College, Holmes-Leopold exemplifies the spirit of a lifelong Cornellian.

Angela Miller '13

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Angela Miller '13 is a high school English teacher, mentor, and youth advocate who creates transformative spaces where students can thrive. In addition to teaching, she advises multiple student organizations, coaches slam poetry, and directs the Fox River Valley Youth Poet Laureate Program. Through her leadership in education, the arts, and student support initiatives, Miller has empowered countless young people to find and share their voices.

Class of 1976 50th Reunion

The Class of 1976 set a new reunion giving record, raising $506,076 for its endowed fund supporting Cornell scholarships. The achievement marks the largest reunion-year contribution by a Cornell class and will support students for years to come.



JOE PHOTO

Class of 1976 reunion planning committee chairs Bill Ebinger, Allan Ruter, Constance Filling, Mark Van Etten, and Nancy Niemann Palmquist (from left).



JOE PHOTO

Andy Ehresman '96, Nicole Duncan '11, Rikki Mulloy Trombley '15, Alex Coolidge '14 (from left).

4 Rams join the Athletics Hall of Fame

Rikki Mulloy Trombley '15

Trombley is Cornell's only basketball player named first-team all-conference four times. The guard is listed 32 times in Cornell's record books, including 1,478 career points, a school record that stands today. She led the Rams to back-to-back Midwest Conference (MWC) regular season championships in 2012–13 and 2013–14, snapping a 31-year conference title drought. Trombley was named Cornell's 2015 Sportswoman of the Year and 2012 First-Year Female Athlete of the Year.

Alex Coolidge '14

Coolidge won the national wrestling championship at 197 pounds on March 15, 2014, becoming Cornell's first NCAA champion in 24 years. He was runner-up at the 2013 NCAA Championships and also qualified for nationals in 2012. Coolidge's career record was 105-32, standing 11th on Cornell's all-time list for winning percentage and 14th in wins. Coolidge was the 2014 Paul K. Scott Senior Male Athlete of the Year and 2013 Junior Male Athlete of the Year.

Nicole Duncan '11

Duncan started all 150 softball games she played as a left-handed outfielder and graduated with 17 school records. Her career records of 200 hits, 51 doubles, 108 RBIs, 314 total bases, and 514 at-bats are untouched today. Duncan scored 120 runs, collected 76 extra-base hits, and compiled a .389 collegiate career batting average. She was Cornell's 2011 Ellen Whale Senior Female Athlete of the Year and 2008 First-Year Female Athlete of the Year.

Andy Ehresman '96

Ehresman was the 1995 MWC South Division Offensive Player of the Year, amassing 3,784 all-purpose yards and 25 touchdowns in his career. He was a member of the 1992 MWC championship team that finished 10-0 and co-captained the 1995 MWC title squad that went 9-1. This running back and return specialist is Cornell's career leader for yards per rush and yards per punt return. Ehresman was celebrated as Cornell's 1996 Paul K. Scott Senior Male Athlete of the Year.

Jim Brown '68, Eldora, Iowa: "I am still trying to retire, but our son-in-law says I am too young, so I'm going to keep working at the Hardin County Savings Bank in Eldora, Iowa, where I grew up. I'm in my 52nd year with the bank that my father purchased in 1965. Gretchen and I have three children and 11 grandchildren who still keep us busy watching all their activities online. This is the only benefit of COVID that we have discovered so far. We spend our winters in Palm Desert, California, and travel to Scotland every year for a few weeks of golf, visiting my Brown family relatives, and eating way too much Scottish food. Blessings to all my classmates, and stay active in mind, body, and soul."

Carol Shiner Wilson '68, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, continues her research, publications, and presentations on Mildred T. "Milly" Johnstone (1900–88), a pioneering fiber artist who was the unconventional wife of a Bethlehem Steel executive and member of many artistic and intellectual circles. In addition to museum presentations, Carol has recently published "Stitching the Steel, Making Peace with the Wolf: The Life and Art of Milly Johnstone" in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, the journal of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and "Celebration and Resistance: The Innovative Needlepoint Art of Mildred T. Johnstone" in PieceWork magazine. Carol is currently working on a biography of Johnstone.

Steven Greenfield '69, Baldwin, New York, and **Mary McComb Greenfield '68** have been married for 56 years. Steven writes, "While at Cornell, we both benefited from study abroad. Last year, we were fortunate enough to create a modest endowed fund, The Global Engagement Fund, to help Cornell students study and experience cultures outside the U.S. We would like to encourage other Cornell alumni who broadened their understanding of the world through off-campus study to support the Global Engagement Fund if you are able."

1970s

WEDDING

Tony Plaut '78 to **Arden Kwan '83**, Aug. 30, 2025

Dennis Cress '71, Iowa City, Iowa: "Over the past year, my wife and I have done a fair amount of traveling to see kids, grandkids, and other relatives, even though we are both working full time. Retirement is still not in the near future."

Susan Yotcoski DeAppolonio '72, Sutton, New Hampshire: "I am happily living in the Lakes Region, where the winters are cold, and the summers are short but glorious. My husband and I love to travel and have enjoyed many Viking Cruises all over Europe as well as escaping to many tropical islands in the winter. Spending time in my garden keeps me fit and feeling young. My other hobby, painting, brings peace and a feeling of accomplishment when I have recreated a view from nature. I love keeping in touch with my Cornell group through monthly Zoom meetings. My years at Cornell were the best!"

Jane Viemeister '72, Janesville, Wisconsin: "After retiring from teaching at Sierra College in northern California in 2020, my wife and I eventually moved to New Hampshire to be near her kids. Three years later, the marriage ended, and I moved to be closer to my brother, Dave, in Janesville. At present, I'm happy in a nice condo, playing jazz keyboard for the Blue Velvets, a senior jazz orchestra Dave directs. My time at Cornell College was the best; such great memories!"

Gail Ann Schultis '73, Parkville, Missouri, serves within the statewide Public Policy Committee for the American Association of University Women of Missouri and participates in the National Public Policy Committee monthly meetings. Since 1881, the organization has worked to address issues affecting the education of girls and women. She notes that the mother of classmate **Doug Smith '73** was also a member of the Parkville branch.

Dave Beck '74, Mason City, Iowa, retired Jan. 1, 2025, after practicing neurosurgery for 40 years. Dave and his wife, Cathy, plan to remain in Mason City.

Jeff Unger '74, Rancho Cucamonga, California, practices diabetology and family medicine. Jeff has also served as the team physician for the Los Angeles Angels baseball team and the World Wrestling Federation.

Steve Anderson '75, Arlington, Virginia, has supported Cornell since he graduated by serving on the Board of Trustees, providing internships to Cornell students, leading fundraising events, and promoting Cornell in the Washington, D.C. area. Steve has announced his retirement as president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) on Dec. 31, 2026, concluding 20 years of service. During his tenure, Steve helped position retail pharmacy as a cornerstone of the national COVID-19 response, working with the White House and federal agencies to enable NACDS members to rapidly scale testing and vaccination nationwide. Prior to NACDS, Steve was president and chief executive officer for two other national trade associations based in Washington, D.C. An internship with his congressman during his junior year at Cornell led to a full-time position on Capitol Hill, launching his career in Washington, D.C.

Laurie O'Connor Cigal '76, Statesboro, Georgia: "Since 2017 I have been ecstatic to welcome three grandchildren. My husband of almost 23 years, Chris, and I recently downsized from a 2,700-square-foot home to a 980-square-foot apartment. I continue to serve as a Spanish and Haitian Creole interpreter for my church's annual medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic. I was sworn in a year ago as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the court system. I can't believe this year marks our class's 50th reunion!"

Jeff Gall '76, Saint Peters, Missouri, retired as a professor of history at Truman State University in 2016. As a retirement job, Jeff accepted a position teaching high school history at Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, alongside his English-teaching son. Jeff says, "I thought this would be something to enjoy for three or four years, but this is my 10th year. My son is now our academic dean—and my boss—as well as my carpool partner. I never dreamed I would be a high school teacher in my 70s, but I hope to keep doing this for several more years. It's very life-giving, and it's great to tell people I am 72 and still driving my kid to school!"

John Guthmann '76, Saint Paul, Minnesota: "On Dec. 3, 2025, Minnesota Chief Justice Natalie Hudson surprised me with the presentation of the Chief Justice Award at the annual Minnesota Conference of Judges. The award was given for exemplary leadership and advocacy in strengthening the Judicial and Court Staff Safety and Privacy Act."

David Welter '76, Cedar Falls, Iowa, published his second book, "Reflections from the Home Team … Staying Positive When Life Throws You a Curve!" The book focuses on positivity and hope in the face of life's challenges, using analogies inspired by his experiences as a Cornell student-athlete to show how people can navigate difficult times. The cover features a photograph of David with his Cornell baseball coach, John Paulsen, during a game against Coe College.

Thomas Durham '77, Scottsdale, Arizona, was defeated for reelection to the Scottsdale City Council in 2024 but is enjoying the extra time by traveling and bicycling. He was diagnosed with myeloma in early 2024, but the care he received from Mayo Hospital and a stem cell transplant in April 2025 allowed him to continue with a bike tour in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway in August 2025 and a World War I history tour in October 2025. He also biked through Greece in May 2026 and has trips planned for New Zealand, Ireland, the Dordogne region of France, and a Seine River Cruise with his wife, **Martha Hemenway Durham '78.** He also completed RAGBRAI with the Cornell team in July 2026. He continues to serve as a Trustee of Cornell and as the chair of the Audit and Risk Assessment Committee. Since retiring as an Episcopal deacon, Martha has kept busy quilting and occasionally helping with church services.

Tony Plaut '78, Petaluma, California, reports that since he retired from Cornell, he and his wife **Arden Kwan '83** have been splitting their time between Portland, Oregon, and Petaluma, California, where he has built an art studio and workshop outfitted with woodworking, welding, and pottery facilities. In January 2025, he had a two-person show at the IceHouse Gallery titled "A Closer Look." He has gained a reputation locally for being able to create and repair pretty much anything, earning him the moniker "Mr. Fixie."



1980s

Dee Ann Rexroat '82, Iowa City, Iowa, and **Dennis Schertz '82**, North Hudson, Wisconsin, are the new Class Agents for the Class of 1982. They want to thank **Britt LaBissoniere '82** and **Tammie Frost-Norton '82** for their years of serving the class through letters, updates, and reunion planning. They encourage their class to join the Facebook page "Cornell College Class of '82," and consider returning to the Hilltop in the fall of 2027 for the 45th reunion.

Melissa Wood '82, Barrington, Illinois, reports that she is not ready to retire, so she relaunched her company into the world of global brand licensing. "After exhibiting at the International Licensing Expo in Las Vegas and then in London at the Brand Licensing Expo, I've netted global deals with a large giftware company and a partnership with some hip British agents. Working hand in hand with my creative son, Noel, we're out to land M. Wood Illustrations on goods sold throughout the world. And nods as ever to my daughters, Hallie and Corey, for rooting for us and adding top-notch editing and art direction advice. It takes a family, and I'm having an incredible time. I'm also a gramma to a curly-headed lad called Parker."

Arden Kwan '83, Petaluma, California, retired in 2022 after 25 years as a legal advocate for the elderly. Since then, she has co-directed two operas and a musical for Cinnabar Theater, Spreckels, and Pocket Opera in San Francisco, California. She also continues to sing and play ukulele for the Rivertown Skifflers, who play upbeat jug band music. She and her husband, **Tony Plaut '78**, split their time between Petaluma, California, and Portland, Oregon, where Arden enjoys time with her three grandchildren.

Karen Yanko Morrissey '83, Dallas, Texas: "My husband, **Greg Morrissey '82**, is still fighting the effects of surviving stage four cancer three times. On a happy note, Greg retired after teaching for 20 years. Our daughter was promoted to be a property manager for two high-rise commercial properties in Texas. I am still teaching history at an urban middle school in Dallas and waiting to win the lottery so I can retire also."

Brian Patterson '83, Fishers, Indiana, was commissioned as a licensed lay minister at Trinity Wesleyan Church. Brian provides pastoral care to members, especially homebound individuals who can no longer attend church, a role he finds fulfilling in retirement.

Andrew Ramos '83, Chicago, Illinois, is a certified Romana's Pilates instructor at Endeavor Health Galter Life Center in Chicago. He has been teaching Pilates for 10 years.

Dianne Hugh Freeze '85, Freeport, Illinois, traveled to South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, and Bulgaria during the second half of 2025. She reported that she spent the first part of 2026 in New Zealand, "trying to live like a local."

Michelle Krezek '85, Estes Park, Colorado, along with **Addie Wallace Morrison '87**, **Maureen Johnson '87**, **Diana Daskalos Corcoran '87**, **Liana Overley Allison '89**, and **Elizabeth Heffernan '88** gathered in New Hampshire over MLK weekend. They had fun in the snow and enjoyed hiking, drinking wine, and visiting with kids.

Patrick Bailey '86, Rockford, Illinois: "I've just passed the 33-year mark at my job with Rock County Human Services. I'm a social worker in a community program that treats adults with severe and persistent mental illness, helping people to live as independently as possible while keeping symptoms under control and ensuring they have the support they need. I'm looking at retirement in about three years, a mark my wife Kallie passed at the turn of the year."

Patty Helland '86, Nashville, Tennessee: "I was so excited to be back on campus for Block 6 teaching a Human Resources Management class. Even though it was exceptionally cold in February, it was fun to walk to class every day and be part of campus life again. It was especially great to spend quality time with my daughter, **Maggie Helland '26**. I plan to teach the same class again next year."

Ben Miller '86, Brooklyn, New York, reports that his novel, "The Parade," was released by April Gloaming Publishing, an independent press based in Nashville, Tennessee. The book wrangles with themes of corporate greed, the meaning of individuality in America, and the power of love in opposition to the rituals of state-sanctioned persecution.

Christopher Nelson '87, Batavia, Illinois: "After spending nearly 18 years in journalism and 17 years in public sector communications work, I am semi-retired and working part-time at Trader Joe's. I was diagnosed last year with ADHD, which explains my academic concerns while at Cornell. I continue to work through issues associated with ADHD and anxiety while I lay the foundation for life's next chapter. My son is a recent graduate of Xavier University in Cincinnati, and my daughter is a high school senior."

Gretchen Liebenow Buchmeyer '88, Houston, Texas: "What happens when 15 Cornell women turn 60? They go to Cabo! Some of us were already close friends from our Cornell or post-Cornell experience, while others were acquaintances. By the end of this trip, we formed newer, deeper, and sweeter friendships. We are all grateful that a small college on a hilltop brought us together, and for the strength and resiliency of each one of us. Women of the block plan—we can do anything. Cheers to 60!"

Susan Reiter Cloud '88, Ames, Iowa, retired from Iowa State University after 13 years with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.

Tom Hanschman '88, Cary, Illinois: "I returned to the Hilltop in May of 2022 as the Director of Planned Giving. What a privilege it is to work with fellow alumni and all friends of the college on strategizing about their giving to the college. My wife Kim and I became first-time grandparents in April of 2025 with the birth of our beautiful grandson. His mom and dad are proud Luther College grads, but we think he just might embrace the block plan as a future member of the Cornell College Class of 2047!"

Elaine Hayes-Reitz '88, Iowa City, Iowa, reports that her first grandchild was born in July of 2025. Elaine spent a few weeks in the San Francisco area, helping the new mom and dad and bonding with the baby.

Brenda McLearn-Montz '88, Pleasant Hill, Iowa: "I have worked with AHEPA Senior Living since July 2021. I started at a 60-unit building in Johnston, Iowa. We opened a new 90-unit building on Des Moines' south side in 2025. I transferred there just before the building opened and was tasked with filling the building in less than three months. We were 100% full by Oct. 31, 2025. It was a lot of work and shows a need for low-income housing, especially among our senior population of age 62 and older."

Catherine Quehl-Engel '89, Mount Vernon, Iowa, co-exhibited her spiritual landscape paintings in a show titled "Via Creativa: Art As Spiritual Practice" at Divine Word College's Weyland Art Gallery.

Candace Taylor Woods '89, Geneseo, Illinois: "My husband and I are empty nesters now that our young son is in the Air Force. We recently moved from the city to the country with five acres and our four furbabies. I celebrated over 17 years at Brooks Law Firm."

1990s

Jane Rodriguez-Javier '90, Tampa Bay, Florida, was recently promoted to executive director of global regulatory affairs for Sol de Janeiro USA, a Brazilian-inspired beauty brand. Jane lives in the Tampa Bay area with her husband and adult son and is a proud grandmother.

Kevin Kahler '91, Iowa City, Iowa, recently completed his 33rd year of teaching history at Regina High School. Kevin also coaches golf and seventh-grade girls basketball. In addition, Kevin traveled to Alaska with **Jeff Brown '90** for a salmon-fishing trip.

Constance Ross Kuntz '91, Rockford, Illinois, is the creative director of Naked Angels Tuesdays@9 Chicago, the longest-running cold reading series in the United States. Every Tuesday from September through May, writers and actors gather at Chicago Dramatists at 9 p.m. to test new writing in front of a live audience.

Jodi Enger Marquith '91, Leesburg, Virginia: "I launched a new business, Craftail, which is a social craft event hosted at unique venues, wineries, breweries, restaurants, and homes. I create themed crafts that are completed in an evening, along with cocktails and mingling. Realtor by day, crafter by night. On the family front, our son is going into his sophomore year of high school and is excelling as part of the NJROTC (Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps) program. He is hoping to attend the Naval Academy and fly. He had the opportunity to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, where they train astronauts. We loved seeing a Space Shuttle Discovery mission patch from **David Hilmers '72,** who has been an inspiration to Ethan."

Miika Betterton Busick '92, Pleasantville, Iowa, is in her 30th year of teaching at Pleasantville Elementary, where she also serves as a model/mentor teacher and is the high school dance team coach. Her daughter, Paige Busick, is the Cornell College Dance Team coach and, for the first time in school history, led the team to placings in all three DII/DIII categories—hip-hop, jazz, and pom—at the Iowa State Dance and Drill Team Association Championships.

Angie Hegel Becker '95, Clear Lake, Iowa, finished and published her first book, "Midlife Musings: Poetry, Thoughts & Stories from the Road."

Mark McDermott '95, Fairfax, Iowa: "I am currently the associate dean for undergraduate education and educator preparation at the University of Iowa. I get to oversee our teacher education and other undergraduate programs. I enjoy helping prepare the next generation of educators and still rely on much I learned from professors Gayle Luck, Dick Peters, and many others at Cornell."

Tom Webster '96, Colville, Washington, was appointed to the Superior Court for Stevens, Pend Oreille, and Ferry Counties in Washington. He has 25 years of experience as a lawyer and founded the Webster Law Office in 2009.

Nicole Tuma Cornell '98, Northfield, Minnesota, is teaching in the Master of Marketing program at the University of Minnesota Carlson. In her first year of teaching, she was recognized as one of the outstanding faculty of the year. Nicole notes, "I would be happy to speak with any Cornell undergrads who are interested in a future in marketing."

Jennifer Murphy Kephart '98, Liberty, Missouri, was named the new superintendent for Liberty Public Schools near Kansas City, Missouri.

Jen Klein O'Keefe '98, Morehead, Kentucky, is the recipient of the 2025 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award. The award is the highest honor of The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) given to a person distinguished in a scientific discipline of significance in recognition of their contributions to research, service to TSOP, and education. In addition, Jen was named department chair of Engineering Sciences at Morehead State University after a national search.

Kelly Cook Byrd '99, Cambria, Illinois, reports that on Jan. 31, 2026, she, **Andrea Aga Lentini '99**, and **Emily Lombard '00** set out to obtain weather information from "the most unique and trusted source this country has to offer: Punxsutawney Phil." They spent Feb. 1 getting to know the community, and on Feb. 2, they arrived at Gobbler's Knob at around 3:30 a.m. Thanks to their VIP passes, they secured a spot right in the front. Kelly recalls, "President Dunkel knocked on the door three times with his cane, and Phil's handler sprang into action ... Phil indeed saw his shadow. Six more months of winter were declared!"

Sarah MacGregor Hays '99, Santa Clara, California, received her Doctorate of Education in social justice leadership from Santa Clara University in June 2025. Her dissertation, "Words and Actions: A Critical Discourse Analysis of DEI Discourse and Practice at Jesuit Universities," examines the relationship between institutional language and practice.

RJ Holmes-Leopold '99, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, was elected to a two-year term on the District V Cabinet for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), effective July 1, 2026. Cabinet members oversee awards, scholarships, regional conferences, and member engagement for District V, the Great Lakes District, encompassing Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, serving more than 400 member institutions. RJ was also selected as a Leadership Fellow for LGBTQ Leaders in Higher Education. With backgrounds in the humanities and humanistic social sciences, Leadership Fellows participate in the annual Leadership Institute and benefit from mentorship by senior leaders.

2000s

WEDDINGS

Emily Jacobsen '06 to Greg Stoltz, Sept. 6, 2025

Marja Sainio '06 to **Dustin Waite '06**, May 13, 2026

BIRTHS

Nora Elizabeth Kraus, June 26, 2026, to **Brian Kraus '04** and Jeanine Kraus

Madeline Maria Osinovskiy, April 2026, to **Alexandra Myers '05** and Misha Osinovskiy

Marcel Ajani Moore, Jan. 13, 2026, to **Darrielle O'Neal '07** and Eric L. Moore Jr.

Landry Russel Lair, Nov. 14, 2025, to **Emili Vondrak Lair '08** and Wayne Lair

Justena Cox Berry '00, Nixa, Missouri: "I've been traveling quite a bit. We spent a week in Orlando for AAU Volleyball Nationals, then drove to Virginia Beach, where my 16-year-old son, Camden, and his teammate won USAV Beach Nationals. At the end of July 2025, we visited a few colleges before Camden attended the National Team Development Program at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California. God willing, he will play beach volleyball for Team USA in the 2032 Olympics! The all-in mentality I developed at Cornell has helped not just my career, but more importantly, in my home."

Noel Blaha '01, Akron, Ohio, was named the president and general manager of the Akron RubberDucks, the Double-A affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians. The 2026 season marked Noel's 21st year in minor league baseball. He previously worked for the Charleston RiverDogs in South Carolina and Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp in Florida.

Stephanie Palmer '01, Atlanta, Georgia: "I was laid off from my job on a project to eliminate neglected tropical diseases that was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) after the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) dismantled the agency. After months of looking, I relocated from Washington, D.C., to Atlanta, Georgia, to work for The Carter Center."

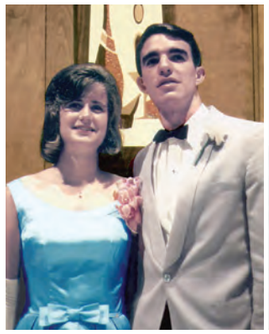
Joel White '01, Austin, Texas: "Just wanted to give a shoutout to all the Cornellians. Keep up the good work, be nice to each other, and don't forget to message an old classmate once in a while."

Lindsey Mesner Weatherford '02, Sedalia, Missouri, graduated from Arkansas State University with an educational doctorate in educational leadership in December 2024 and began exploring career opportunities as she transitioned away from college coaching. In November 2025, she accepted the position of director of student services at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Lindsey and her family have since relocated there. Her son is joining the middle school's nationally recognized robotics team as a fifth grader, and her daughter is looking forward to starting kindergarten.

Elizabeth Ashe '04, Washington, D.C.: "I opened an art gallery with a best friend! Ashe & Norton is a display space gallery in Glover Park, a northwest neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Yes, I haven't quit my day job at American University. Yes, I am keeping as much time as possible for my studio practice. Ashe & Norton is our way to bring two sides of our community together—neighbors and artists."



Emily Jacobsen Stoltz '06 and Greg Stoltz celebrated their wedding on Sept. 6, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri. Delta Phi Delta alums in attendance from left: Nicole Soboleski '06, Jenny Tran Van Kerckhove '06, Mira Hoffman '08, Emily Jacobsen Stoltz '06, Liza Smith '08, Megan Draeger Parra '05, Lauren Kott '06.





Then-and-now photos show Thomas Reinhard '65 and Carol Monson Reinhard '67, who met six weeks before Thomas graduated from Cornell.



From Cornell to Cabo, several Cornellians met to celebrate long-lasting friendships and 60th birthdays. Front row from left: Jennifer Howland '90, Susan Alter Stoveall '88, Deb Logan '88, Amanda Woods '88, Sue Caponi Arvidson '88, and Kathy Davey '88. Back row: Jill Westercamp Catus '89, Diane Sergeant Ramsey '88, Debra Kirchner Buckles '88, LaDonna Sloan '88, Susan Burdick Perry '88, Maureen Johnson '87, Liana Overley Allison '89, Gretchen Liebenow Buchmeyer '88, and Audrey Roman Bregman '88.



Roberta Woker Reed '57 celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 10, 2026. Her daughter, Emily Su Reed '91, and Emily's best friend, Alison Smith '91, honored Roberta with a surprise afternoon tea, a special cake, and a corsage.



Celebrating their 52-year bond, these Class of 1978 friends reunited in Montreal, Canada, this April. Pictured from left: Janet Heger Larson '78, Nancy Currie Barnes '78, Cindy Polson-Rubenstein '78, Paula Krahn Merkle '78, Dena Baugh Banker '78, Lisa Koenig Reitzel '78, and Eileen Storz-Salino '78.



MaryJo Schmidt '20 married Ray Weishan in a ceremony in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in February of 2025. Front row from left: Annika Leitch Lodge '19, Kamryn Hogan '20, Mia McCoy '22, David Pollicita '19, Ylana Padgett '19, Meredith Whisenhunt '18. Back row from left: Julien Moisan '22, Trisha Dube '22, Matt Stoll '20, MaryJo Schmidt Weishan '20, Mia Farinas '20, Katie Alvarez '20, Rose Sanchez '21, Caitlin Turberville '20, Rosie Hernandez '21, Will Dragon '21.



Marja Sainio '06 and Dustin Waite '06 were married at City Hall in San Francisco in May of 2026.



Natalie Zenk '25 and Julian Skosey-LaLonde '25 are engaged to be married. The two met during their first few weeks of freshman year, dated throughout college, and walked the graduation stage together. Now, they're both working on their master's degrees and are planning a 2028 wedding.



Angie Freund Bennett '95 (left) recently visited with Kristin Arnold Farr '92 (center) and Carrie Tucek Babcox '94 in Guam, where Angie is currently living. The three met in Japan before traveling to Guam.



Nell Rosenthal '20 married Evan Champine in Arcadia, Michigan, on June 6, 2026, with many alums in attendance. Pictured from left: Lindsay Smith '21, Cali Pfleger '20, Evan Champine, Nell Rosenthal '20, Ellie Nestingen '22, Kathryn Edmond '20, and Lily Dahlstrom '20.



A dozen Cornellians were among the many guests who gathered at the home of Arden Kwan '83 and Professor Emeritus of Studio Art Tony Plaut '78 in Petaluma, California, to celebrate their marriage. Front row from left: Eli Wade-Scott '10, Tony Plaut '78, Arden Kwan '83, Michael Polydoris '90. Second row: Loni Hanson Eid '84, Laurie McAndish King '77, Sean Minear '84. Third row: Margaret Harger Wilch '79, Erin Daly '12, Todd Szwajkowski '91. Fourth row: Marc Morton '83 and Jeff Courtman '77.



From left: Kelly Cook Byrd '99, Andrea Aga Lentini '99, and Emily Lombard '00 fulfilled a longtime dream of trekking up to Gobbler's Knob to see Punxsutawney Phil make his weather prediction, spending Groundhog Day 2026 in Pennsylvania.



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Brian Kraus '04, Olathe, Kansas, earned an MBA with distinction, including certificates in leadership, strategy, and business fundamentals from the University of Iowa.

Addy Free '05, Minneapolis, Minnesota: "I recently met up with **Kris Longley-Postema '06** in Santa Fe, where we discussed ways to support the Cornell Theatre Department as alumni."

Alexandra Myers '05, San Diego, California, and her husband Misha Osinovskiy are celebrating the birth of Madeline Maria Osinovskiy. Alexandra notes, "Uncle **Marc Myers '05** and his wife Kristin Myers are happy to visit!"

Holly Davis '06, Minneapolis, Minnesota: "I have been in Minneapolis for almost six years now and have been enjoying connecting more with fellow Cornellians. This past fall I participated in the Career Center's program that brings students to workplaces in the Twin Cities. Last year I was promoted to chief operating officer at Eko, an international nonprofit campaigning on various corporate accountability topics. I spend my workdays steeped in nonprofit finance, HR, and operations. I also continue to take on the occasional digital security projects with my consulting business and serve as treasurer for the nonprofit board of my kids' school. My kids—3 and 5 years old—soak up most of my time with adventuring, building, and cars."

Lydia Brock '07, Houston, Texas: "I graduated in December 2025 with my MBA from Sam Houston State University with a concentration in supply chain and project management. In December 2025 I was promoted to executive director of supply chain at Imperative Chemical Partners."

Darrielle O'Neal '07, Jacksonville, Florida, completed a master's degree in a general psychology program in 2024 and became a co-occurring discharge planner in May 2025.

Emili Vondrak Lair '08, Estherville, Iowa, is celebrating five years with Synergy eTherapy as a licensed mental health counselor. She provides telehealth counseling to individuals and couples across Iowa and Minnesota.

Charlie Thurston '08, Providence, Rhode Island, made his Broadway debut in the critically acclaimed production of "Liberation" at the James Earl Jones Theatre. He and his castmates won the Drama Desk Award for best ensemble for the Off-Broadway run.

Leslie Tweeton Behaunek '09, Norwalk, Iowa, joined the Drake University Law School faculty as a tenure-track professor after more than a decade in private practice in the litigation department at Nyemaster Goode.

Desiree Clark '09, Coralville, Iowa, has worked as an agent for John Raley Agency—American Family Insurance in Iowa City for nearly 12 years. Desiree and her husband recently bought a house after a five-year-long search. Desiree says: "I loved my time at Cornell and in Mount Vernon. I often visit the town and college. While on campus, I was a member of Rho Zeta Omicron, Cornell Coalition for Change, and Sustained Dialogue. My sorority sister and best friend, **Erin Casey '09**, and I hang out often and are still best friends almost 21 years later."

Brianna Medrano '09, California, Missouri, was recently promoted to the position of Breath Alcohol Program manager for the state of Missouri.

Nic Wondra '09, Albuquerque, New Mexico: "I'm currently working at Sandia National Laboratories' Threat Assessment Group. Additionally, I have completed my thesis project for my master's degree program in systems engineering at Johns Hopkins University. My thesis, "Leveraging Radio Frequency Interferometric Techniques for a Cooperative Space-Based Space Domain Awareness System: A Systems Engineering Analysis," investigated the use of satellites to detect and track objects in real time. I recently submitted my thesis and was accepted by the IEEE Aerospace Conference to present the research."

2010s

WEDDINGS

Kayla Prestel '12 to David Walker, Feb. 22, 2025

Jackie Havens '14 to Bryan Oldham, Sept. 6, 2025

Fiona Flynn '16 to Julia Moore, Oct. 11, 2025

Jess Reed '16 to **Katherine Uhlenkamp '16**, May 13, 2026

Sabine Hahn '18 to Patryck Michalik, 2025

Kandis O'Donnell '19 to Spencer Schmitz, Nov. 1, 2025

BIRTH

Lukas Elliott Camilleri, Feb. 22, 2026, to **Oriana Henney Camilleri '18** and Kyle Camilleri

Shire Feingold '11, New Hartford, Connecticut, recently began a new role as senior director of development at Hollins University, a small women's liberal arts school in Virginia. She serves on the senior leadership team and plays a key role in advancing the university's fundraising efforts. She says she's grateful for the foundation Cornell provided as she continues this work to support the uplifting of women's voices and the transformative power of a liberal arts education.

Kayla Prestel '12, New York, New York: "After managing Drunk Shakespeare in New York City for nearly three years, I have transitioned to the new role of performing arts center manager at Hostos Center for Arts and Culture, affiliated with Hostos Community College, a City University of New York college. I'm thrilled to be bringing dance, theatre, music, and studio art to the Bronx community. On a personal note, David and I will be celebrating our first wedding anniversary."

Kalissa Holdcraft Kleine '13, Omaha, Nebraska, is a partner at KCD Legal Partners, LLC, a boutique firm that specializes in tax credit and impact finance for community development projects.

Justin Pothast '13, Phoenix, Arizona: "As a first-generation college attendee in the fall of 2009, I had worries of what to expect with college life. Choosing Cornell was the best decision I made. The relationships I built while at Cornell were incredible. I would encourage any future educator to consider Cornell. The faculty in the education department are difference makers. After graduation, I moved to Arizona to begin my teaching career. I am going into my 14th year of teaching public school in the Phoenix metro area. I have taught nine years of self-contained fifth grade and five years of fifth grade math. I married my wife in the fall of 2018, and we have two beautiful daughters. I love Cornell College and go Rams!"

Jackie Havens '14, Dacono, Colorado: "I got married in Loveland, Colorado, on Sept. 6, 2025, to Bryan Oldham. **Virginia Boyles '13** was our wedding officiant!"

Matt Jones '14, Prague, Czech Republic, has transitioned out of a 10-year career in writing and marketing and is now a fine-dining chef. He remains based in Prague.

MacKenzie Dreeszen Rutter '14, Ankeny, Iowa, accepted a position as an administrative assistant with Iowa State University's Virtual Reality Application Center (VRAC) in Ames, Iowa. VRAC is an interdisciplinary research center that advances the use of virtual reality, augmented reality, and other immersive technologies in fields such as engineering, agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare.

Roman Meyers '15, Grinnell, Iowa, started working at Grinnell College as an assistant director of annual giving.

Fiona Flynnmoore '16, Charlottesville, Virginia, earned a master's degree in agriculture and life sciences from Virginia Tech in May 2026.

Sanjuanita Martinez '16, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: "Amid tornado sirens, we welcomed our daughter, Xiomara Ava Martinez-Mason, on Nov. 4, 2024. In 2024 I also completed the Oklahoma City Memorial Half Marathon. I recently celebrated two years as an assistant federal public defender in the Western District of Oklahoma."

Jess Reed '16, Chicago, Illinois, and **Katherine Uhlenkamp '16** were married on May 13, 2026. They were each other's first and only roommates starting their freshman year at Cornell.

Aubrey Kohl '17, Des Moines, Iowa, graduated in May 2025 from Drake Law School with a Juris Doctor and officially became a licensed Iowa attorney in September of 2025.

Carly Pierson '17, Kenai, Alaska, graduated in spring 2025 with her Master of Science degree in environmental science and policy from Northern Arizona University. She is living in Alaska with her husband.

Mallory Turner '17, Salem, Oregon, graduated with her Master of Social Work in advanced generalist practice from Pacific University Oregon. Her focus is on working with geriatric and aging adults and veterans.

Sabine Hahn '18, Boostedt, Germany: "After completing my Ph.D., I moved into translational lupus research as a postdoc at UMass Medical School in the Ramirez-Ortiz Lab. Following my postdoctoral training, I decided to pursue my long-standing passions for patient advocacy and patient engagement. Thanks to Cornell's alumni network—**RJ Holmes-Leopold '99** and **Dana Dahl Touzelet '81**—I was able to make a move to pursue this passion and move closer to family. I am now based in Germany, working as a senior patient engagement manager with Patvocates, a patient-led think tank that collaborates with international partners to strengthen meaningful patient involvement across research, policy, and healthcare systems. Additionally, I recently married my partner, Patryck Michalik, whom I met during graduate school and who uprooted his life to move across the ocean so I could pursue my dream career."

Jessica Meis '19, Naperville, Illinois, received a Master of Arts Management from Columbia College Chicago in 2023. She is now working at Batavia Depot Museum, where she received the Museum Professional of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums, which also gave her a 2025 IAM Award of Excellence in Exhibits for her exhibit "Markets and Meals." Jessica also serves on a couple of nonprofit boards in the museum field, including as president of the National Emerging Museum Professionals Network and board member of the Kane DuPage Regional Museum Association.

Samantha Nadel '19, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduated with a Ph.D. in anthropology from Boston University.

2020s

WEDDINGS

Nell Rosenthal '20 to Evan Champine, June 6, 2026

MaryJo Schmidt '20 to Ray Weishan, Feb. 1, 2025

MaryJo Schmidt Weishan '20, Minneapolis, Minnesota, graduated with her Master of Public Health in behavioral, social, and health education sciences from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She has since relocated back to the Twin Cities and is working in housing and homeless services in Ramsey County.

Madeleine Koenigsberg '21, Conifer, Colorado, is a proud aunt of her niece and nephew. She notes that her cat, Toaster, is as sweet as ever.

Brena Levy '21, Prairie Village, Kansas, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in May 2025. She went on to pass the Uniform Bar Exam with a score that allows her to practice in any jurisdiction. Brena is now a public defender at the Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services. In her free time, she is the head coach of the University of Kansas undergraduate mock trial team.

Olivia Spindle '21, Chicago, Illinois: "The independent bookstore I work for, the Book Cellar in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood, successfully voted to unionize in December of 2025. In 2026 we are looking forward to bargaining and negotiating our union's contract."

Madeleine Althoff '22, Stillwater, Minnesota, is starting at the University of St. Thomas to pursue a master's degree in art history and a certificate in museum studies.

Allison Colvard '22, Phoenix, Arizona, is finishing her master's in nursing and started doctoral studies in nursing for family nurse practitioner this fall.

Megan Garrison '22, Chicago, Illinois, has been with Northwestern's Havey Institute for Global Health for almost two years and was promoted to education program coordinator in December of 2025.

Justyna Kruczalak Grisamore '22, Lindenhurst, Illinois, married **Robert Grisamore '22** on Aug. 11, 2025, and honeymooned across the Hawaiian Islands. Justyna earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Calgary through the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and is currently helping with the insect collection at the Field Museum.

María Thiele '22, Roselle, Illinois, has started teaching second grade. María recently got engaged and is planning the wedding.

Lauren Williams '22, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: "I started my political consulting firm, which I named after my dog, Atlas Political Consulting. This last year I had a 100% success rate and got all of my clients elected. I'm excited for 2026 and hoping to grow and continue to win."

Lily Hartney '23, Plano, Texas, was promoted in June 2025 to be a technology, innovation, and automation analyst at Toyota Headquarters. Lily says, "I am officially a product owner over multiple software platforms. I am fortunate to be leading many business conversations that embrace creativity, address challenges, and enable AI, with a human-in-the-middle approach."

Henry Morray '23, Bettendorf, Iowa, was interviewed by The Daily Iowan after winning the 2025 Slamovision Poetry Slam competition—a UNESCO International Cities of Literature competition—in Iowa City for the second time on the city stage. He was later interviewed by The (Cedar Rapids) Gazette when, in November of 2025, he went on to represent Iowa City on the international stage and compete against 16 other UNESCO International Cities of Literature and win, becoming the first-ever winner from the U.S. and the 2025 Slamovision Global Champion. In April 2026 Henry also won the Iowa Poetry Association State Slam and will go on to represent the IPA on the National Stage at The Blackberry Peach National Poetry Slam, where poets across the country will compete for a cash prize and a chance to represent the U.S. in Tokyo, Japan, in 2027.

Nathan Segelke '23, Mountain View, California: "Since graduating with my B.A. in behavioral neuroscience, I have been exploring the varied careers available in psychology and decided to pursue healthcare. As a phlebotomy lab technician, I hoped to round out my degree with more lab and patient care experience, receiving my CPT-1 (Certified Phlebotomy Technician) certification and California license. I accumulated the clinical hours for my license through an externship at Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, where I completed 325 successful venipuncture blood draws. This year I started my new career as a transcranial magnetic stimulation technician, primarily treating patients suffering from major depressive disorder."

Madison Wauters '23, Waukee, Iowa: "Since graduation, I have continued building my career at F&G, where I first joined as an intern in 2022 and transitioned into a full-time business systems analyst after graduation. I have been leading work on the replacement of our call center software and enterprise phone system. Recently, I transitioned to a new team focused on data products, where I am very excited to take on a new challenge that will help make me more of a well-rounded IT career professional. In addition to my professional work, I was selected to participate in the Technology Association of Iowa's Tech Connect Program, which supports emerging leaders in technology. I was also honored to be named a finalist for the Prometheus Awards' Next Gen Tech Professional of the Year for the state of Iowa, a recognition that reflects both my technical contributions and my passion for driving meaningful change through technology."

Luke Henson '24, East Moline, Illinois, was the Jeopardy! champion for Thursday, March 12, 2026. He was the only contestant to correctly respond to the Iowa-themed Final Jeopardy clue, bringing his winning total to $16,798: "The Iowa legislature passed a resolution declaring February 22, 2024, her day across the state." Luke's response: "Who is Caitlin Clark?"

Jayden Knapp '24, Bemidji, Minnesota, relocated from Mount Vernon to Bemidji to work as an athletic equipment manager for all of Bemidji State University's Division II sports. Jayden also oversees student equipment managers and internships for the university's sport management degree. Jayden says, "I'm in quite a different role than I was at Cornell, working as a student manager for the football team, but I feel it uniquely prepared me for working in the realm of DII sports."

Ryan Zurick '24, Dresden, Germany, finished his post-baccalaureate research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, specifically at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He studied the Ghrelin system, commonly known as the hunger hormone, and the role it plays in the human body. He moved to Dresden, Germany, this fall, where he accepted a Ph.D. position to study cell membranes and their role in regulating guanine crystal biogenesis using zebrafish in Rita Mateus' lab at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics.

Eddie Banda '25, Tiffin, Iowa, is working as a research assistant at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine while continuing his role at Integrated DNA Technologies. He is currently involved in translational biomedical research investigating new therapeutic approaches for multiple sclerosis. The project has the potential to advance the overall understanding of the disease and identify targets that may contribute to future therapies, which he says makes it especially exciting.

Jackson Gonzales '25, Lexington, Kentucky, graduated from Marine Corps Officer Candidate School as a second lieutenant and is attending The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia.

Natalie Zenk '25, Springfield, Illinois, has been accepted into the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Archaeological Materials Science program. She will be traveling from Portugal to Greece to Italy for the duration of the two-year program.

Delaney Barfels '26, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is working in the Disney College Program until January of 2027. At that time, Delaney plans to begin subbing until she secures a full-time teaching position.

Jack Carlson '26, Morgantown, West Virginia, is working as a news anchor and multimedia reporter for MetroNews, a radio network.

Ava Claussen-Tubbs '26, Anamosa, Iowa, has started a job as a marketing and research coordinator at GLD Commercial in Cedar Rapids.

Genny Davis '26, Marion, Iowa, is living in Suffolk, England, for a year, volunteering at a youth service center and traveling.

Anna Dewitt '26, Adair, Iowa, is working for the Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research.

Ashley Drake '26, Tucson, Arizona, is working at Walt Disney World as a College Program cast member.

Olivia Dudziak '26, Bloomington, Minnesota, is working as an ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) services coordinator at a center for children with autism.

Abby Girman '26, Elgin, Illinois, is attending the University of Illinois Chicago. She is studying for her master's in social work, specializing in mental health and women's studies.

Bayley Hancox '26, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is attending grad school at the University of Northern Iowa to earn a master's in clinical mental health counseling.

Aubrey Hendrickson '26, Bloomington, Minnesota, is on the Ph.D. track at Tiffin University, where she will get her Master of Science in psychology and then go on to a Ph.D. in neuropsychology.

Carson King '26, Iowa City, Iowa, is working with Centro, Inc. in North Liberty as a cost accountant.

Alyza Koppes '26, Ely, Iowa, is attending Des Moines University and training to become a physical therapist.

Oriana McKanan '26, Somerville, Massachusetts, is participating in the Quaker Voluntary Service Fellowship in Minneapolis while also working as a volunteer coordinator for a local nonprofit.

Hannah Miech '26, Waukesha, Wisconsin, is attending the University of Aberdeen in Scotland for a Master of Science in osteoarchaeology.

Smriti Neupane '26, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is working on an M.F.A. at the University of Massachusetts.

Orion Pevehouse '26, Madison, Wisconsin, is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for a master's in library and information science.

Camron Reimers '26, Coralville, Iowa, is attending Northwestern University to pursue her doctorate as part of the Interdisciplinary Biological Sciences Ph.D. program.

Garrett Roehl '26, St. Cloud, Wisconsin, is working at Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin, as a technical solutions engineer.

Monet Roelle '26, Mount Vernon, Iowa, is attending the police academy after becoming a full-time police officer in the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Police Department.

Antonio Russo '26, Savannah, Georgia, is working as a fan engagement intern with the Savannah Bananas. He has visited more than a dozen stadiums with the team, including one MLB stadium, one NFL stadium, and three college football stadiums.

Ian Schilling '26, Lebanon, Illinois, is working in a research lab at WashU.

Haley Sevenbergen '26, Newton, Iowa, is attending a one-year program at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines to get her certification in the medical laboratory science program.

Rachel Sorescu '26, Chicago, Illinois, is working as an event production coordinator at Nanook Agency.

Jeannie Thao '26, Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, is researching multiple sclerosis in the context of obesity at the University of Iowa's Shahi Lab and reports being the only direct admit to the university's master's degree program in pathology.

Rylee VanDresar '26, of Newhall, Iowa, works as a rehabilitation and physical therapy technician at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids and plans to begin a doctor of physical therapy program in the fall of 2027.

Eric Walker '26, St. Gilbert, Arizona, is attending the University of Oregon to pursue a master's degree in molecular sensors.

Jessica Ziemiecki '26, Rockford, Minnesota, is teaching first grade at Olin Elementary School in Iowa.

Losses



Philip Secor

CORNELL'S 12TH PRESIDENT

Philip Secor, Cornell College's 12th president who led the college during the conversion to the block plan, died on Nov. 20, 2025, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was 93.

Secor guided Cornell from 1974 to 1984 during a period of reform and growth. Among the most impactful initiatives during his presidency was the transition from the semester schedule to the block plan in 1978. He also supported greater equality for women through improvements in wage equity and the growth of women's athletics.

Secor was a successful fundraiser for the college. The campaign at the time, The Cornell Advance, started just months after his arrival and produced about $15.1 million by 1981. It supported the endowment and the growth and renovation of campus facilities. The 12th president was also known for his vision and optimism for Cornell's future.

Born in New York in 1931, Secor graduated from Drew University in 1953 and served in the Army Medical Corps during the Korean War before earning both a master's degree and a doctorate from Duke University. Secor taught political science at several colleges, specializing in Soviet politics and law, and authored many books. After leaving Cornell he became the founding president of Philip Secor & Associates, a fundraising consulting firm in Allentown. Secor is survived by his two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren.



Peter Bryant

LIFE TRUSTEE

Peter Bryant, who ushered in record-breaking classes for Cornell as the vice president of enrollment and dean of admissions from 1982 to 1992, died on Oct. 13, 2026. He was 86.

Bryant provided steady leadership during a pivotal time, helping the college reverse enrollment trends and build momentum. His work became legendary. He recruited classes that increased Cornell's enrollment from a projected 700 students to more than 1,000.

The Chicago native attended Coe College, where he met his wife, JoAnn. They married and had two children. Bryant earned his master's degree from the University of Iowa and worked in many higher education and marketing positions. He retired in 2017 as senior vice president and principal of Ruffalo Noel Levitz, where he had consulted with more than 700 institutions in the areas of enrollment and student success.

He returned to Cornell and served for 27 years as a Trustee before being named a Life Trustee in 2024. The Bryants supported the college in many ways. He was known for greeting people with a warm smile, a hearty laugh, and a hug or handshake. His favorite question was "Isn't this fun?" and the answer was always yes, especially when he was around.

The Cornell Life Trustee and Honorary Alumnus is survived by his wife; daughter, **Julie Bryant '88**; son; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



Also remembered online:

Jerry Lewis '59

crnl.co/JerryLewis

Losses



Sherry Strong
TRUSTEE

Sherry Strong, a devoted teacher with a passion for social justice and a dedicated friend of the college, died on Aug. 18, 2026, at age 83.

Born in 1942, she spent most of her youth in Western New York. She attended Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, where she met her husband, Wilson. They had three sons.

Strong was a lifelong teacher and started as a middle and high school teacher in Pennsylvania. After moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she completed a doctorate in 19th-century British literature. During her studies, she taught at Coe College, Kirkwood Community College, and the University of Iowa. She then joined the English Department at the University of Iowa. After retiring in 2002, the Strongs moved to Colorado.

Strong served on the board of Planned Parenthood and was the first president of Waypoint in Cedar Rapids—an organization that helps individuals in crisis. In Colorado Strong served on the boards of the Lake Dillon Theatre, the Keystone Center, and the Keystone Science School. Strong was named an Honorary Alumna and served as a Cornell Trustee from 1988 to 1998, during which she chaired the search committee that resulted in the hiring of President Les Garner and supported Cornell scholarship funds. She also served on the board of Allegheny College. Strong is survived by her husband, three sons, and five grandchildren.



Tom Cox ’52
LIFE TRUSTEE

Tom Cox ’52, a successful telecommunications industry leader whose commitment to Cornell endured throughout his life, died on Nov. 20, 2025, at age 95.

Cox grew up in Chicago, Illinois, the son of a Czech immigrant who proudly wore his Bohemian heritage as a badge of honor. While at Cornell, he was involved in musical groups, Gamma Tau Pi, and football. Following graduation from Cornell, he began law school at the University of Michigan but left after a year, feeling the pull to reunite with his college sweetheart, **Maureen McDermott Cox ’52**. The two were married for 70 years.

Cox’s career was highlighted by three decades in the telephone industry, beginning as a management trainee at AT&T and culminating as chief financial officer of Illinois Bell—an achievement that spoke to the breadth of his abilities, especially as a history and political science major. Cox brought his skills back to Cornell. He served on the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2011 and was elected a Life Trustee in May of 2013. Through his generosity, he helped future generations of Cornell students prepare for successful careers.

He was a lifelong Chicago sports fan and was cherished for his sense of humor and the personal connections he built. He is survived by his three sons, 11 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Richard Brubaker ’55
TRUSTEE

Richard “Dick” Brubaker ’55, a successful entrepreneur, hall of fame athlete, and supporter of Cornell, died on Feb. 17, 2026, at age 92.

Brubaker was born in 1933 in Illinois. He graduated from Cornell and worked as an admissions counselor for four years. He then earned an MBA from the University of Iowa. He married **Beth Johnson Brubaker ’61** in 1960, and they raised six children. Brubaker founded a gift wrap company, Richwrap Inc., in 1970 and served as CEO until age 78.

At Cornell he was a member of Beta Omicron, majored in economics and business administration, and was a standout athlete in basketball and football. He was inducted into the Cornell Hall of Fame in 1973. After Cornell his passion for men’s fast-pitch softball earned him national and international acclaim as a pitcher. He was inducted into the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame and the USA Softball Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Brubaker remained dedicated to Cornell as a Trustee, serving from 1997 until 2009, and as a donor. Brubaker's faith was important to him, and he always tried to live as Jesus did. He was a longtime member of Chapelstreet Church in Geneva, Illinois, and served twice as church chairman. He is survived by his wife, five children, including **Elizabeth Brubaker Ruh ’99**, 19 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Mildred Eubanks Carstensen ’66
LIFE TRUSTEE

Life Trustee **Mildred “Millie” Eubanks Carstensen ’66**, whose life was defined by scholarship, service, and civic commitment, died on Jan. 26, 2026, at age 80.

Carstensen attended Howalton Day School, Chicago’s first African American private day school. She later attended the University of Chicago Laboratory School. She majored in French and psychology at Cornell. She also earned a master’s degree in teaching French from Yale University and a Doctor of Education degree in administration, planning, and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Carstensen began her career as a high school French teacher. She went on to work in admissions at the University of Chicago and as a program officer at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. Her career continued at the University of Connecticut, where she held several leadership roles. After completing her doctorate in education, she taught as an adjunct professor.

Carstensen was deeply committed to Cornell and served as a Trustee on the Board from 2007–2018. She was elected as a Life Trustee in May of 2022. She believed deeply in civic engagement, a responsibility she embraced throughout her life. She is survived by her husband, Fred; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Betty Olmstead Bayles ’46, Harpursville, New York, Feb. 22, 2026

Marjorie Lievense Funderburg ’47, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 18, 2026

Marjorie “Marnie” Hafer Pritchard ’47, North Aurora, Illinois, Feb. 20, 2026

Eleanor Strathman ’47, Rocklin, California, Oct. 25, 2025

Jacqueline Woodman Manning ’48, Littleton, Colorado, June 27, 2025

Elsie Bartos Ruzek ’48, Mount Juliet, Tennessee, Aug. 15, 2025

Lynette Cundall Tague ’48, Charleston, South Carolina, Feb. 25, 2026

Dean Lusted ’49, Logan, Utah, July 12, 2026

Jim Boylan ’50, Stonington, Connecticut, Sept. 29, 2025

Ruthann Ringenberg Haigh ’50, Lake Forest, Illinois, March 8, 2026

DeLores Wilhelms Meiners ’50, Ashton, Illinois, April 23, 2025

Sine Olesen ’50, Norwalk, Iowa, July 30, 2026

Phil Polgreen ’50, Iowa City, Iowa, Dec. 21, 2025

Marjorie Faxon Riggs ’50, Hebron, Indiana, May 21, 2025

P. Keith Colvert ’51, Naperville, Illinois, July 27, 2025

Patty Webb Conger ’51, Carbondale, Colorado, Jan. 10, 2026

Thomas Grimes ’51, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, April 10, 2026

Charles “Chuck” Silliman ’51, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 28, 2026

Mary Ann Merchant Colborn ’52, Freeport, Illinois, Sept. 1, 2025

Donald Kettelkamp ’52, Spring, Texas, March 14, 2025

Barbara Uhlinger Guenther Kuder ’52, Davenport, Iowa, April 21, 2026

Patricia Reeve Mead ’52, Barrington, Illinois, Dec. 1, 2025

John Padgham ’52, Lake Kiowa, Texas, May 29, 2026

James Wasta ’52, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 23, 2026

Phoebe Wendt Caldwell ’53, Lake Forest, Illinois, April 10, 2026

Ruth “Audrey” Rummells Kofoed ’53, West Branch, Iowa, Jan. 7, 2026

Patricia Armstrong Hild ’54, Surprise, Arizona, May 8, 2026

Dorothy Irish Kelly ’54, Aurora, Colorado, Nov. 10, 2025

Ross Ludeman ’54, Keene, New Hampshire, Aug. 5, 2026

Charles Meyer ’54, Lakewood, California, Sept. 30, 2025

Elaine Fair Noe ’54, Grinnell, Iowa, Sept. 11, 2025

Sally Fletcher Nott ’54, Illinois, Jan. 7, 2025

Roberta Bonnema Oliven Qualkenbush ’54, Providence, Rhode Island, Feb. 2, 2026

Phil Saunders ’54, Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 8, 2025

Ione Regan Bartells ’55, Goodyear, Arizona, June 18, 2025

Richard Reinhardt ’55, Boulder, Colorado, Dec. 13, 2025

Winifred Oswald Tillmann ’55, St. Paul, Minnesota, Nov. 26, 2025

Wayne Bicknese ’56, West Union, Iowa, Jan. 13, 2026

Donald Carlson ’56, Sarasota, Florida, Nov. 28, 2025

John Grabowski ’56, Duluth, Minnesota, Nov. 14, 2024

Bill Leschensky ’56, Custer, South Dakota, May 16, 2026

Joyce Mayhew Turpen ’56, Bloomington, Indiana, Feb. 4, 2026

Mary “Dale” Bergmann Hausmann ’57, Prairie Village, Kansas, March 19, 2025

Joe Zapolski ’57, Boulder City, Nevada, Sept. 7, 2024

Joy Hutzell Johnson ’58, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, June 24, 2026

John M. Turner ’58, Oak Lawn, Illinois, May 27, 2025

Jerry Lewis ’59, Hollis Center, Maine, Feb. 11, 2026

Randi Besseberg Beasmore ’60, Villa Hills, Kentucky, Sept. 28, 2025

Rosemary Christensen Jaytanie ’60, Sherburne, New York, Feb. 1, 2026

James Lynn ’60, Vancouver, Washington, Dec. 14, 2025

William Robison ’60, Livermore, California, Dec. 13, 2025

Robert Shaw ’60, Winchester, California, April 1, 2025

Herman “Herm” Sieck ’60, Traverse City, Michigan, Nov. 24, 2025

R. Tony Stevens ’60, North Barrington, Illinois, Feb. 9, 2026

Leland Bowie ’61, Fairfax, Virginia, Feb. 21, 2026

Dennis Weeden ’61, Rogers, Arkansas, July 21, 2026

Cherrill Deal White ’61, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Nov. 5, 2025

Mary Jane Postlewait Young ’61, Natick, Massachusetts, Nov. 13, 2025

Suzanne Lindquist Sieck ’62, Traverse City, Michigan, March 18, 2026

Phil Connell ’63, Middletown, Ohio, July 15, 2026

Bill Hovenden ’63, Nashville, Tennessee, Nov. 16, 2025

Suzanne Surak Mussatt ’63, Flossmoor, Illinois, March 30, 2026

Ann McCutcheon Niehaus ’63, Lisbon, Iowa, Sept. 11, 2025

Wayne Kelsey ’64, Huntley, Illinois, May 13, 2026

John Lisle ’64, Clarinda, Iowa, July 21, 2026

Don Patterson ’64, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, Nov. 2025

James Hardy ’65, Manomet, Massachusetts, Oct. 7, 2025

Robert Dow ’66, Arlington Heights, Illinois, March 25, 2026

Karen “Lee” Hilliker ’66, Mount Vernon, Iowa, May 3, 2026

Beverly Anderson Weatherwax ’66, Katy, Texas, Sept. 10, 2025

Nancy Stone Crabbe ’67, San Carlos, California, April 22, 2026

James Darland ’67, Bettendorf, Iowa, May 21, 2026

Charles “Skip” Eikleberry ’67, Algonquin, Illinois, Oct. 7, 2025

Richard Green ’67, San Ramon, California, Oct. 26, 2025

Mark Gregg ’67, Red Oak, Iowa, Feb. 13, 2026

Stephen Mathis ’68, Montrose, Colorado, Sept. 25, 2025

Don Hassell ’69, Woodbury, Connecticut, June 6, 2025

Valerie Green Martin ’69, La Vergne, Tennessee, Jan. 3, 2026

James Fung ’70, Kailua, Hawaii, Sept. 9, 2022

Robert Hansen ’70, McHenry, Illinois, Nov. 13, 2025

Calvin Meineke ’70, Palos Park, Illinois, Aug. 6, 2026

John Wernecke ’70, State College, Pennsylvania, Feb. 14, 2026

Eric Carlson ’71, Wayne, Pennsylvania, May 17, 2026

Jonathan Fischer ’71, St. Charles, Illinois, Aug. 8, 2025

Jon Hale ’71, Sarasota, Florida, Oct. 12, 2025

Timothy Thomsen ’71, Iowa City, Iowa, July 21, 2026

Lynne Humphries Gonzales ’72, Moreno Valley, California, March 12, 2025

D. Peter Holmes ’72, St. Charles, Illinois, Dec. 28, 2025

Elizabeth “Betsy” Rhoads Read ’72, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 17, 2026

Walter Steggall Jr. ’73, Ely, Iowa, July 11, 2026

Michael Huber ’75, Charleston, South Carolina, Nov. 6, 2025

Chris Ellerbroek ’77, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Nov. 8, 2025

C. Rommel Fuerste ’79, Dubuque, Iowa, July 9, 2026

Tim Keating ’79, Cedar Springs, Michigan, Aug. 17, 2026

Lou Hoffman ’80, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Oct. 6, 2025

Paul Elowsky ’81, Prescott, Michigan, Feb. 14, 2026

James Kennedy ’81, Mount Vernon, Iowa, July 26, 2026

James Boysen ’82, Austin, Texas, March 20, 2024

Quy Tran Lam ’82, Vinton, Iowa, May 22, 2026

Bret Boyer ’87, Denver, Colorado, Jan. 12, 2026

Aybars Emsun ’87, Waukegan, Illinois, Aug. 28, 2025

David Hanley ’87, Dorchester, Massachusetts, March 1, 2026

Matt Parmely ’89, Hazelton, Iowa, April 20, 2026

Marvin Rogers ’91, Marion, Iowa, April 21, 2026

Joel Veenstra ’92, Searsboro, Iowa, June 6, 2026

John “Ben” Wiley ’92, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, Nov. 25, 2025

Douglas Dakins ’93, Denver, Colorado, Aug. 14, 2025

Elizabeth Birkel-Leddy ’04, La Vista, Nebraska, July 17, 2026

Melissa Bruce ’08, Raytown, Missouri, Feb. 12, 2026

Colin Kirkeby ’09, Las Cruces, New Mexico, May 30, 2026

Roslyn “Malloy” Kerley ’13, Fort Davis, Texas, Jan. 26, 2026

Jennifer Davis Ziemen ’18, Denver, Colorado, June 19, 2026

Sophia Pionek ’22, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 6, 2026

Nicholas Collins ’25, Newton County, Arkansas, Jan. 6, 2026

Christine Woodruff, psychology faculty, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, July 3, 2026