

Alumni News



WEB EXTRA

See a livestream of McCune's talk at crnl.co/mccunetalk

Beta Omicron Distinguished Alumni Visitor Jeffrey McCune '99, director of the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies at the University of Rochester, spoke to a crowd on the Orange Carpet about "Disobedient Things: Learning How to Read Again."

ALLAN RECALDE

1940s

Florence O’Kieffe Beeman ’43, Tulsa, Oklahoma, retired from professional social work and college teaching and now lives independently in a lively retirement community. She was predeceased by her son, **James D. Beeman ’70**, and her daughter-in-law, **Elizabeth Hoyer Beeman ’69**. She enjoys visits from her son, Bill, her daughter, Adele, and her three grandsons and their families—including five great-grandchildren.

and benefit current and future generations,” she writes.

Joel Parrott ’61 and **Karilyn Kirlin Parrott ’62** moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, in August 2021. Their new apartment in a senior independent-living facility has a wonderful view of the Mississippi River. They regularly enjoy concerts, joined the Bridges United Methodist Church, and live just 30 miles from their daughter and son-in-law. They report that downsizing and moving to sensible housing has worked out well for them.

Judy Norman Svengalis ’61, Des Moines, Iowa, and her son had a wonderful trip to Ireland and England in 2022. They went to County Westmeath in Ireland to search for an ancestor and meet a researcher, and also visited Blarney and Guinness. A highlight of their time in England was an after-hours trip to Stonehenge.

Carole Baskerville Carson ’63, Castelnau-le-Lez, France, published “Blackbird,” a fictional autobiography she began after graduating from Cornell. The book, available on Amazon, is dedicated to Cornell English Professor Winifred Van Etten. “Blackbird” is part of a four-part series. “My Mother’s Daughter” will come out next, then “The Perfect Mother.” The fourth book is “The First and Last Lesson.” “You can imagine how excited I am to see the books come to life in print, given this has been a lifelong project!”

Asked by his class agent to write about transitions, **Tim Frazer ’63**, Concord, New Hampshire, said he and his wife, June, moved from the Midwest to New Hampshire, where June started working for Democratic candidates and got elected to the Statehouse at 75. They shared a very active life in Alcoholics Anonymous. They were in their 80s when the pandemic hit and, with June a liver transplant recipient, they had no in-person meetings or church services for a year. But Tim adjusted well to Zoom gatherings. “So, several times a week, I can share a period

of centering prayer with recovering friends all over the world, and I got into AA’s corrections correspondence program. I email every day with a guy in a Florida prison, and another guy doing a life term in California.”

Richard Williams ’63, Chicago, Illinois, writes that his transitions have been small. After law school he returned to his hometown, Chicago, and remained there. He still works in the law business, going to work in Chicago almost every day. “I am lucky indeed, as I enjoy my days.”

John Gelb ’64, Cabin John, Maryland, reports that while there is nothing exciting going on, he is healthy and exercising (mostly walking) as much as he can. He and his wife, Susan, visited their son and grandsons in California last year and go to their beach house with their daughter and granddaughter when possible.

Bill Horn ’64, Clermont, Florida, and his wife, Judi, spent the holidays in Dallas, Texas, with family. Aside from the “normal” health issues, they keep busy with workouts, water aerobics, and club meetings.

Judy Anderson Mettler ’64, Monticello, Iowa, is active with book clubs and gardening.

For the past several years, **Janet Thompson Myers ’64**, Olean, New York, has been busy in the Olean Food Pantry Community Garden. She says that somehow the weeds seemed to take over at the end of last season. The work they were doing to plan for the future spring season spurred planning for the future. “... in all aspects of our lives, there are ways to contribute to the future. Whether we are here to see it or not, we are part of it,” Janet writes.

Donna Nielsen Pfeil ’64, Granger, Indiana, and her husband, Dick, were honored for their 35 years of community engagement by Granger Living. Though very active in Granger, they spend part of the winter at their home in Florida, while also maintaining a 122-year-old home on a lake in Michigan. It keeps them both busy.

Janet Collins Shannon ’64 and **Larry Shannon ’68** moved from Illinois to Lawrenceville, Georgia, to be closer to their two daughters and four youngest grandchildren.

Dave Syfert ’64, Vilas, North Carolina, and his wife, Gerry Smith, relocated again to Charlotte for the duration of the winter. As he says, “too raw for us up in the North Carolina mountains till spring.”

After almost 40 years as a rheumatologist, **Frank Vasey ’64**, Tampa, Florida, now runs Tampa Antiques and Books, the family business. He reports that 35 years ago while in his role at the University of South Florida, he and colleagues reported side effects of silicone breast implants to the FDA. After 35 years the FDA agreed, and Frank is extremely pleased.

Elizabeth Ward Waggener ’64, Williamsburg, Virginia, and her husband, Michael, haven’t done much traveling since the pandemic, but they spent the summer at their daughter’s place just outside of Durango, Colorado, in the San Juan Mountains. They found the air extremely invigorating, and, back in Virginia, they had trouble adjusting to the hot, heavy, humid air. Liz is now teaching at the College of William and Mary’s Literacy for Immigrants program and studying Korean.

Barbara Whipple ’67, Houston, Texas, traveled to Mexico in February. Her parents bought a timeshare there in the 1980s, and she’s been going to Cancun for 40 years. She says she has many wonderful memories there with her parents, **Jo Eckerley ’69** has visited many times, and **Helen Smith ’67** will be joining her this year.

Jack Carbee ’68, Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and Marseillan, France, released his third novel, “The Monument,” based on Operation Peg, a WWII cooperative venture between 16 U.S. paratroopers and a small band of French Maquis designed to disrupt the German supply chain in the south of France in 1944. He’ll soon release his first collection of “kid lit,” “The Adventures of Too Short Thomas.”

Marty Rieke Fuller ’68 and **Will Fuller ’67**, Bluffton, South Carolina, report that Will is still golfing at his age or under, and they have a puppy. Their children and families live in New Jersey and Wichita, Kansas.

Joe Gebhardt ’68, Bethesda, Maryland, helped Gov. Wes Moore and Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller win their history-making campaign in Maryland. Moore is the state’s first Black governor. As part of the transition team Joe shared his expertise in worker’s rights on the Jobs & Workforce Development Committee.

Leslie Carlson Hanson ’68, Wayzata, Minnesota, is phasing out her professional work and still keeping some volunteer and board work. She enjoys cooking, Netflix, and Apple TV.

Bill King ’68 and **Janet Schultz King ’68**, Reading, Pennsylvania, ventured to Jamaica on an all-inclusive trip.

Lyn Ward Page ’68, Evanston, Illinois, and her husband, Joe, continue their love for theatre and the arts, as well as all of the cultural advantages Chicago offers. Both continue leading a Shakespeare reading group via Zoom.

Eric Trimble ’68 is president of Trimble Funeral Home & Crematory in Moline, Illinois, and serves on the board of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, Group 4, covering nine Midwestern states. He is past president of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, served on the American Board of Funeral Service Education, the Illinois Funeral Directors

“As women we met challenges in the workforce,” recalls **Mary Annis Hart ’61**, “but we survived to see those changes still resonate today and benefit current and future generations.”

and Embalmers Licensing and Disciplinary Board, and on the Selected Board of Directors from 2018 through 2021. Outside of funeral service, he is a regent of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois, a Thirty-Third Degree Mason, and participates in community affairs.

1970s

Lars Clutterham ’70, Downey, California, reports that their 50+2 reunion “was, literally, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It brought back treasured college memories, and I was especially delighted to be involved with the music for our three-class alumni dinner evening.”

Trudy Hoag ’70, Golden Valley, Minnesota, reports that Homecoming for the classes of ’70, ’71, and ’72 provided a nice combination of events with individual and joined classes. She traveled to the reunion with **Mary Ann Mead ’70** and **Marilyn Norton ’70**. **Lars Clutterham ’70**, Mary Ann, and Trudy led the program on Saturday night, getting all three classes participating in a sing-along of favorite music from their college years in between solos. “Since we had been doing all the planning by long-distance Zoom, we spent a part of the reunion weekend doing final rehearsals in Armstrong Hall in a recital hall that had once been an art gallery. Since Lars, Mary Ann, and I had basically lived in Armstrong during our years at Cornell for our music and theatre work, it was a bit of déjà vu to be rehearsing in it again. It was wonderful to work together

CONTRIBUTE

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



1960s

Last winter **Mary Rice Bandt ’61**, North Oaks, Minnesota, and her husband, Carl, snowshoed across the lake to Sandbar, their local watering hole.

Mary Annis Hart ’61, Tampa, Florida, recalls heading to Chicago after graduation to seek employment. Her first job was in the U.S. Labor Department’s Chicago Bureau of Labor Statistics on the first Consumer Price Index revision since WWII. “We learned that we were among the first women hired for this position. It was rumored that women had not been hired in the past because the job required extensive travel at a time when it was considered inappropriate for women to travel alone. I suspect that the new hiring policy was a supply and demand issue, but we had the job, and we ran with it.” Mary moved to Tampa, Florida, in the early 1970s and formed a corporation for managing racquetball and tennis facilities. In the late ’80s she took a position as litigation support software director and paralegal coordinator in a law firm. “We were a lucky generation in many ways. We were raised during the fabulous ’50s, and were on the cusp of the many changes that occurred in the ’60s and forward. Yes, as women we met challenges in the workforce, but we survived to see those changes still resonate today

“There was beautiful weather, a gorgeous campus, interesting speakers, nostalgic music, priceless conversations with classmates, and sharing memories ... 52 years disappeared back to 1966–1970, and we felt young and energized again. How lucky we are that Cornell was a part of shaping our minds,” wrote **Susan Morrow Petrosky '70**.

after all these years, both for the dinner program and for the Sunday Memorial Service. The very best part of the reunion was seeing, reminiscing with, and reconnecting with friends. It is a joy to be back in touch with so many people, both the ones I had kept up with and those I had lost contact with over the years.”

Mary Thompson Ingvaldstad '70, Lake Oswego, Oregon, notes that the 50+2 reunion went far beyond her expectations, with the best part being reconnecting with Cornellians. As people shared memorable stories from college, she was reminded of the historical significance of those times—the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, the changing role of women. “I also was deeply touched by the Convocation on Saturday morning. Distinguished alumni shared their personal accomplishments, and President Brand, with obvious affection and pride, summarized Cornell’s accomplishments. As I listened, I was once again filled with gratitude for Cornell: my own education, the wonderful things Cornell continues to do, and the amazing people, both past and present, in the Cornell family.

Susan Morrow Petrosky '70, Edina, Minnesota, writes that Homecoming and the 50+2 reunion was a magical weekend at Cornell. “There was beautiful weather, a gorgeous campus, interesting speakers,

nostalgic music, priceless conversations with classmates, and sharing memories of those who are deceased. Fifty-two years disappeared back to 1966–1970, and we felt young and energized again. How lucky we are that Cornell was a part of shaping our minds.”

During the 50+2 reunion **David Wilson '70**, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, had a special moment when two Cornellians who were very active in the operation of KRNL-FM joined him for lunch. David was KRNL’s general manager, and the three talked about what they had done after Cornell. “They shared their stories with me, thanked me for my leadership and for how KRNL had impacted their futures. Their KRNL experience defined their career paths. They both work full-time or part-time in broadcasting. Their stories made my day.”

Michael J. Bellito '72, Wheeling, Illinois, took his first vacation since his stroke 10 years ago, and traveled to Disney World with his daughter and family. He also published his sixth book, “The Absolutely True Story of the Homemade Beatles Tie and Other Short Stories.” His other five books are “Ten Again,” “First Time Around,” “Abner’s Story,” “The Silent Journey,” and “The Hilltop” (about Cornell). All are available on Amazon.

Daryl Boness '72, Hartford, Maine, stepped down from the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission in 2023, after serving under three U.S. presidents. He continues as editor-in-chief of the journal *Marine Mammal Science*. He and **Leslie Poland Boness '72** continue to enjoy life in Maine, where they renovated a 200-year-old house nearly 20 years ago that has been in Leslie’s family for four generations.

An article on noncompete agreements by **David Brezina '75**, Chicago, Illinois, was published in the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) Intellectual Property (IP) Law Section Newsletter for February 2023. While still a Cornell

student working part-time at a law office, David researched noncompetes for the first time. David is a member of the Section Council for the ISBA IP Section Council and teaches as an adjunct professor at University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law.

Nancy Wickersham Haaheim '75 and **Gary Haaheim '75**, Chaska, Minnesota, had a challenging year that required hospitalization at the Mayo Clinic for treatment of Gary’s lower back disc problems. But they enjoyed Christmas with family and are thankful their daughter, Katie, and her family moved in with them.

Bruce Hillner '75, Richmond, Virginia, notes that since his friend Tricia continues to thrive as COO of the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, he’s rented a small vacation home in downtown Annapolis, about two miles from her house. He enjoys joining her for cultural events, and their families met for Thanksgiving. His travel highlights include the Penn Relays in Philadelphia and a few days in Stockholm with Tricia, followed by five days in Switzerland.

Robert Pierce '75, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and his wife, Pam, were among the first to visit Australia in 2022 after the country opened up. They visited Pam’s son and daughter-in-law in Brisbane. Last summer they spent several months in their Georgia home completing several house projects. Bob writes, “One of my few regrets as a liberal arts college graduate has been not having taken a religion course. I enrolled in a class titled ‘Education for Ministry.’ I am working up the courage to start swimming on a more regular basis.”

Bill Smale '75, continues to travel in Southeast Asia. Follow his adventures on folksytravel.com

Jim Swift '76, Edina, Minnesota, continues as a professor of maxillofacial surgery at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Lori,



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have three grandsons who live in the Twin Cities area. Their daughter, Meagan, and her husband also live in the area.

Mark Van Etten '76, Sarona, Wisconsin, reports he hasn’t fully settled into a routine since retirement. “I now understand the comment I’ve often heard from retirees: ‘I don’t know how I had any time for work!’” He and his wife, Bev, traveled to southern Indiana to visit **Steve Palmquist '76** and **Nancy Niemann Palmquist '76** at their cabin in Brown County.

Anne Davis Grothe '77, St. Louis, Missouri, returned to the Hilltop for Homecoming '22 to catch up with **Pam Burg Ketchum '77** after many years. “The weekend provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with other classmates and to explore Cornell’s beautiful campus with its many renovations. A highlight was being present for **Tony Plaut '78**’s retrospective exhibit in McWethy Hall.”

Marta Sesbeau Hershner '77, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is retired from teaching and administration in the Cedar Rapids area, and she and her husband, Steve, travel as much as they can.

Martha Adams Bohrer '78, Oregon, Illinois, has resumed travel in retirement. She and Tim had two trips in 2022 to Patagonia in South America and to the former Yugoslavia. “We enjoy visiting our son, his wife, and our two grandchildren in Rogers, Arkansas, and are exploring parts of Missouri on our way. I enjoyed viewing the sandhill crane migration in Nebraska with fellow Cornellians **Karen Krull Robert '78** and **Hollie Sailer Hart '78**. At home we keep busy with vegetable gardening and caring for our woodland and prairie. Life is good.”

Since he retired in 2022, **Rich Carlson '78**, State College, Pennsylvania, has been focused mostly on his health. He lost

20 pounds, lowered his blood pressure to the normal range, did physical therapy for old injuries, and largely caught up from decades of sleep deprivation. He’s also done a lot of reading and a little bit of writing.

Nancy Horney Davis '78, Elmwood, Illinois, retired from EPIC, a not-for-profit providing services to people with disabilities, where she was a grant writer and leadership coach. She’ll continue to do some leadership coaching and training as an independent contractor. She and her husband, Steve, now have three grandsons, and her mother, at age 100, lives next door.

Randi Lewis '78, Denver, Colorado, joined **Ruth Box Westfall '78**, **Susan Gross Olezene '78**, and **Claudia Wegrzyn Carle '78** last fall on the Oregon coast for a long, fun-filled weekend hosted by Claudia. They walked the beach, talked and talked, went

crabbing, and saw some Pacific Northwest trees, beaches, and sights.

Tony Plaut '78 expresses his appreciation to all the friends, colleagues, and alumni who attended his retrospective exhibition in McWethy Hall’s Luce Gallery last fall. He is now fully retired from Cornell College and is settled nicely in Petaluma, California, with his partner, **Arden Kwan '83**.

Londy Greeno Reidy '78, Santa Clara, California, retired in 2022 after 35 years working as a school psychologist in Colorado and California, where she led specialized teams for the assessment and diagnosis of children with learning challenges. “The best part of my career, and what I miss the most, is teaching the social emotional learning classes that I developed along with mindfulness strategies.” Now she’s spending time visiting her family and two grandchildren in Colorado; her sons in San

Cornell College will proudly honor these alumni during Homecoming 2023



Arthur Reis Jr. '68 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Reis is a pioneer in single crystal neutron diffraction using pulsed sources. He worked at Argonne National Laboratory and the U.S. Air Force before co-creating the Volen National Center for Complex Systems, a research center focused on understanding the brain, intelligence, and advanced computation at Brandeis University. Reis continues to research early detection of infectious diseases using molecular biology DNA amplification methods. He served as provost and dean at Brandeis, developing novel teaching methods to instruct non-majors in science.



Lisa Chen '12 YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

Following graduation Chen joined Teach For America in New York City. After a few years in the classroom, she transitioned into leadership positions at Success Academy, Harlem Village Academies, and Uncommon Schools. She is now the chief people officer at Prospect Schools, a leading diverse-by-design K-12 charter network in Brooklyn, New York.



Michael Allen '68 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Allen has been a pioneer in the e-learning industry since 1970. He was the innovative force behind one of the most successful authoring tools ever created, Authorware, as well as ZebraZapps, a visual-based authoring and publishing system for creating serious learning games and simulations. He is a writer, conference speaker, and recognized industry leader.



Tim Wynes '83 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Wynes has been a Class Agent for 25 years. He established the first student legal services clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law. He has also held presidencies at Black Hawk College, Dakota County Technical College, Inver Hills Community College, and the Iowa Valley Community College District.

Francisco and San Luis Obispo; and her youngest daughter in Richmond, Virginia.

Ruth Box Westfall '78, Mahomet, Illinois, reports that she retired from AT&T, went to school, and is deciding what she'll do next.

Lu Ann White '78, Johnston, Iowa, had the fortunate opportunity to attend Homecoming 2022 for husband **Barry Russell '71**'s 50+1 reunion. "I was able to see and experience our classmate **Tony Plaut '78**'s remarkable art exhibit, recognizing his years of service to Cornell and Cornell students as an art professor. His art work was comprehensive and so creative. It was so refreshing to see." She reports that many Cornellians came for the art exhibition, including **Bruce Montgomery '78**, **Robynn Moon Montgomery '78**, **Gordon Hellwig '78**, **Yvonne Brooks '78**, **Pam Burg Ketchum '77**, and **Jim Simpson '78**. Although she is on some committees for the state bar associations, Lu Ann is not practicing law these days. She is on the board of, and has been doing some volunteering for, the local food pantry and clothes closet and organizes community service projects for her local Rotary.

Gayle Stevens Wilcox '78 and **Paul Wilcox '78**, Burnsville, Minnesota, both retired from pastoring congregations in the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Paul concluded his career by serving on the Bishop's Cabinet as a district superintendent and later, Circuit Hub Ministries coordinator. They moved to Burnsville and Paul returned to Iowa to ride RAGBRAI last summer. Since then he's been finishing the basement; built an upstairs laundry room; and hauled, cut, and laid flagstone for a firepit area after redirecting a fountain. He didn't need to leave home to go on a mission trip this year—their home has been his mission! Gayle is working through several medical issues and assisting at home. They are active at Hamline Church United Methodist in St. Paul.

Jerry Worsham '78, Cave Creek, Arizona, still works as an environmental and natural resources lawyer. He has two grandchildren and highly recommends the experience. Jerry is a season ticket holder to the Arizona Cardinals, and after watching them go down in flames with a 4-13 record, he thinks he may qualify for a refund. He's had a few lunches with fellow Gamma Tau Pi alum **Ken Golden '79**, and says he's regularly "harassed" by **Paul Barrows '78**.

Gary Blanks '79, Montgomery, Illinois, enjoys retirement, especially spending time loving his six grandchildren. Gary is also taking care of his mom, who has progressive Alzheimer's. He writes that he's living every moment as if it's his last, and that, in his opinion, the class of 1979 was the best Cornell class ever!

Dan Brady '79 and **Sue Helfers Brady '79**, Edgewood, Kentucky, shared a major 2022 highlight—attendance at their daughter Shannon's wedding to Paul McDonald in Chicago. The event included 11 bridesmaids, 11 groomsmen, their 24-year-old pet turtle and pet dog as honorary flower girl and ring bearer, and the groom sitting in with the band on the trumpet. The story about the pets joining in the ceremony was posted by the Fox Weather Channel.

Ken Golden '79 and his wife, Lynne, Gilbert, Arizona, spent four weeks in Mérida, Mexico, where their son and daughter-in-law live. They experienced the Día de los Muertos celebration for the first time. Ken was interviewed by a local TV station, asking about his reasons for participating, and he talked about the differences between American and Mexican culture regarding the way that death is viewed. He was particularly struck by the way that American culture often pretends like death doesn't happen, while Mexican culture celebrates death.

Gail McRill '79, Walcott, Iowa, planned to retire this summer after 45 years as a music educator. Gail has taught choral and general music, as well as orchestra, in two states, grades K-12, and in both public and private schools.

Lee Moran-Cankar '79, St. James City, Florida, taught junior high science for a few years after Cornell, but ended up in banking. She was married and divorced, and then remarried to form a blended family now with five adult children and four grandchildren. She and her husband, Bruce, recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. They enjoy a second lake home in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, to which they evacuated when Hurricane Ian struck. Their Florida house suffered a fair amount of loss, but Lee shared that the experience illustrated how beautiful things can come out of tragedies. People and agencies rushed in to help, and Lee says "it was humbling to be on the receiving end of these services. When you experience a tragedy, it restores your faith in mankind. I believe that most people are compassionate, caring, generous, and good."

Jeanie Franz Ransom '79, O'Fallon, Missouri, continues her writing career. She's mostly writing essays these days, but is also working on a children's picture book about birds. She does a lot of birding, hiking, and volunteering. Jeanie recently received an award in a creative nonfiction essay contest for her essay "Leaving," which centers on how collecting leaves in the fall helped her process her mother's Alzheimer's-related decline.

Dan Ricklefs '79, Englewood, Colorado, reports that his daughter, Claudia, was recently published in a scientific journal.

1980s

Freya Brier '80, Bellevue, Washington, and Scottsdale, Arizona, swung back into

Steve Adrian '87 keeps up with **Casey Jones '87**, a district associate judge in Cedar Rapids. Judge Jones and classmate and district court judge **Fae Hoover-Grinde '87** both serve Judicial District 6 in eastern Iowa. "What are those odds? So great that Cornell, and specifically the Class of 1987, is well represented here!"

travel with a fury. She took a two-week biking and hiking (and eating and drinking) trip to Italy in June 2022, followed by a trip to Hawaii in September, then to Vancouver, B.C., to run a 10K, and to the wine country of Walla Walla, Washington, for the annual new vintage tasting festival. The Italy biking trip inspired her to buy an e-bike, and she happily tackled the hills around her Bellevue house with the luxury of assisted pedaling. For the five-plus months she's in Arizona, Freya sees **Tom Durham '77** and **Martha Hemenway Durham '78**, as well as **Jim McPherrin '77** and his wife.

After retiring from over 35 years in the restaurant business, **Jim Sierszyn '81**, Burlington, Wisconsin, has taken up the pen as a freelance writer in the Christian marketplace (see his writing at jimsierszyn.com).

Michelle Krezek '85, Boulder, Colorado, and her partner retired in 2022 and have settled into it by spending winters in South Carolina and summers in Colorado. This summer they plan to travel to Alaska in their campervan. But first will be the annual Cornell Gal Pals get-together, this year in Santa Fe with **Addie Wallace Morrison '87**, **Connie Mixon '88**, **Elizabeth Heffernan '88**, **Diana Daskalos Corcoran '87**, **Liana Overley Allison '89**, and **Liz Daleske '85**.

Steve Adrian '87 has become a Texan, having lived in Dallas for 10 years. Steve, who worked in the wholesale

jewelry business for 20 years, reports his kids are grown and employed. He keeps up with **Casey Jones '87**, a district associate judge in Cedar Rapids. Judge Jones and classmate and district court judge **Fae Hoover-Grinde '87** both serve Judicial District 6 in eastern Iowa. "What are those odds? So great that Cornell, and specifically the Class of 1987, is well represented here!"

Gail Cummings Andersen '87, Portland, Oregon, loved visiting Cornell in October 2022 to see wonderful classmates during their 35th reunion. Her kids have ventured off to Chicago, Flagstaff, Arizona, and Eugene, Oregon. She continues to work in nonprofit fundraising.

Susie Wedes Beaumaster '87 and **Paul Beaumaster '85**, Northfield, Minnesota, became grandparents to Georgia. Their son, **Jack Beaumaster '20**, is in law school in Wyoming and worked at the U.S. Attorney's office in Yellowstone last summer. Their son, Will, is at the University of Minnesota. The empty nest allowed Susie and Paul to travel to South Africa to visit their Rotary exchange student and go on a safari.

Bill Bremner '87 and his wife live in a loft in the heart of the North Loop in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is vice president of merchandising and product design and development for Rockler Woodworking and Hardware. Bill bikes year-round and is picking up woodworking. Their three daughters are grown,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ABOVE: Alumni and friends gathered at Fuel coffee shop in Mount Vernon during Homecoming 2022 to celebrate with Tony Plaut '78, who had recently retired from Cornell's art faculty and whose retrospective art exhibition was part of the weekend's festivities. Seated, clockwise from left: Jeff Courtman '77, Margie Harger Wilch '79, Rachel McDavid '80, Karen Mickler, Yvonne Brooks '78, Bruce De Groot '79, Arden Kwan '83, and Tony Plaut '78. Standing, left to right: Jim Simpson '78, Sue Deibner '78, and Pam Burg Ketchum '77.

RIGHT: Left to right: Arrows Molly Swanson '96, Catherine Walworth '95, Shannon Furr Bobertz '97, Sarah Hebert Chiovarou '97, and Rebecca Hansen Peschong '95 gathered in Nemacolin, Pennsylvania, to celebrate Rebecca's 50th birthday.



SHANNON FURR BOBERTZ '97



REBECCA SULLENS '09

ABOVE: Celebrating with Rebecca Sullens '09 at her wedding reception are (back row from left) Kegan Kiner '10, Rebecca Girard Kiner '09, Rebecca Sullens '09, Samantha Hebel Perkins '12, Nicole Casal '18; and (front row) David Kugler '09.



PAOLO VERZANI

LEFT: Taylor Sedlacek '14 (left) married Harrison Bröcká on July 30, 2022, in Denver, Iowa. Liz Litteral '14 (right) traveled from Colorado to serve as a bridesmaid.

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with one living in Minneapolis, one in Los Angeles, and the third is a wanderer, currently in Kauai, Hawaii.

Dan Burgess '87, Boulder City, Nevada, is nearing 20 years with American Family Insurance. He started as an agent, spent several years as a sales manager, and the last six years as a business consultant. His wife, Jennifer, is an insurance producer for American Family. Their oldest, Taylor, lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Their son, Connor, lives at home and is a junior at UNLV. The youngest, Pilar, also lives at home and attends the College of Southern Nevada. They also have two dogs and two cats.

Karen Radke Byrnes '87, Gurnee, Illinois, is in her 30th year at Roycemore School and serves students with learning differences. She wants Cornell to know that she uses her degree teaching European history! She also serves as a mentor to rookie teachers.

Tim Hicks '87, Luling, Louisiana, and his wife have been living in Louisiana for 35 years and in the Luling-Hahnville area since Hurricane Katrina. He's been an environmental geologist for 19 years. Their kids are 23 and 28, working and living not far from mom and dad.

Kate O'Loughlin Hornung '87, Iowa Falls, Iowa, retired from the Iowa Falls School District in 2021 after 33 years of teaching (32 in the kindergarten classroom). She finds it's hard going cold turkey leaving daily life around youngsters, so she continues to substitute teach now and then. Kate returned to the Hilltop for her 35th reunion and had a great time catching up with classmates.

Perry Horwich '87, Las Vegas, Nevada, is a physician and partner with Desert Radiology specializing in musculoskeletal radiology. He provides medical support to the Vegas Golden Knights, Vegas

Raiders, and the UNLV athletics department. He and his wife, Rebecca, are parents to 9-year-old son George.

Becky Cloeter Johnson '87, Minneapolis, Minneapolis, loved connecting with classmates at the 35th reunion. Her twin sons are now college graduates and she and **Jeff Johnson '86** enjoy life in the Twin Cities and staying in touch with other Cornellians close to home and some of those far away!

Mo Johnson '87 is living in Luxembourg for a year working for Epic Games as the Global Head of Tax. "And yes," she says, "tax can be fun." She is also balancing the responsibilities of an aging mom, a house in New Hampshire, and a team (and car) in Cary, North Carolina.

Sandy Shelby Klinkey '87, St. Charles, Illinois, has three horses and four dogs and enjoys competing in Working Equitation with the horses. She and her horse, Doc, won

a belt buckle for the Midwest Region and finished the year ranked #1 nationally in their division. Her two daughters are grown, and Sandy is in her 13th year working with Elgin Community College to assist those traditionally underserved, ages 17-24, develop hard and soft skills to become work-ready and self-sufficient.

Ray Llorca '87, Cedarburg, Wisconsin, and his wife, Dawn, are Wisconsinites as of 2016, working hard in manufacturing (Ray) and dentistry (Dawn) with no plans on the horizon to retire. Why? Lots of expenses and college down the road for three kids.

Karen Friedhoff Mertes '87, Blacksburg, Virginia, will celebrate her first family wedding—that of her fourth child, a son. She has two daughters in Chicago and one in Sacramento.

Chris Nelson '87, Batavia, Illinois, is chief of staff and director of communications for the Kane County State's Attorney in Illinois. His work centers on strong advocacy for criminal justice reform. He's been doing this work for 16 years, after 16 years in the newspaper business. His son attends Xavier University in Cincinnati and his daughter is in high school. He and his wife celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary.

Ira Skeebeby '87, Fletcher, Ohio, is celebrating 29 years at McCormick Equipment Company. His son, Jayden, just graduated from high school. Ira and his wife are busy with the Rolling Thunder, a POW-MIA advocacy organization for which Ira serves on the board.

Gretchen Baudhuin Tombes '87, Midlothian, Virginia, shares that she has lived on the East Coast since graduating from Cornell. For the past two years she has been human resources manager for a small software company. Ten years prior she worked in the county library system. She has four kids: her two oldest are working and thriving; one daughter studies nursing at University of Virginia;

and the youngest daughter just finished high school. She also has two grandkids.

Elaine Hayes '88, Iowa City, Iowa, traveled to San Diego in 2022 to celebrate her daughter Taylor and son-in-law Michael's marriage on the beach in Del Mar, California.

Denise Horak Melchert '88, Mount Vernon, Iowa, retired from teaching middle school math after 34 years in the classroom in Cedar Rapids, ending her career at Harding Middle School with a dual role of teacher and instructional coach. Career highlights include achieving National Board Certification in 2005 and recertifying in 2015. She looks forward to spending more time with her husband of 33 years, **Patrick Melchert '88**, and their four grandchildren, and DIY projects. Patrick celebrated 30 years of working at Transamerica in Cedar Rapids and was promoted to senior director of operations in February.

Jay Andersen '89, Portland, Oregon, caught up with **Leah Gauler Hamilton '89** last summer in Chicago.

1990s

Lance VanGundy '91 and his wife, Kristin, moved to a lake home on Lake Thunderhead, Missouri. He is releasing book three in the Rune Fire Cycle, an epic fantasy series that "is my escape since Cornell taught me how to write and well ... I'm terrible at golf!" He plans to attend a Tau reunion with his brother, **Jason VanGundy '94**, this summer.

Kaitlynn Lewis Griffith '93, Rochester, Vermont, kicked off a large remodel on a home that she and her husband, Joel, bought as a fixer-upper in March 2020. From their house on the top of a mountain in the middle of Green Mountain National Forest, they look at two of the tallest of the Green Mountains and from their driveway they see two more. Kaitlynn was promoted at the

Joe Cole '00 has a full schedule of finish carpentry, including heading up major renovations on Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Chapel. He and **Christy Hamilton Cole '01** also have a wood-fired pottery business, Windy Ridge Pottery, in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

Law School Admission Council to senior vice president of product and is leading the launch of an exciting new product. "A fun part of that project is that Cornell is part of our product pilot and President Brand serves on our Advisory Council, so I get to interact with Cornell for work." She enjoys watching her four kids as they live their adult lives across the country.

Michael Hofmann '93, Greenwood Village, Colorado, and a colleague were named the American Lawyer's Litigators of the Week for a defense verdict after a two-week trial in a \$1 billion dollar dispute involving a privately held Colorado corporation. Along with trial work, Michael also has a varied appellate practice, which in 2022 included winning a property tax appeal for Vail Resorts in the Colorado Supreme Court and arguing another appeal arising from Vail Resorts' COVID closure. He and his wife spend most of their time on their two daughters' activities. "It's a busy and fun life."

After 30 years in teaching, **Jane Moniak Jurgensen '93**, Ames, Iowa, is grateful to have found a career that keeps her challenged and entertained. She writes that her 26 years at Ames High School have been amazing, and she looks forward to closing out her career as a Little Cyclone. The third of her three sons just graduated, and she's looking forward to being an empty nester.

Chris Oberbroeckling '93, Marion, Iowa, has been an agent with Farm Bureau Financial Services since 2005 and writes that "I love being able to work with people each day to protect their livelihoods and futures." He and his wife, Leah, have two sons and two grandsons. He officiates for high school basketball and umpires for high school and college baseball.

Rosalyn Bunda Popham '93, Wheaton, Illinois, traveled to Paris twice last year. The first time was with her teenage son, and later with dear friends. She still works for endurance events, shifting from the rules and officiating of the race to forward command and contingency plans for the events.

Shannon Furr Bobertz '97, Columbia, South Carolina, was named chief of staff for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. She celebrated **Rebecca Hansen Peschong '95**'s 50th birthday along with fellow Arrows **Molly Swanson '96**, **Sarah Hebert Chiovarou '97**, and **Catherine Walworth '95** in Nemaquin, Pennsylvania.

Becky Tessmann '98, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, started a master of science program in education-clinical mental health track at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Hans Hinrichsen '10, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, was promoted at ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls) to software development manager for the Entertainment Controls group, leading the software team that makes the lighting consoles in use on Broadway, the West End, and countless colleges and schools around the world—including Cornell!

2000s

WEDDING

Rebecca Sullens '09 to Ryan Buchanan, Sept. 24, 2022

BIRTHS

Leo Bennett Luitjens Moericke, Aug. 11, 2022, to **Amy Luitjens '01** and Jason Moericke

Reed Mikhail Osinovskiy, Jan. 12, 2023, to **Alexandra Myers '05** and Misha Osinovskiy

Niko Davis Policard, Oct. 8 2022, to **Holly Davis '06** and David Policard

Declan Anton Cork, Sept. 30, 2022, to **Brittany Sperl Cork '09** and Tyson Wundrow Cork

Shanna Metzler Robinson '00 lives in Moline, Illinois, with her husband, Josh, their two children, and two dogs. She's in her 23rd year of education, which started in Mesquite, Texas. Working for Mississippi Bend Area Education Association as a reading recovery teacher leader during the pandemic, she found herself leveraging her national network to problem-solve how best to provide virtual services to the most at-risk learners. "This ended up being an incredible opportunity for growth and

possibility! An interesting by-product of all our work was an article we published in the Journal of Reading Recovery detailing the possibilities of leveraging expertise to solve new problems." Shanna was recently hired by North Scott Community School District, adding instructional coach to her role.

Christy Hamilton Cole '01 and **Joe Cole '00** live in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, with their daughter Cleo. Christy is in her second year of a clinical master of social work program and is working for a nonprofit focusing on child-care issues. Joe has a full schedule of finish carpentry, including heading up major renovations on Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Chapel. Their wood-fired pottery, Windy Ridge Pottery, is still open online, by appointment, and during special events in Mineral Point.

Amy Luitjens '01, St. Paul, Minnesota, welcomed baby Leo in August, who joins his brother Luca. Amy was promoted to managing director at EAB, an educational services firm, in December 2022.

Anna Norstedt '02, St. Paul, Minnesota, quit her job in March 2022 due to the end of the mask mandate, worked at a private school, and returned to her job in the same district but at a different worksite in January 2023. "I am so happy to be back! My favorite pre-K activity is making slime." She visited Seattle in 2023.

Sarah Heller Hofer '03 lives in Geneseo, Illinois, with her husband, Brian, and their son and daughter. She's been an insurance agent at Hanford Insurance for 10 years. Brian is the principal of a local elementary school. Sarah is learning to navigate life as the mother of a high schooler. "Life doesn't slow down between football, basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball, but we are enjoying the ride!"

Alexandra Myers '05, San Diego, California, had a baby in January with her husband, Misha. Baby Reed is growing

well and loves spending time with his uncle **Marc Myers '05**.

Holly Davis '06, Minneapolis, Minnesota, reports that Niko Davis Policard was born in October 2022 and joins older brother Xavi (2 years) and Holly's goddaughter Nessa (3 years). "The house is full, but (most of the time) it is a lot of fun." Holly is director of people operations at SumOfUs, an international campaign for corporate accountability.

Jo Ella Adelung Hoye '06 and **Brian Hoye '06** live in Lenexa, Kansas, where Jo Ella was re-elected to the Kansas House of Representatives and sworn in on Jan. 9, 2023. She serves as a ranking minority member on the House Federal and State Affairs Committee and is a member of the Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committees. Brian is a section manager in Burns & McDonnell's Environmental Services Practice working on environmental site investigation and remediation projects. Their son, William, just finished fifth grade so they've added band, piano, swimming, and basketball to their activities. William also convinced them to get a dog, Tonks.

2022 was a big year for **Brittany Sperl Cork '09**. She and her husband, Tyson, moved to Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. She was promoted to senior level at her position as a financial specialist with the state of Wisconsin, and her husband started a job at Ernst & Young as an auditor. They added two kittens to the household, bought a new vehicle ... and became parents to Declan Anton Cork in September. Declan was born just a few hours after his cousin, and Brittany's parents were excited to become grandparents and welcome grandbaby #1 and #2 on the same day.

Former Cornell career coach and student life director **Rebecca Sullens '09** married Ryan Buchanan on Sept. 24, 2022, at the Bean Farm in Scotch Grove, Iowa. The bride and groom are both members of Cedar Rapids

Prairie High School Class of 2005 and the ceremony was officiated by Rebecca's best friend from Cornell, **David Kugler '09**. Rebecca was surrounded by 21 members of her Cornell family including current students, current and former staff, and alums. After eight incredible years on staff at Cornell, as of late January Rebecca is now overseeing Leadership for Five Seasons and business support programs at the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. She also completed her master's degree in organizational leadership in August through Goodwin University.

2010s

WEDDINGS

Leather Berndt '10 to Cody Wenman, May 16, 2020

Taylor Sedlacek '14 to Harrison Bröcká, July 30, 2022

Meghan Kuhn '15 to **Marc Lewis '15**, Sept. 9, 2022

Mallory Turner '17 to Mitchell Daily, Feb. 18, 2023

BIRTHS

Skylar Allyn Wenman, May 10, 2022, to **Leather Berndt '10** and Cody Wenman

Romilly Wuchte Hoffman, Oct. 26, 2022, to **Lauren Wuchte '10** and Will Hoffman

Theodore Edward Hebel Perkins, Dec. 30, 2022, to **Samantha Hebel Perkins '12** and Thomas Hebel Perkins

Eleanor Darla Hass, May 10, 2022, to **Crystal Kephart Hass '15** and Tyler Hass

Athena Louise Mattern, Aug. 28, 2022, to **Ella Peitz Mattern '16** and **Buddy Mattern '16**

Chloe Rebekah Pavlik, Feb. 11, 2023, to **Laura Wetzel Pavlik '16** and **Timothy Pavlik '16**

Leather Berndt '10, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and her husband, Cody, welcomed their first baby, Skylar, on May 10, 2022. They also got to have their wedding reception in October after much delay due to COVID, the derecho, and the baby. They were married in May of 2020 in a very small family ceremony. **Monique Portwood '10**, Leather's Cornell roommate, was present as maid of honor. Monique returned for the reception in 2022 along with bridesmaids **Mary Mortensen '10** and **Ellen Pfannenstiel '10**.

Hans Hinrichsen '10, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, was promoted at ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls) to software development manager for the Entertainment Controls group, leading the software team that makes the lighting consoles in use on Broadway, the West End, and countless colleges and schools around the world—including Cornell!

Korey Miller '11, Urbandale, Iowa, is celebrating five years as a managing partner and co-founder of DM Capital, Inc. as well as two-and-a-half years as chief business officer and co-founder of Innovation Refunds.

Michael Baca '13, Coralville, Iowa, was named to the board of the Special Olympics of Iowa. He works as an administrator for the Hawkeye Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center and for the Center for Disabilities and Development. Michael has served as a basketball mentor for Special Olympics New Mexico, and during his time at Cornell he was a Unified Sports Day volunteer for Special Olympics Iowa. He serves on several other committees and councils, including the Pediatric Disaster workgroup, UIHC Hospital Operations Council, and Fire and Life Safety Workgroup.

Dan Carney '14, Chicago, Illinois, along with his dog, Dewey, finally set down some roots by purchasing a condo in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. In the spring you may see Dan on the lakefront zooming by you on his bike!

Taylor Sedlacek '14, Waterloo, Iowa, married Harrison Bröcká on July 30, 2022, in Denver, Iowa, at the groom's family home. Taylor is in her final year of law school at the University of Iowa College of Law, and Harrison works as a teacher and soccer coach for the Cedar Falls School District. Following Taylor's graduation in May 2023, the couple will move to Delaware where Taylor has accepted a position with a global law firm. **Liz Litteral '13** joined the wedding party as one of Taylor's bridesmaids.

Hannah O'Brien '15 and her wife, Shawna, bought their first house and moved to Cedar Rapids in early November. She continues to work at Meth-Wick Community as a fitness specialist; Shawna made a huge career change and now is working as a pipefitting apprentice.

Mallory Turner '17, Salem, Oregon, and Mitchell Daily were married at a small ceremony in Paducah, Kentucky, on Feb. 18, 2023. Mallory and Mitchell (commonly known as M&M) met in 2020 and live with their cat, Macy.

Patrick Leitzen '18, Cascade, Iowa, published his debut science fiction novel, "Silence of the Stars," in February.

After taking a year as a stay-at-home parent, **Matthew Klug '19**, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, accepted a position with Sysco Corporation as a sales consultant.

2020s

Devin Callahan '21 moved from Des Moines, Iowa, to Boston, Massachusetts, and is enrolled at New England Law | Boston. "It was a big change and not without its many challenges. But one thing that was very familiar was the lengthy readings I grew used to when I was at Cornell. I never realized how grateful I would be for those long readings in Professor David Yamanishi's classes until I began law school."

Amelia Ayers '22 is moving to Sacramento, California, to start a job as a physical scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey under the California Water Science Center.

Gabriella Garcia '22 moved from Louisiana to Bakersfield, California, to work as a case manager for convicted criminals who have mental illnesses, and to run groups on substance abuse and sexual trauma healing.

Megan Garrison '22 is serving as a health systems coordinator for Massachusetts General Hospital and Siçangü Co on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

Sydney McDaniel '22 works at Burns and McDonnell Engineering out of Kansas City as a remediation geologist.

Colt Spencer '22 opened a gym in Laurel, Montana, with his business partner. The gym serves the community either online or in person. They also offer an app that serves anyone in the world with exercise and/or nutrition. Colt started their business, called SmoothGainz, in 2021 while attending Cornell.

Sydney Swift '22 works at Integrated DNA Technologies in Coralville, Iowa, as a chemist.

Maria Thiele '22, Roselle, Illinois, is teaching first grade at the same elementary school that she went to. Maria is having a great time giving back to the community and is enjoying her first year as a teacher.

Losses



Richard H. Thomas

The Rev. Dr. Richard H. Thomas, whose contributions as chaplain, history professor, and college historian made an indelible impact on Cornell College, died at age 92 on April 24, 2023, in Cedar Rapids.

His dual appointment in 1967 as chaplain and professor eventually extended to include nine years as special assistant to the president, as well as a variety of jobs under four presidents. Simultaneously, Thomas used his talents as a historian in public service to Mount Vernon, Linn County, the state of Iowa, and the U.S. Air Force.

Thomas headed the extensive research and application that placed the entire Cornell campus on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. He later authored Vol. II of the college's scholarly history, "Cornell College: A Sesquicentennial History, 1953–2003."

Known as Rev to generations of Cornellians, he taught at the college for 29 years and remained active in the community throughout his retirement, including teaching annually for many years. He developed courses on federal American Indian policy, the internment of Japanese Americans, and Midwest architecture.

He grew up in South Dakota, graduated from Macalester College, earned an M.Div. from Garrett Evangelical Seminary, and held master's and doctoral degrees from Rutgers. He chaired the Committee for the Restoration of the Iowa Governor's Mansion, as well as state, county, and local historic preservation commissions. In addition to Cornell's National Register status, he was largely responsible for Mount Vernon's two additional National Register districts.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, three children, including **Jan Thomas '80**, and five grandchildren, including **Eric Doernhoefer '13**.



For a complete obit, see crnl.co/thomas



1961 ROYAL PURPLE

John R. Bristol '61

John R. "Jack" Bristol '61, a nationally recognized parasitologist, professor of biological sciences, and high-level administrator at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), died Jan. 14, 2023, in El Paso. He was 84.

He majored in biology at Cornell and then taught high school biology in Cleveland, Ohio. He married his college sweetheart, **Sally Cook '61**, in 1961 and they had two children, Scott and Kelly. In 1970 he earned a Ph.D. from Kent State and began his long career at UTEP. In 1975 Bristol married his second wife, Lillian Mayberry. They both held degrees in parasitology and shared a lab. Their long collaboration produced an extensive record of scientific publications, presentations, and participation in professional organizations.

At UTEP he held leadership positions at every level of administration except the presidency, including vice president for academic affairs, special assistant to the president for external affairs, and dean of the college of science. He was a Fulbright Research Fellow and consultant for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. When he retired in 1998, he continued to serve the university as director of the Texas Western Press.

Bristol was involved in the Woodturners of El Paso and was a member of the El Paso Council for International Visitors, where he served as president; the El Paso Downtown Lions Club where he served as a director; and the University Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder.

He is survived by his wife and two children.



Neil Eckles '62

Neil Eckles '62, who was instrumental in bringing Cornell into the information age in the 1990s by sponsoring in-kind trenching to connect fiber-optic cables to buildings throughout campus, died Feb. 26, 2023, in Blue Earth, Minnesota.

Eckles provided quiet leadership and service on Cornell's Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2011, and as a Life Trustee from 2012 until his death.

At Cornell Eckles was a member of the Gamma Tau Pi fraternity, played in the band, and ran track and cross country. He majored in politics and economics and business, but also valued art and music appreciation courses, once saying, "The single most important thing I gained from my Cornell experience is how to experience life in its fullest sense."

He attended Cornell from 1957–1962 and holds a B.A. from Mankato State University. After serving in the Marine Corps for three years, he returned to his hometown of Blue Earth, Minnesota, where he was a community-minded leader and entrepreneur. He worked in the family business, eventually rising to chair of the board for Blue Earth Valley Communications.

Eckles and his wife, Susan, were loyal annual contributors to Cornell for more than 50 years.

Eckles' father, **Eldon Eckles '30**, and previous generations of the Eckles family attended Cornell as far back as the 1860s, beginning with his great-grandmother Elvira Powers. She enrolled following the Civil War and was said to have been the housekeeper or secretary to President William Fletcher King.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, son Bill (Karrie), two grandchildren, and a sister.

Ruth Stewart Ballje '44, Santa Barbara, California, Dec. 1, 2022

Grace Anderson Horin '45, Lombard, Illinois, March 29, 2023

Glenna Duhme Palmer '46, Cambridge, Illinois, Feb. 1, 2023

Carol "Kelly" Chapman Rudd '46, Janesville, Wisconsin, Jan. 31, 2023

Peggy Newberg Taylor '46, La Mesa, California, March 30, 2020

Kathie Safford McConnell '48, Long Beach, California, Feb. 12, 2023

Jean Carter Peterson '49, Batavia, Illinois, March 4, 2023

Harriet Ruby Pitlik '49, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 22, 2023

Jane Smith Streiff '49, Delmar, New York, March 11, 2023

Andrew Kondrath '51, Spirit Lake, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2023

Barbara Meerdink Brown '52, Galesburg, Illinois, April 20, 2023

William Jones '52, Sebastian, Florida, April 16, 2023

Onalee Paul Arnold '53, Marion, Iowa, Feb. 8, 2023

Clarence "Clancy" Smith Jr. '53, Forest Lake, Minnesota, March 11, 2023

Patricia Darnall Wakey '53, New Lenox, Illinois, April 15, 2023

Janis Oldham Colville '55, Maryville, Missouri, Feb. 3, 2023

Janet Sweany Blackwell '56, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 9, 2022

Ronald Brown '56, Castle Rock, Colorado, Oct. 13, 2021

Sally Lake Paulsen '56, Arnold, California, March 1, 2022

Ann Gerretson Seybold '56, Madison, Wisconsin, March 23, 2023

Jack Wright '56, Pittsburg, California, June 16, 2022

Lawrie Hamilton '57, Bloomington, Indiana, Feb. 1, 2023

Nancy Hovet Lundstrom '57, Rockford, Illinois, Jan. 18, 2023

Robert Morrison '57, Cochranton, Pennsylvania, Oct. 23, 2022

J. William Elliott '58, Arden Hills, Minnesota, Feb. 11, 2023

M. Jane Crawford Viner Harding '58, Iowa City, Iowa, Jan. 12, 2023

Susan Voss Olson '58, Gulf Shores, Alabama, March 8, 2023

Marilyn Murdy Murphy '59, Johnston, Iowa, Sept. 3, 2022

Sarah "Angie" Henning Reynolds '59, Chama, New Mexico, Feb. 3, 2023

Lowell Jackman '60, Indianapolis, Indiana, Jan. 31, 2023

Georgeann Grosjean '61, Wooster, Ohio, Feb. 2, 2023

Paula Smutny Stutsman Michel '61, Harmony, Minnesota, Jan. 22, 2023

Benjamin Whitson '61, Aurora, Illinois, April 17, 2023

Judie Atkinson Bey '62, Bloomington, Illinois, Jan. 2, 2023

James Cox '62, Champaign, Illinois, Dec. 31, 2022

Sharon Palmer Wallin '63, Wilmette, Illinois, March 21, 2023

Craig Ensign '64, Clear Lake, Iowa, Feb. 5, 2023

Marcia Brown Darnell '65, Dover, Tennessee, July 4, 2022

Willis Kirkland '66, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 5, 2023

Carol Lace Jenkins '67, Seattle, Washington, Jan. 28, 2023

Constantine Choremi '68, West Des Moines, Iowa, March 14, 2023

Sonja Hoines Lively '68, Iowa City, Iowa, March 20, 2023

Jane Diehl Croker '70, Grand Junction, Colorado, Feb. 15, 2023

Robyn Wolf Spencer '70, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Oct. 18, 2022

Patricia Tenney Hewig '71, Evansville, Indiana, Jan. 8, 2023

William Cook III '74, Centennial, Colorado, Jan. 14, 2023

Nancy House-Winiecki '74, Dyer, Indiana, Feb. 18, 2023

Scott Richards '74, Isle of Hope, Georgia, Feb. 2, 2023

Steven Vosatka '76, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 24, 2023

Farris Awwad '85, Melbourne, Florida, Dec. 8, 2022

Stella Mae Easker, honorary alumna, Cornell secretary and bookkeeper for over 35 years, Marion, Iowa, March 19, 2023

Patsy Sommerville, honorary alumna, Cornell staff member in the alumni and registrar's offices for over 40 years, Mount Vernon, Iowa, March 3, 2023



The stories we tell

By JEANNA KADLEC '10

Humans are obsessed with telling stories about ourselves. Religion is one such significant form of meaning-making. What are oral traditions, religious texts, ancient mythologies, and historical records if not varied contextual forms of narrative, of self-reportage? This is who we are. This is our purpose. This is where we have been. This is where we are going.

So what do you do when the story you have been told about yourself in order to make meaning of not only your life but the world and everything in it ... suddenly shatters?

I was raised in the heartland as the religious right reached its political height in the early 2000s. I was a rule-following, people-pleasing child, which is to say that, growing up in conservative, evangelical churches in the small town Midwest, I did religion very well. I memorized entire chapters of the Gospels, knew every hymn (and Christian rock song) by heart. Jesus made sense to me, and he provided an order in my decidedly disordered home. Simultaneously, I sparked to feminism at an early age, reading everything about the history of women's rights that I could get my hands on.

In college this cognitive dissonance manifested in the simple fact that I led a decidedly evangelical women's Bible study while also being a women's studies major. I dated, and later married, the guy who led the men's Bible study—a pastor's son from what was arguably a city. It would take our marriage, moving to Boston, and my starting an English Ph.D. program—a career path first recommended to me by my Cornell professors—for me to realize that I was gay and, moreover, that my values and lived experience had become entirely contradictory to the evangelical church.

Leaving my marriage and most especially my faith was world shattering, forcing a total reconstruction of identity that I wrote about in my debut memoir, "Heretic," which came out last fall with HarperCollins.

But whether it's my upbringing in small town Iowa, in evangelical Christianity, or simply the fact that I've been a lifelong student of literature, there are parts of my experience within the faith I remain grateful for: namely, an appreciation for the extraordinary transformation and catharsis that story can provide on both individual and communal levels. My English major gave me new ways to frame and understand the stories that had been handed down to me in church, a way to analyze how seemingly "immutable" biblical stories were, in fact, like so many other universal myths and stories that were passed down over millennia of generations, retold by everyone from Blake and Milton to contemporary romance authors.

This is who we are. This is our purpose. This is where we have been. This is where we are going. This, it turns out, is still true, even when the story is taken outside of a literalist, even fascist approach.

The themes that inform every generation can't be banned, it turns out. You can't burn curiosity out of the very essence of what makes us human. We are drawn to stories that will tell us the truth of who we are. We always have been, and we always will be.

Jeanna Kadlec '10 lives in Brooklyn, New York. Her memoir, "Heretic," was published by HarperCollins and named one of the "Best New Books" of fall 2022 by People magazine.



"Without scholarships, I would not have been able to attend this wonderful college, and I would not have met my amazing friend group. Who knows where I would be without generous contributions to Cornell and my educational career? My family and I will be forever grateful for your support."

Anna Ertl '23

FROM: Hancock, Wisconsin

MAJOR: Anthropology

MINORS: Psychology and Ethnic studies

ACTIVITIES: Cornell Summer Research Institute, Dance, Environmental Club, Alliance

Your Cornell Fund gift helps provide scholarships and makes college possible for students like Anna, and we are grateful for your support. Make your gift today at crnl.co/give

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