2013–2014
CORNELL COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS
FOR THE RECORD

We are pleased to offer this annual report for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to you, our donors. Thank you for the trust you put in us to practice good stewardship of the gifts you contribute.

A comprehensive listing of giving by all individuals, businesses, and organizations from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, to any area or program of Cornell College is available online. Full class listings are available in the fall Class Agent letters as well as online.

To view all giving to the college, please go to my.cornellcollege.edu/AnnualReport14

Names and recognition levels are reported as they appear in the computerized files of the Cornell Advancement Office. If you are identified incorrectly or if your name was omitted, please help set the record straight by contacting the College Advancement Office at (319) 895-4258 or e-mail giving@cornellcollege.edu

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WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT.

Production Coordinator: Lora Baltes, Honorary Alumna
Contributors:
- Kristi Webster Columbus ’96
- Jamie Kelly
- Gabrielle Read-Hess ’07
- Allan Recalde
- Dee Ann Rexroat ’82
- Dustin Ross
- Larry Trujillo

Design: Benson & Hepker Design
Thanks to our alumni and friends, Cornell took one important step forward this past year. As an example, surpassing our Annual Fund goal was a real accomplishment and vitally important—not only because of what it says about your connection to Cornell—but also because of what it made possible for our students. In fact, in this report, you will see a recurring reference offered by those students and recent graduates who reflected on what your generosity has meant to them:

“Your donation has helped ensure that not only mine, but other students’ dreams are one step closer to becoming a reality.”
—Mariah Trapp ’14

“Your kindness is appreciated … I can now keep stepping closer to my goals.”
—Katelynn Raney ’16

“I do believe that these experiences as well as the invaluable personal relations … at Cornell have greatly prepared me for the steps I’ve yet to take in life.”
—Gerin Eaton ’15

“Your generosity has given me a step ahead in life ….”
—Madison Acree ’15

At Cornell, it might be easy to focus on the results of a given year. Did we raise X dollars? How is enrollment or retention? Did we balance the budget? Don’t get me wrong—these are all important measurements. However, much like the outcomes on which we focus for our students and what they, themselves, appreciate about your support of them, it is not about one result at a specific moment so much as it is about the process—the longer-term impact or trend, that is, the steps that we take over a period of time. Exceeding our Annual Fund goal two years in a row, which we have now done, is that much more impressive, in part, because it suggests that we are taking a meaningful and material step forward. Securing $10 million for the renovation of Pauley, Rorem, Dows, and Tarr halls similarly represents necessary forward momentum. In Alumni & College Advancement, we are on a roll.

Cornell College aspires to lead our sector of colleges in reimagining the liberal arts experience. It is, to be sure, an ambitious goal. It’s going to take a lot of work and courage to achieve it. And, we’ll need all of our alumni and friends to get behind us. However, based on the support to date, I am confident that we will accomplish our goals. On behalf of current and future Cornell students as well as the faculty and staff, thank you for being a part of our progress.

Cornell is stepping forward. Thank you for stepping up.

JONATHAN BRAND, PRESIDENT
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

While the following list illustrates major student achievements from the 2013-2014 academic year, the power of the Cornell experience is equally visible in the “small” moments—Chaplain Catherine Quehl-Engel advising a student on life and career exploration. Enduring friendships forged on an airplane to Italy or India or Japan. A play devised and performed entirely by students. A complex and nuanced musical interpretation of physics and math. The runner seeking not just running guidance but life guidance from her coach. This list could go on: lives change at multiple levels, in multiple ways, and on multiple scales at Cornell College.

Classes allow students to explore

In a field so new that there are no formal textbooks available, 20 students in Ross Sowell’s Human-Robot Interaction course relied on the latest research as a guide. Students taking Kristin Meyer’s ’01 Physiology of Exercise class examined how the human body works and changes from a resting to an exercising state. A series of labs complemented their classroom learning. Growth theory is a central pillar of macroeconomics. What better place to study growth than in China, the fastest growing economy in the world? The Macroeconomics Seminar class went to China in December 2013, led by Todd Knoop, professor of economics and business. Professor Aamer Farooqi also joined the class which visited Shanghai, the economic center of the nation; Chengdu, capital of the western Sichuan province that has experienced the largest growth in recent years; and Beijing, the political center and capital of China.
2 graduates accepted to prestigious U.K. institutions

Léonie de Jonge and Jennifer Knox, two members of the Class of 2014, were accepted to graduate programs in international relations at Cambridge and Oxford universities, respectively.

ON THE STEPS

Cornell conferred degrees on 270 students at Commencement on May 11. They will put their Cornell educations to work across the country and the world in schools, medical centers, and investment firms, just to name a few. They will also pursue postgraduate study at Oxford, Cambridge, University of Michigan, Duke University, Washington University in St. Louis, and many other institutions.

Fulbright Scholars

Seniors Tiffany Monreal and Emily Wenger (left) earned Fulbright Scholarships, making nine Cornell Fulbrights in nine years. Wenger, a double-major in English and creative writing and theatre, will spend nine months in Turkey teaching English as part of the Fulbright-Turkish Higher Education Council English Teaching Assistantship Program. While there, Wenger also plans to study theatre and writing, including the work of Turkish playwright and novelist Adalet Agaoglu.
RECOGNIZING OUR FACULTY

Cornell professors are above all teachers and mentors to our students, but they are also accomplished researchers and scholars and many students are able to work closely with them on research or other projects. Here are a few of the faculty achievements made during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Marty Condon, professor of biology, has been studying flies in the tropics for years, and in her paper published in Science, she reported evidence that there is more to a fly’s ecological niche than where it lives and what it eats. You have to look at what eats the fly as well. Professor Condon has spent years researching what causes tropical flies to split into new species. She credits Cornell’s One Course At A Time curriculum for helping enable that research, because it allows her to travel to the tropics at any point during the year.
Ellen Hoobler, assistant professor of art history, is one of the co-directors for a project that has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start-up grant. The project, titled “Dangerous Embodiments: Theories, Methods, and Best Practices for Historical Character Modeling in Humanities 3D Environments,” is a collaboration with faculty at the University of Arkansas, among other schools.

Professor of Art History Christina Penn-Goetsch taught a Smithsonian journeys course in September and May in Italy. She led small groups of Smithsonian travelers through southern Italy, where they explored the region’s history and architecture. Penn-Goetsch regularly introduces students to Rome with an off-campus course examining “The Eternal City” from Julius Caesar to Mussolini.

Rhawn Denniston, geology professor and chair of the Environmental Studies program, co-authored a paper in the journal Nature Communications that solves a long-standing controversy about ancient climate change. The paper, written by Matthew Lachniet from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and co-authored by Denniston, along with Yemane Asmerom and Victor Polyak from the University of New Mexico, addresses the argument about how glaciers grow and melt over tens of thousands of years.

Johanna Schuster-Craig, assistant professor of German, accepted a Fulbright/DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Summer Fellowship for participation in the Summer Academy in Leipzig for American Faculty in German. The two-week seminar focused on learning new pedagogical approaches for German as a Foreign Language, networking with German and American faculty, and targeted faculty teaching at small colleges.

Kirilka (Katy) Stavreva, professor of English and creative writing, was selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar. Stavreva participated in a seminar titled “Tudor Books and Readers: 1485-1603.” The five-week program was held at the Plantin-Moretus Museum, in Antwerp, Belgium; at Senate House Library, University of London; and at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford. The 16 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend to cover their travel, study, and living expenses.

Professor of Psychology Carol Enns won the 2013 Florence Denmark and Mary Reuder award from the American Psychological Association recognizing her outstanding international contributions to the psychology of women and gender.

The faculty-student ratio is 1:11 of the college’s tenure-track faculty hold the highest degree in their fields.
BREAKOUT ACHIEVEMENTS

SERVICE

120 Cornellians participated in alternative spring break trips, and Cornell placed third in the nation for per capita participation.

More than 200 participants helped raise $30,000 for Relay for Life.
FUNDRAISING

Young alumni rise to challenge
Thank you to all who participated in the Toussaint Young Alumni Challenge. Tamra Thompson Toussaint ’86 and her husband Jean-Marie challenged young alumni to reach 250 of their peers and $5,000 in new and increased gifts. They surpassed the goal with 257 donors and $8,945 in new and increased gifts with total giving of more than $35,000!

Annual Fund goal exceeded
We surpassed our Annual Fund goal for the second year in a row, raising over $2 million in unrestricted annual operating support.

ACCOLADES

Cornell received high praise in 2013-2014. We were again in the top tier of national liberal arts colleges in the U.S. News & World Report. We were named among the 100 best liberal arts colleges for value by Kiplinger’s. And, we were called one of the 20 “Best Buys” in higher education by the “Fiske Guide to Colleges.” Cornell’s latest recognition came from a more unusual source, but one that shows that we’re appealing to young people around the country: Cornell appeared as one of six non-traditional colleges the Teen Vogue website suggested might be a good fit for their readers.

COMPETITIONS

Bertschy is All-American Mock Trial witness
Sophomore Sarah Bertschy (below) was named Cornell’s first All-American witness at the American Mock Trial Association national championship tournament in Orlando, Florida, on April 13. Bertschy was a member of the Cornell team that finished 15th in its division with a record of 5 wins and 7 losses. 2014 marked the fifth time in six years that Cornell competed in the national championship tournament. Cornell was one of only 48 teams that qualified for the tournament, and was the only school from Iowa and the second-smallest in the 48-team field.
Cornell College student-athletes representing 16 sports were named Academic All-Midwest Conference for the 2013-14 season. To be eligible for the award, the student-athlete must have attained a 3.33 grade point average — calculated only in the awarded academic year — and earned a varsity letter in one of the MWC’s 20 intercollegiate sports.

HONOREES BY SPORT
Women’s indoor track & field: **14**
Women’s outdoor track & field: **14**
Softball: **12**
Volleyball: **10**
Women’s Soccer: **8**
Women’s Cross Country: **6**
Women’s Basketball: **3**
Women’s Tennis: **3**
Football: **13**
Baseball: **13**
Men’s Cross Country: **5**
Men’s Indoor Track & Field: **4**
Men’s Outdoor Track & Field: **4**
Men’s Soccer: **5**
Men’s Basketball: **3**
Men’s Tennis: **3**

**Alex Coolidge ’14 crowned NCAA Wrestling National Champion**

Top-seeded senior wrestler Alex Coolidge brought home Cornell’s first national title in 24 years with a dramatic 6-5 come-from-behind victory over No. 2 Shane Siefert of UW-Whitewater in the 197-pound final at the 2014 NCAA Division III Championships. It was sweet redemption for Coolidge, who finished second in the finals a year ago.

**Cornell had 24 multi-sport winners**
O’Connor named AVCA First Team All-American

Cornell’s all-everything outside hitter Kathleen O’Connor was named to the 2013 Division III All-America First Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Cornell junior libero Kylea Weber, of Mount Vernon, was also recognized as an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American. She joined O’Connor as the only players to garner All-America recognition in the history of Cornell volleyball. O’Connor is the first Cornell student-athlete to claim first team All-America honors in a women’s team sport. The Waukegan, Illinois, native earned honorable mention status in 2011.
Thomas Commons transforms campus

The newly expanded and renovated Thomas Commons has not only reenergized student and campus life, it has transformed the look of the campus itself. With the opening of The Hilltop Café, our renamed and totally redesigned dining hall, gone are the days of “scrambling” for food. Students, in particular, enjoy the grand foyer, with new lounge space and a fireplace, as well as the new location for the bookstore and Zamora’s Market, which replaced the Rathskeller. The new Smith Dining Room, multipurpose Hall-Perrine Room, classrooms, and patio with an outdoor fireplace make the building just incredible.

“The tremendous support from the Board of Trustees is a sign of their commitment and of a strong future for Cornell.”

President Jonathan Brand
FOUR RESIDENCE HALLS IN FIFTEEN MONTHS

When Dows, Tarr, Pauley, and Rorem halls were built, the Beatles were still putting out albums. In the intervening years generations of students have made their homes there, and while student life evolved, the halls remained the same. That changed in May 2014 when Cornell began a $10 million, 15-month renovation project of the four residence halls. The project is made possible by outright gifts from members of the Cornell Board of Trustees and their families, including leadership gifts from John Smith ’71 and Dyan Smith; Richard Small ’50 and Norma Thomas Small; Linda Webb Koehn ’66 and Thomas Koehn; and Richard Williams ’63 and Marlene Williams.

Ash Park revitalized and lighted

Cornell’s revitalized Ash Park helps position our teams for future athletic excellence. The new synthetic grass surface, installed on the football field in time for the 2013 football season, along with the lights added before the 2014 season, extend the field’s use for practice and games from three to nine hours a day. This facility is now used daily by all of Cornell’s athletic teams, including our new men’s and women’s lacrosse programs.

Garner President’s House dedicated

At the October 2013 dedication ceremony of the newly renovated Garner President’s House, President Emeritus Les Garner and First Lady Katrina Garner were honored for their many contributions to Cornell College during their 16-year tenure, including the very genuine ways in which they made their house a home for Cornell College and the wider community.
In late June, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation gave the college a $500,000 award to create the Cornell Institute for Summer Research, which will expand and enhance our programs in student-faculty collaborative research. Beginning next summer the college will seek to double the number of supported research projects, currently at 12 to 14 and mostly in the sciences, by accommodating additional projects in the arts, humanities, and humanistic social sciences. Student researchers from a variety of disciplines will live together in a residence hall, creating a summer living-learning community. In addition, this grant supports faculty development in the emerging field of the digital liberal arts.

In April, The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations awarded $250,000 to Cornell to support new programming for success of first-generation students. Twenty-seven percent of Cornell’s 2013-2014 first-year class are first-generation college students. These students tend to face more challenges than others including less knowledge about how to navigate college and postgraduate life, and they have lower self-confidence.

The chemistry departments of Cornell and Coe colleges jointly received a $10,000 Pittsburgh Conference Memorial National College Grant award to help purchase a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer that will aid in a wide variety of experiments. The new instrument will benefit approximately 265 students annually from both campuses, with several collaborative research projects planned.
Cornell professors change lives, and few have changed more than The Rev. Richard Thomas, professor emeritus of history, chaplain emeritus, and college historian. Thomas, who’s better known as “Rev,” taught at Cornell for 29 years, and has stayed active in the college community since his retirement. He taught generations of Cornellians to love history, and now, with a gift from his family in his honor, his influence will continue.

Thomas’ children, led by his daughter Jan Thomas ’80, endowed the Richard H. Thomas History Scholar Award for off-campus research. The award will allow students with financial need to do historical research off-campus.

In a heartfelt speech at the college’s annual Homecoming Convocation, Thomas thanked his children, expressed how proud he was of all they’d accomplished, and said he was humbled to have an award that would allow students to flourish named in his honor. He also expressed his pride in the many students he’d taught.

“I’m proud that the values of Cornell have taken root in so many of you,” he said. “You have achieved honors not just for yourself, but for all who have shared their wisdom and passion with you. That’s what faculty do. Thank you for letting me be a part of that journey—I loved every minute of it.”

Cornell ranked #3 in efficiency

Cornell College ranked third among national liberal arts colleges in a U.S. News list of most efficient highly ranked schools. According to the U.S. News calculations, Cornell is among the institutions that “are doing a very good job at producing a top ranking for academic quality while carefully spending their available financial resources.”
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**GIFTS BY SOURCE 2013–2014**

- Alumni: $3,983,524.23 (38.88%)
- Foundations: $3,070,525.60 (29.97%)
- Corporations: $2,408,136.14 (23.50%)
- Friends: $160,719.23 (1.57%)
- Estates: $284,296.88 (2.77%)
- Parents: $268,895.14 (2.62%)
- Iowa College Foundation: $38,621.00 (0.38%)
- Church: $31,281.12 (0.31%)
- **TOTAL**: $10,245,999.34 (100.00%)

**ANNUAL FUND GIFTS BY SOURCE 2013–2014**

- Alumni: $1,332,681.28 (61.25%)
- Foundations: $462,194.60 (21.24%)
- Corporations: $162,955.39 (7.49%)
- Friends: $44,368.19 (2.04%)
- Estates: $14,070.86 (0.65%)
- Parents: $108,048.65 (4.97%)
- Iowa College Foundation: $20,206.00 (0.93%)
- Church: $31,281.12 (1.44%)
- **TOTAL**: $2,175,806.09 (100.00%)

**GIFTS BY PURPOSE 2013–2014**

- Current Restricted: $1,940,195.00 (18.94%)
- Endowment: $1,280,003.37 (12.49%)
- Current Unrestricted: $2,175,806.09 (21.24%)
- Facilities: $4,849,994.88 (47.34%)
- **TOTAL**: $10,245,999.34 (100.00%)
### 2013–2014 SUMMARY OF CLASS GIVING

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Gilda Vinzulis Boyer ’84, Attorney, Shuttleworth & Ingersoll (retired), Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Jonathan Brand, President of the College, Mount Vernon, Iowa (ex-officio)
Peter S. Bryant, Senior Vice President and Principal, Noel-Levitz, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
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