The Inauguration of the Thirteenth President of Cornell University

Elizabeth Garrett

September 18, 2015

Installation Ceremony

The Inaugural Procession, 10:00 a.m.

The Inaugural Ceremony, 10:30 a.m.
The Arts Quadrangle

The communal and historic heart of Cornell University's Ithaca campus is the Arts Quadrangle, a tranquil green space bordered by venerable stone and brick buildings. It is the site of the university's original campus, and a favorite gathering place for Cornellians. Students study, chat, or toss Frisbees on the lawn in the warmer months, and sculpt snow figures there between classes in the winter.

Founder Ezra Cornell is said to have stood on the future quadrangle's northwestern corner when he announced his intention to build a university on this site. He and co-founder Andrew Dixon White, Cornell's first president, visited many campuses, including those of Oxford, Harvard, and Yale, while planning the layout of the original quadrangle of the new university. White even sought the counsel of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City's Central Park. Succeeding generations of Cornellians have made only minor changes, preserving the Arts Quadrangle much as the founders planned it: a lovely, shady place for community activities, socializing, and reflection, on one of the most beautiful campuses in America.

The founders' statues face each other across the quadrangle. White's is on the east side, and Cornell's on the west, in the middle of "Oky Stone Row," which consists of Morrill, McGraw, and White halls. Morrill Hall, the first building constructed on the original campus, is a National Historic Landmark. Built of bluestone quarried from the land directly to the west of the quadrangle, which created the steep hill every Cornellian now knows as Libe Slope; these three earliest buildings still house a portion of the College of Arts and Sciences, as do Lincoln Hall and the massive Goldwin Smith Hall on the eastern side of the quadrangle.

The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art Building, designed by renowned I.M. Pei, stands just off the northwestern corner of the quadrangle. Its neighbors, framing the quadrangle's northern end, are Tjaden, Sibley, and Rand halls, headquarters of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning.

In March of every year for the past 114 years, each first-year architecture class has built a dragon in Rand Hall. The huge beast, escorted by throngs of costumed students, is paraded through campus and back to the Arts Quadrangle, where it does battle with a phoenix created by rival engineering students. This rite of spring is one of Cornell's best-known traditions.

Unis Library, on the southwest corner of the Arts Quadrangle, incorporates Cornell's most famous landmark, Jennie McGraw Tower, whose chimes and clock are part of daily campus life. Olin Library, one of the world's great research libraries, anchors the southern boundary. On Cornell's commencement day each May, the president, trustees, and guests gather on Olin's terrace to view the degree candidates and faculty members as they assemble on the quadrangle and begin the march to Schoellkopf Stadium for the graduation ceremonies and celebration.

Academic Regalia

Academic regalia in the United States generally conforms to an intercollegiate code established in 1895. The gown is commonly black, but may be designed with special variations to indicate the level of the wearer's degree. The doctoral gown is paneled in velvet with three matching velvet bars on the sleeves that are black or a color associated by convention with the general field of the degree preferred; i.e., blue velvet is worn by a Doctor of Philosophy, and gray by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Cornell University trustees wear the doctoral gowns. The University Marshal, Bearer of the Mace, and Faculty Marshals wear ceremonial gowns of solid cardinal. Recipients of the Cornell doctorate may wear gowns of cardinal.

The tassel on the academic cap is black or the color associated with the degree field. Colors for Cornell degrees include: agriculture and life sciences: maize; architecture: blue violet; arts and sciences: white; engineering: orange; fine arts: brown; hotel administration: dark red; human ecology: maroon; industrial and labor relations: orange yellow; law: purple; management: drab; medicine: green; and veterinary science: gray.

The hood bears a resemblance to the medieval cowl from which it derives. The Cornell hood has a distinctive lining of cardan with two white chevrons. Other institutional colors that are frequently seen at Cornell ceremonies include Brown's brown, California's gold with blue chevron, Chicago's maroon, Columbia's light blue with white chevron, Harvard's crimson, Illinois's dark blue with gold chevron, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's bright red with silver gray chevron, Michigan's maize with azure chevron, Pennsylvania's cardinal with blue chevron, Princeton's orange with black chevron, Stanford's cardinal, Wisconsin's bright red, and Yale's dark blue.

The Prelude and the Inaugural Procession

PROCESSIONAL
Cornell Chimes
ORDER OF MARCH
University Marshal
Delegates Representing Other Universities and Colleges
Representatives of the Assemblies of the University
Student Assembly
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
Employee Assembly
University Assembly
ROTC Commanders
University Library Representatives
Dean of the University Faculty
Colleges and Schools of Cornell, Each Represented by:
Student Bearers of the Name Banner
Dean
Staff Bearer of the Symbol Banner
University Faculty and Academic Staff
Provost for Medical Affairs
University Provost
University Administration
Past University Presidents
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Members of the Board of Trustees
Inaugural Readers
Inaugural Poet
Bearer of the University Charter
Bearer of the Great Seal of the University
Bearer of the University Mace
University President
Alma Mater

Far above Cayuga's waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
Glorious to view.

Lift the chorus,
Speed it onward,
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee our Alma Mater!
Hail, all hail, Cornell!

Far above the busy humming
Of the bustling town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
Looks she proudly down.

Lift the chorus,
Speed it onward,
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee our Alma Mater!
Hail, all hail, Cornell!

NARRATOR
David Feldshuh, Professor of Theater

PERFORMERS
A special thank you to the performers who are sharing their talents with us:
Yamatai
Cornell University Chorus and Glee Club
Cornell Wind Symphony
Big Red Marching Band

COMMUNITY PICNIC
Please join us on the Agriculture Quadrangle following the installation ceremony for a picnic celebrating the inauguration of Elizabeth Garrett.

For this occasion, Cornell Dairy has unveiled a new ice cream flavor — 24 Garrett Swirl.

The Installation Ceremony

PRELUDE AND FANFARE
Cornell University Wind Symphony

CONVOCATION CALL
University Marshal

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Strike Up a Song, by Richard H. Lee '41
Cornell University Glee Club

WELCOME
Robert S. Harrison, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

POETRY READING
Alice Fulton, Ann S. Bowers Professor of English

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Will the Circle Be Unbroken, trad. Appalachian hymn, arr. by J. David Moore
Cornell University Chorus

INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT
Robert S. Harrison, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
Elizabeth Garrett, President of Cornell University

CONCLUDING REMARKS
Robert S. Harrison, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

ALMA MATER
Cornell University Chorus, Glee Club, and Wind Symphony

RECESSIONAL
Big Red Marching Band
OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

1866 Harvard University
1868 Wells College
1870 Syracuse University
1871 State University of New York College at Geneseo
1873 Texas Christian University
1873 Vanderbilt University
1875 Wellesley College
1876 Johns Hopkins University
1880 University of Southern California
1883 Houghton College
1885 Bryn Mawr College
1885 Georgia Institute of Technology
1885 Stanford University
1889 State University of New York College at Oswego
1890 Keuka College
1891 California Institute of Technology
1892 Ithaca College
1894 University of Massachusetts Lowell
1896 Adelphi University
1908 Alfred State College
1908 Monroe State College
1911 Connecticut College
1911 State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill
1912 Rice University
1914 The Sage Colleges
1919 University of California, Los Angeles
1926 Sarah Lawrence College
1929 Marist College
1944 University of California, Santa Barbara
1945 Helen Field College of Nursing
1946 Binghamton University
1946 Jills University
1946 Le Moyne College
1946 Paul Smith's College
1946 Utica College
1948 State University of New York
1952 Cornell Community College
1952 Dutchess Community College
1968 Tompkins Cortland Community College
1970 The Towne College and University System
The University Mace and Baton

The Cornell University mace and baton are present at events such as commencement, inaugurations, and other formal ceremonies. The mace symbolizes the authority of the university as exercised by its principal officers. The baton is carried while forming and directing the procession.

President Deane Waldo Malott requested Sir Eric Clements of the Goldsmiths' Guild of London to design both the mace and the baton in 1962.

The mace consists of a tapered silver shaft surmounted by a golden terrestrial globe. Silver ribs surrounding the globe symbolize the universality of Cornell's interests and the worldwide affiliations of its faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Topping the mace is a silver bear holding an oak—that representing Cornell's unofficial mascot—the Big Red Bear, and the oak he holds represents rowing, a sport in which the university has an outstanding reputation.

The baton is a rosewood shaft with a wrought-silver triangular knob that bears a rendering of engraved ivy leaves.

The University Charter

As the land grant university of New York State, Cornell University was chartered through an act of the New York State Legislature on April 27, 1865. The charter requires that the “several departments of study in the said university shall be open to applicants for admission thereto at the lowest rates of expense consistent with its welfare and efficiency; and without distinction as to rank, class, previous occupation or locality.” Moreover, “persons of every or no religious denomination shall be equally eligible to all offices and appointments.” The charter defined Cornell University’s mission as “...to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts, including military tactics, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life. But such other branches of science and knowledge may be embraced in the plan of instruction and investigation pertaining to the university as the trustees may deem useful and proper.”

Though the New York State Legislature has amended the charter from time to time over the course of the university’s history to establish—for example, Cornell's four New York State contract colleges—its essence has remained unchanged.

The Great Seal of Cornell University

The Great Seal is affixed to every diploma awarded by Cornell University. Two inches in diameter, it features a profile likeness of founder Ezra Cornell in the center, encircled by his words: “I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.”

The Past Presidents of Cornell University

Andrew Dickson White, 1866 to 1885
Charles Kendall Adams, 1885 to 1892
Jacob Gould Schurman, 1892 to 1920
Livingston E. Fa. Brand, 1921 to 1937
Edmund Ezra Day, 1937 to 1949
Deane Waldo Malott, 1951 to 1963
James A. Perkins, 1963 to 1969
Dale R. Corson, 1969 to 1977
Frank H.T. Rhodes, 1977 to 1995
Hunter R. Rawlings III, 1995 to 2003
Jeffrey S. Lehman, 2003 to 2005
David J. Skorton, 2006 to 2015
So enter that daily thou mayest become more learned and thoughtful; So depart that daily thou mayest become more useful to thy country and mankind.

Inscription, Eddy Gate