The Inauguration of
David J. Skorton
as the Twelfth President of
Cornell University

Thursday, September 7, 2006   ·   The Arts Quadrangle

The Inaugural Procession, 3:00 p.m.
The Installation Ceremony, 3:30 p.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 Dickson 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 "Old 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 architect 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 105 years, each first-year architecture class has built a dragon in Rand Hall. The huge beast, escorted by throngs of excitable and costumed students, is paraded through campus and back to the Arts Quadrangle, where it perishes in a bonfire that marks the beginning of spring.

Uris 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 celebrations.
AUTOMATA

In the spirit of the fanciful music machines of ancient courts, this composition weaves what best represent the "sound" of Cornell: chimes, machine sounds, African drums, and much more. At its heart are the timbres of the keyboard family, perhaps the most ubiquitous instruments on campus—after the iPod, of course. The theme, "C-D-E-A-A," is a musical anagram for "Cornell" that connects different ideas, like the Fibonacci Series, change-ringing, and sound spatialization. With each re-occurrence, it morphs into something with even greater potential: a hope that I have for my students and colleagues at Cornell.

Spencer Topel, composer of Automata

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 conferred; i.e., blue velvet is worn by a Doctor of Philosophy, purple by a Doctor of Law, and gray by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Cornell University Trustees wear the doctoral gown. The University Marshal, the Bearer of the Mace, and Faculty Marshals wear ceremonial gowns of solid carnelian. Recipients of the Cornell doctorate may wear gowns of carnelian.

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 medicine: gray.

The hood bears a resemblance to the medieval cowl from which it derives. The Cornell hood has a distinctive lining of carnelian 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

OPENING POEM

Read by Alice Fulton, the Ann S. Bowers Professor of English, from the book Like a Fragile Index of the World: Poems for David Skorton

PROCESIONAL

Automata, an original composition by Spencer S. Topel, graduate student in music composition

ORDER OF MARCH

The University Marshal
Delegates Representing Other Universities and Colleges
Delegates Representing Learned Societies and Scientific and Cultural Institutions
Student Assembly Representatives
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Representatives
Employee Assembly Representatives
University Assembly Representatives
University Library Representatives
Members of the University Faculty and Academic Staff
ROTC Commanders
University Deans
The Chancellor of the State University of New York
The Executive Staff
The Past Presidents
Members of the Board of Overseers
Members of the Board of Trustees
Trustee Ezra Cornell
The Bearer of the University Charter
The Bearer of the Great Seal of the University
The Inaugural Speaker
The Provost for Medical Affairs
The University Provost
The Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The Bearer of the Mace
The President
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 the 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 original charter is presented to the president of Cornell University during the inaugural installation ceremony.

Alma Mater

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

[Refrain] 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. [Refrain]

Sentry-like o'er lake and valley
Towers her regal form;
Watch and ward forever keeping,
Braving time and storm.
So through clouds of doubt and darkness
Gleams her beacon light;
Fault and error clear revealing,
Blazing forth the right. [Refrain]

To the glory of her founder
Rise her stately walls;
May her sons pay equal tribute
Whene'er duty calls.
When the moments, swiftly fleeting,
Ages roll between;
Many yet unborn shall hail her:
Alma Mater, Queen! [Refrain]

In the music of the waters
As they glide along,
In the murmur of the breezes
With their whispered song,
In the tuneful chorus blending
With each pealing bell,
One refrain seems oft repeated:
Hail, all hail, Cornell! [Refrain]

Here, by flood and foaming torrent,
Gorge and rocky dell,
Pledge we faith and homage ever
To our loved Cornell.
May time ne'er efface the memory
Of her natal day,
And her name and fame be honored
Far and wide alway! [Refrain]
The Installation Ceremony

PRELUDE AND FANFARE
Cornell University Wind Ensemble

CONVOCATION CALL
Charles Walcott, University Marshal

WELCOME
Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

REMARKS
Antonio Gotto, Jr., Provost for Medical Affairs, and Dean of the Weill Cornell Medical College

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION
Carolyn A. Martin, University Provost

INAUGURAL SPEAKER
David M. Feldshuh, Professor of Theatre Arts and Artistic Director of the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Cornell University Wind Ensemble

INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT
Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
David J. Skorton, President of Cornell University

CONCLUDING REMARKS
Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

ALMA MATER
Cornell University Glee Club and Cornell University Chorus

RECESSIONAL
Cornell Steel Band
Reception on the Arts Quadrangle

Please join us on the Arts Quadrangle immediately following the installation ceremony, for a reception celebrating the inauguration of David J. Skorton.

Performances will be featured onstage near the statue of Andrew Dickson White and on Olin Library Terrace.

For this “Taste of Ithaca” occasion, Cornell Dairy has unveiled a new ice cream flavor — Banana-Berry Skorton. In tents around the quadrangle, local caterers are highlighting local foods. Fresh peaches, plums, and apples have been provided by the Cornell Orchards.

Performers

A special thank-you to the performers who are sharing their talents with us:

Simon Shaheen & Qantara
Absolute Zero
Bhangra
Calvary and St. Paul’s Gospel Choir
Cornell University Chorus and Glee Club
Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble
Cornell Steel Band
Cornell University Wind Ensemble
Latin Jazz
Sabor Latino
Spencer Topel

Inaugural Concert

Simon Shaheen & Qantara will perform tonight in Bailey Hall at 9:00 p.m.
Bearers and Delegates

**BEARER OF THE MACE**
Michele M. Moody-Adams, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

**BEARER OF THE UNIVERSITY CHARTER**
Kwame Thomison, President of the Student Assembly

**BEARER OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY**
Donna Goss, Chair of the Employee Assembly

**OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES**

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Samuel O. Thier
Richard F. Tucker, life overseer
Roger J. Weiss, life overseer
Stephen H. Weiss, life overseer

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Executive Directors: John F. Lam, Patricia L. Lam
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A. Brad Anton, Associate Dean and Secretary

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Elan Greenberg
Vincent Hartman
Ryan Lavin
Grace Leonard
Stacey Nicole Lynch
Neal Nisargand
Ahmed Salem
Sarah Santana
Calvin Seth
Charles J. Slicklen
The Past Presidents of Cornell University

Past presidents Dale R. Corson, Frank H. T. Rhodes, Hunter R. Rawlings III, and Jeffrey Sean Lehman are participating in the inauguration ceremonies.

Andrew Dickson White, 1866 to 1885
Charles Kendall Adams, 1885 to 1892
Jacob Gould Schurman, 1892 to 1920
Livingston Farrand, 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 Sean Lehman, 2003 to 2005

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