In her State of the University address, President Garrett charged the university with being “creative in seeking support from industry, foundations, and philanthropy” in order to strengthen Cornell’s foundation—its faculty. What impact have Cornell faculty had on your experience as a student and as an alumna/us? How can you contribute to the discussion of broadening the ways in which we seek to add support for increased funding for the work of our faculty?

I was incredibly fortunate to connect personally with professors Jerry Wells and Colin Rowe as a student at Cornell. My relationship with both of these world-class thinkers was a transformative experience for me. They mentored me, taught me to believe in myself, gave me the confidence to tackle any problem and instilled the desire to push myself further than I ever thought was possible. Their influence continues to impact me to this day. I believe outstanding faculty is the key to pushing the boundaries of educational excellence at Cornell. One way we can bring new resources to the faculty is by forming funded partnerships with industries and professionals to create mutually beneficial initiatives. For instance, my firm has developed an alliance with a graduate architecture/engineering program where their academic research informs our professional work and our professional work provides a feedback loop to advance their research.

Engaged Cornell, an initiative that will focus on establishing “community engagement and real-world learning experiences” for undergraduate students, will collaborate with Global Cornell to provide international service-learning opportunities for those students. This is just one way in which the university will strive to enhance the experience of undergraduate students. In what other ways do you believe the university should support students and prepare them for life after Cornell?

I strongly believe in integrating goal-oriented projects into the Cornell curriculum, where students work together in teams to address and apply what they are studying. This not only engages them more intensely in their subjects, but also would be very effective in introducing them to issues and methods that they will face upon graduation. In addition, this approach can be augmented through: 1) in-class team-oriented projects addressing real-world problems done collaboratively with practicing professionals; 2) enrollment in a co-op program with formal internships integrated into the curriculum, providing experience in their selected field (which is impossible to replicate in a classroom setting); 3) initiatives such as Engaged Cornell and Global Cornell that offer formal hands-on experience in local and world communities; and 4) encouraging them to spend a period of time in a vibrant urban environment, where they can immerse themselves in cultural, societal, and economic richness and the diversity of global cities.

The university seeks to expand cross-campus academic programs and to grow, not only in New York City but also globally, including a soon-to-be-opened office in Shanghai. How would you apply the lessons you have learned (e.g., challenges and successes) within your industry to inform the conversation about Cornell's presence in the global landscape?

By increasing its global outreach, Cornell is bringing students and faculty into closer harmony with world issues and expanding its relevance. Having designed and completed buildings on five continents, I am deeply aware of the interconnectivity of the world. Experiences gained abroad offer a broader perspective in allowing us to make better-informed decisions. It has offered me opportunities to be far more daring and experimental with my work and has taught me to collaborate with local experts, assimilating many different opinions, and to be understanding and respectful of local cultures and customs. It has opened doors that allow for greater diversification of ideas, resulting in new solutions and, even logistically, in taking advantage of time differences to find new ways of working. I am excited about Cornell University’s global initiatives and feel confident that I can offer informed viewpoints and access to my extensive global network to help further this plan.

Cornell Degree(s): B ARCH AAP, 1982; M ARCH AAP, 1984

Professional Experience:
- Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill LLP: Design Architect 1983-present, Design Partner (since 1995)
- Elected a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects in 2007, an honor bestowed on only 3% of the profession
- Numerous awards and accolades from The American Institute of Architects, Chicago Athenaeum, and Progressive Architecture, including The American Institute of Architects 2015 Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture for CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Projects featured at the Venice and Sao Paolo Architecture Biennales, The Skyscraper Museum, Center for Architecture and the New York Public Library in New York City
- Registered Architect in the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas and NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards)

Mr. Abadan is a Design Partner in the world-renowned architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM). He joined the firm in 1983 and was elected a Partner in 1995. He specializes in complex and challenging projects and has had a great impact at SOM, with completed buildings on five continents and pioneering the firm’s first commercial buildings in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Brazil. His cosmopolitan career is an expression of his curiosity, interest in and tolerance of others, and a restless creative talent that is equally at home in distant places as it is in his adopted home of New York, where he designed acclaimed projects, including The Time Warner Center, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and Memorial Sloan Kettering’s Zuckerman Cancer Research Center. In 2007, he co-founded the first Turkish community foundation in the US, “The Turkish Philanthropy Funds,” supporting progressive civil society initiatives in Turkey.

Alumni Service:
- College of Architecture, Art, and Planning
  - Member, Advisory Council (1998-present)
  - Co-Chair, Advisory Council (2009-2012)
  - AAP/NYC Program Lecturer “International Practice” (2008-2013)
  - Lecturer, Executive Education Committee (2014-present)
  - Visiting Design Studio Critic and Lecturer (Fall 1997, 2001 and 2004)
  - Summer Program Coordinator (1985)

Community/Public Service:
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) Foundation: Chairman (2005-present)
- Turkish Philanthropy Funds: Founding Member, Board of Directors (2007-present); Chairman (2014-present); Investment Committee (2014-present)
- Nominated for the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2016)
- Aga Khan Award for Architecture: Nominations Committee (2006-present)
- New York Real Estate Board: Member (since 2001)
- Cornell Club-New York: Member (since 1989)

Additional Information:
At AAP, Mustafa distinguished himself by winning the Gensler Design Excellence Award and the Eschweiler Prize for Scholastic Excellence in Design. He also participated in many college-wide initiatives, including receiving awards for student architectural design competitions as well as architectural collaborations with faculty.

A longtime resident of Metropolitan NY, Mustafa currently lives in Montclair, NJ, and is married to Susan Brady, principal of SBLD Studio, a lighting design firm in NYC. They are involved in their community through the Montclair Art Museum, and The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (a private not-for-profit organization supporting the Montclair Public School System). Their son, Taner, is currently a sophomore at Cornell Engineering, majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Business. Taner is the captain of the Cornell Men’s Varsity Ski Team and belongs to the Delta Upsilon fraternity. As a family, they enjoy, skiing, golfing and extensive travels.