Renee T. Alexander ’74

As Associate Dean of Students/Senior Advisor to the Dean, “Dr. Renee” focused on campus climate issues. Through her work with student communities, Renee Alexander’s efforts improved dialogue, collaboration, and understanding. Under her leadership, the Breaking Bread initiative – which brings participants together for a special meal and facilitated conversation – won the highly acclaimed Perkins Prize (2017) for its significant impact toward furthering the ideal of university community while respecting the values of racial and cultural diversity. Her contributions also include facilitating Town Hall meetings, convening the Leadership Roundtable of campus student leaders, working within and between groups to foster community and confront complex issues, resolving conflicts, advising students, and supporting students as they engage across the spectrum of Cornell communities.

A Cornellian, Dr. Alexander earned her B.A. in American History and Government, from the College of Arts and Sciences. She earned her M.S.Ed in Counseling from Hunter College/CUNY, and Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University in Educational Psychology.

Dr. Deborah J. Arrindell ’79

Deborah graduated from Cornell in 1979 from CALS with a BS in biology. Deborah attended Yale University School of Medicine where she received a combined MD-MPH degree. Deborah completed an internship in pediatrics and residency in anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Deborah decided to attend the University of Maryland School of Law where she received her JD.

Deborah has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for the last 19 years, of which 11 years have been at Amgen located in Southern California. Deborah is an avid supporter of the Cornell community and has served as reunion chair for the CBAA reunions, hosted numerous social and fund raisers at her home; as well as served as one of the chairs for the James and Janice Turner Endowment Scholarship.

Deborah currently resides in California and is a life time member of CBAA, a member of the President’s Council for Cornell Women, CAAAN ambassador and member of the Cornell Club of Los Angeles. Most recently, Deborah hosted the first ever Cornell on the Vineyard event, and looks forward to the 2019 event in August.

Ilham Askia ’99

Ilham Askia is executive director of Gideon’s Promise, a non-profit 501(c)(3) public defender advocacy organization that provides training, leadership development and mentorship to improve the quality of legal representation for low-income individuals.

Askia is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure that supports the programs and services that distinguish the organization as the only public defender advocacy organization that supports public defenders at every career stage. The organization’s five major programs are executed in partnership and for the benefit of 40 public defender offices and 24 law schools across 27 states.

Askia and Gideon’s Promise has won numerous awards including, but not limited to, Stephen B. Bright Public Defender Award, Emory University’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, Southern Center for Human Rights’ Gideon’s Promise Award, The National Association of Sentencing Advocates and Mitigation Specialists Sentencing Project Award, the American College of Trial Lawyers Emil Gumpert Award, the WNBA Inspiring Woman Award, and the Atlanta Hawks Most Notable Atlantan. The organization also served as the inspiration for the award-winning HBO documentary Gideon’s Army. She is also a member of Leadership Atlanta and the Society of International Business Fellows.

She resides in Atlanta, Georgia with husband Jonathan and children Aaliyah and Lucas.
Ankur Bajaj is a member of the Class of 2013 from the College of Arts and Sciences. He currently works in strategy at Genentech, a biopharma company based in San Francisco. He recently moved to the best coast from New York and hasn’t looked back a moment - enjoying his Cali lifestyle chock full of growing lime and lemon trees in his backyard to pretending to like “natural” wine.

In his spare time, Ankur is very involved with local LGBTQ nonprofits including the LGBT Asylum Project and loves planning parties. Beyond Mosaic, Ankur serves as a board member in CUGALA, the LGBTQIA Alumni Association, Cornell University Council and is involved with his class, previously serving as the 5th year reunion chair.

Brian Balduzzi (he/him/his) is a proud central New Yorker, growing up on Lake Ontario. A recent Philadelphia transplant, Brian works for Wilmington Trust Company as a Fiduciary Innovation Strategist, and as a Tax and Business Law Adjunct Professor. Previously, Brian practiced as a tax and estate planning attorney, and, before that, worked as a kindergarten teacher.

Brian serves on the Board of Directors for Young Involved Philadelphia, the Independence Business Alliance, and Philadelphia Youth Congress, as well as a number of local non-profits’ young leadership councils. He sings with the Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus. Brian holds his M.B.A. and Minor in Real Estate from Cornell University as a Roy H. Park Leadership Fellow; a J.D. and Tax LL.M. from Boston University; and a B.A. in English, Secondary Education, and Theatre from SUNY Geneseo. He is barred in New York and Massachusetts and before the U.S. Tax Court, holds his CFP® certification, and is working to obtain his CPA licensure and a M.S. in both Financial Engineering and Data Science.

In his spare time, Brian enjoys training for distance running, playing strategic board games, performing and directing in all of Shakespeare’s plays (13 out of 37), and rooting for Orange basketball and all things Big Red!

Khary P. Barnes ’02

Khary is a Vice President and General Manager of Global Commercial Services for American Express, serving as the global executive lead for American Express’ largest and most strategic commercial customers around the globe.

Prior to Global Commercial Services, Khary led transactions within the Corporate Development Group where he negotiated acquisitions, investments, divestitures, and joint ventures and partnerships globally for American Express. Notably, he completed American Express’s investment in and partnership with Lianlian, a payment services company in China, to enable digital payments for its consumer and business customers, setup the American Express Global Business Travel joint venture, and acquired a fraud solution platform to help merchants combat fraudulent online and mobile transactions, Accertify.

He is twice the recipient of The President’s Award for Leadership (American Express’ highest award for leadership). Khary began his career at Lehman Brothers as an investment banker specializing in securitization, asset based lending, and financing for mergers & acquisitions and leverage buyout transactions. Khary leverages his background in finance, strategy and business operations, and track record in client management to advise Fortune 500, multinational companies and senior executives on their global enterprise payment strategy.

He is an outspoken proponent of civic engagement and public service. He was selected as a 2017-2018 David Rockefeller Fellow by the Partnership for New York City as well as a 2018 Network Journal 40 Under 40. Khary earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cornell University, and a Master in Business Administration from Harvard Business School.
LaToya Brackett is a Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Studies and the Race & Pedagogy Institute at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. She graduated with honors from Cornell in 2006 with a Bachelor's in Africana Studies. During her time at Cornell she was a writer for the Black Perspectives Newspaper, and an activist surrounding campus issues of diversity and national issues related to immigration. She also was a member, and section leader, of the Big Red Marching Band. Additionally, LaToya holds a Master's in Counseling, and a Doctorate in African American and African Studies from Michigan State University.

LaToya was born and raised in Charlottesville, VA, and in her dedication to diverse college-bound youth, she is the founder and president of a local scholarship. The Phyllis Marie Brackett Memorial Scholarship supports African American women in their transition from home to college. Alongside student advocacy, LaToya supports diverse programming on her campus and beyond.

Having taught ESL in Taiwan, it has become her goal to provide support and opportunities for students of color to go abroad; including her own study abroad programming to Ghana. Closer to home, LaToya continues to be a mentor of college-bound students.

Mary Bowler Jones '78 (Boston University '81) is based in Wilmington, Delaware and is an attorney by training. She has held a variety of leadership roles within the DuPont Company legal function including Corporate Secretary and Governance Officer, State Affairs Manager and Chief Counsel with oversight responsibility for labor, employment, benefits, immigration, and compliance. Mary's Cornell involvement includes a variety of class officer roles, presidency of the Cornell Association of Class Officers (CACO), regional activities, Cornell Fund, Cornell Alumni Federation Board, Cornell University Council and PCCW. She is actively engaged with a number of nonprofit and educational institutions in her community, including the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, the Brandywine Hundred Library, Odyssey of the Mind, Girl Scouts, Children and Families First, and the Delaware Theatre Company, where she currently chairs the Board of Directors. Mary focuses her volunteer time and resources on bringing educational and arts enrichment opportunities to underserved communities within the greater Wilmington community.

Kevin grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and graduated from the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University in 2005. He was drafted by the Oakland Raiders in 2006, and joined the New York Giants in 2007. After 7 seasons and two Super Bowl championships with the Giants, Kevin played his 9th, and final, season back in Oakland. Kevin earned his MBA from George Washington University over the course of two NFL playing seasons in 2013.

Today, Kevin works for the NFL's Football Operations Department in NYC.

Mary Bowler Jones '78 (Boston University '81)

LaToya Tinean Brackett Ph.D '06

Kevin Mark Boothe '05

Mary Bowler Jones '78

Kevin grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and graduated from the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University in 2005. He was drafted by the Oakland Raiders in 2006, and joined the New York Giants in 2007. After 7 seasons and two Super Bowl championships with the Giants, Kevin played his 9th, and final, season back in Oakland. Kevin earned his MBA from George Washington University over the course of two NFL playing seasons in 2013.

Today, Kevin works for the NFL's Football Operations Department in NYC.
Nieva M. S. Brock is the Associate General Counsel, Administrative Law and Litigation Division in the Office of the General Counsel. She leads a diverse team of highly skilled attorneys tasked with advising on all matters related to civil litigation, personnel law, ethics, standards of conduct, counterintelligence, insider threat, and other administrative law issues.

Ms. Brock is a native New Yorker who is retired from the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps with an established record of avid public service that predates her military career. Between earning her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and enrolling in law school, Ms. Brock served as a child abuse investigator in New York, a homeless services coordinator for the American Red Cross, and a Social Worker for abused and neglected children.

Ms. Brock was directly commissioned as an Ensign from the University of San Diego School of Law where she earned her Juris Doctor degree and was honored with the Law School’s first annual “Child Advocate of the Year” award. Ms. Brock served for twenty years as an active duty Navy judge advocate in assignments of increasing responsibility in the United States and overseas, including tours as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Staff Judge Advocate, Officer in Charge, Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer. Notably, Ms. Brock served as the Deputy Division Director of the Judge Advocate General’s National Security Litigation Division during the time of the WikiLeaks investigation. Ms. Brock’s most rewarding experience in active service was her deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ms. Brock is the recipient of many awards and decorations, to include an Honorary Master of Laws degree from Stetson University College of Law for her leadership and dedication to service.

Ms. Brock lives in northern Virginia with her family.
Darrell Butler is President of Butler Consulting Group – BC Innovations, specializing in work environment productivity through personal empowerment and inclusion. Mr. Butler has facilitated diversity, empowerment, and worklife balance training courses to all levels of organizations across many industries.

He has also motivated audiences through keynote speeches, leadership seminars, and individual coaching. Mr. Butler’s work experience includes 10 years with Merck & Co, Inc., where he was Director of Work Environment and led the diversity and work-life initiatives for the sales and marketing division in the U.S., Latin America and Canada. In addition, his Merck experience extends beyond the area of human resources to include positions in sales, market research, and sales management where he managed business teams responsible for over $30 million in sales and achieved up to 800% product sales growth.

Mr. Butler earned a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Physiology and Anatomy from Cornell University and a Masters in Business Administration from the John M. Olin School of Business, Washington University in St. Louis. He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the National Black MBA Association. Darrell is co-founder and vice-president of the Choose2Luv Youth Empowerment Movement. He is also immediate past-chair and a charter member of the Greater Orlando CARES Mentoring Movement.

Julio Casado is an organizational development professional with experience in Executive roles at start-ups and Human Capital roles in Fortune 500 firms. He has led the development of organizations in the education and talent development space from idea to launch, including designing and overseeing strategy, business model validation, fundraising, and Board Development.

Currently, he serves as the Head of Talent Programs and Non-Profit Advisory Lead at Klyxx Creative, an adjunct professor at Marist College, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors at La Unidad Latina Foundation.
Mr. Chang is in private practice in New York City as a solo practitioner. His area of practice is commercial, employment and criminal litigation in the Federal and State courts.

A graduate of New York University (B.A. ’75) and Cornell Law School (J.D. ’78), Mr. Chang was an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office under Robert M. Morgenthau from 1978 to 1982. Mr. Chang is currently a member of the New York State Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the Law.

Mr. Chang was formerly a member of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee for the First Judicial Deptmient, the Chief Judge’s Committee on the Profession and the Courts (Craco Committee) and the Chief Judge’s Commission on Public Access to Court Records, the Franklin H. Williams Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary, the Board of Directors of The Legal Aid Society in New York City and the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary. From 1991 to 200 L Mr. Chang was Chair of the Judiciary Committee of the Asian American Bar Association of New York which he helped to create. Mr. Chang also was formerly a member of the Cornell University Council.

In October 2002, Mr. Chang received the Millennium Award from the Franklin H. Williams Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary for his efforts in promoting diversity in the New York judiciary and its court system.

Marvin (MBA ’98) recently relocated to the Dallas area with his wife Debbie and three sons to lead fintech/prop tech innovation initiatives at Caliber Home Loans.

Marvin joined the Mosaic Board in 2014 and has been active in outreach to the A3C and previously as the Ex-Officio delegate to the CUC Administrative Board. Marvin is the serving Class Agent for his Johnson class where he’s presently conspiring to create a tradition of milestone giving for each twentieth reunion.

Marvin is also a past-President of CAAA. During his term, he helped drive funding for the Campus Climate Surveys; their findings led to the establishment of the Asian and Asian-American Center (A3C). Marvin is now helping build a Dallas area presence for CAAA.

Candace Chow ’03, PhD ’14 is Associate Director of Education Research in the Office of Curriculum and Medical Education at the University of Utah School of Medicine, where she supports faculty in doing education scholarship.

Candace has over fifteen years of experience as an educator and has worked in both higher education and P-12 settings. Her teaching experiences include guest lecturing at the University of Utah, instructing Intergroup Dialogue Project courses at Cornell University; serving as a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Asian American Studies at Cornell University; teaching high school English in the South Bronx, New York, and Ann Arbor, Michigan; student teaching in non-traditional, portfolio-based high schools in New York City; and serving as lead teacher at a summer enrichment program for elementary school students in New York City’s Chinatown. Candace also worked with Cornell undergraduates through a number of student services and administrative roles: as the Interim Assistant Director of Cornell’s Intergroup Dialogue Project, Academic Support Assistant for Cornell’s Learning Strategies Center, and as Assistant Director of the Cornell Alumni-Student Mentoring Program.

Candace earned a B.S. in Human Development from Cornell University, an M.A. in English Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and Ph.D. in Education from Cornell University. Since moving to Utah, Candace has been active with CAAAN and part of the leadership of the Cornell Club of Utah. She is married to Clement, also class of ’03, and together they have two children, Emmy (7) and Micah (4).
Lynn D'Silva Cinelli '00, MEng '01

Lynn serves as a principal advisor to the Executive VP and senior leaders that support the Policy, Communications and Population Health team’s contributions and optimizing business impact including strategic planning, portfolio management and effective execution.

Lynn has extensive global, regional and local experience spanning both developed and developing markets. She was most recently based in Taipei, Taiwan in an Asia Pacific regional policy role, responsible for brand and country-specific actions, as well as company and industry-wide policy efforts on intellectual property, access strategies, reimbursement, pricing, foreign direct investment and trade.

Lynn joined Merck in 1998 and has progressed through roles in Research, Manufacturing and Policy with expanding scope and responsibility, locally and overseas, including Manufacturing Leadership Program, Process Engineering, Global Supply Chain, Asia Pacific Strategy. Prior to her role in Policy, Lynn was the Global Vaccines Product Leader for Adult & Pediatric Vaccines and cross-functional team member for a pipeline Pneumococcal Vaccine program. Lynn has lived and worked in the United States, Europe and over 7 years in Asia Pacific, in Singapore and Taiwan.

Lynn graduated from Cornell University with BS and MEng degrees in Biological Engineering. She is a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt and APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP). Lynn served as the global lead of Merck’s Asia Pacific Association, Employee Business Resource Group from 2016-18 and actively engaged with ASCEND.

Lynn, her husband, Matt ’00 and her 3 children live in NJ. They both play an active role in the community as youth sports coaches and volunteers for Cornell CAAAN.

Vanessa Correa ’97

Vanessa Correa has dedicated her higher education career to ensuring that all college students have access to and are successful in college. Born and raised in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, the importance and power of a college education (and beyond) was instilled in her at an early age.

She currently serves as Associate Director for Advising in the Honors College at George Mason University. Within this capacity, she oversees advising for the college, provides guidance on policy, and collaborates with advisors and colleagues across the University. She previously worked at Mason overseeing programming and support for first generation students.

She worked in similar roles at Georgetown University, Cornell University, as well as Northern Virginia Community College. Ms. Correa spent several years working within the criminology/criminal justice field. Her projects included working with community members and local law enforcement on improving their relationships, analyzing the impact of college courses on inmate recidivism rates, as well as evaluating a drug treatment program. While loving her research and experience in this field, she was equally passionate about working with college students.

Ms. Correa holds a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Cornell University and a Master’s Degree in Justice, Law, and Society from American University.

Dr. Cynthia A. Cuffie ’74

As a first-generation college student who became an endocrinologist and pharmaceutical executive—leading global teams that developed life-changing drugs while maintaining clinical instructor of medicine responsibilities—Cynthia appreciates the transformative power of a Cornell education.

In appreciation to her Cornell experience, Cynthia established an endowment fund to support student research. She is and has been an active volunteer for a variety of Cornell alumni organizations and is a founding member of The Links Incorporated of Essex County.

Cynthia has her MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey as well as certificates in the areas of executive coaching and career planning and development. Her second act career is as an executive coach, where she advises professionals and students.

Cynthia, mother of three, resides in Far Hills, New Jersey.
RAYMOND A. DALTON

Raymond Dalton, Retiree, Cornell University, formerly the Executive Director of the Office of Minority Educational Affairs/Committee on Special Educational Projects (COSEP) 1994-2008, also served as Special Assistant to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education 2008-2009, Sr. Lecturer in the Department of Art, 1992-2009, (created and taught Art & the Multicultural Experience), and was the Director for Minority Affairs in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, 1989-1994.

Prior to Cornell, Dalton was Assistant Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Urban Planning and Assistant Professor of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed his Ph.D. at Purdue University in Art Theory, Curriculum and Instruction, and the M.S. and B.S. degrees in Art Education at Illinois State University at Normal. Dalton is a Cornell University Council member, 2017-21.

At Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), he was both a Board of Trustee member, 2005-14, and Foundation Board of Directors member, 2010-14. He is an artist, producing paintings, drawings, collages, and mixed media. Recent exhibits of his works have been in Albany, IN, Ithaca, NY at the Community of School and Dance, the Tompkins County Library, the Tjaden Gallery and the Johnson Museum at Cornell.

Dalton had a one person show at the Blanc Gallery in Chicago in 2012. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and is the Alpha Advisor of Cornell’s Alpha Chapter, 2008-present. Dalton continues to volunteer and serve students and his diverse communities as an artist and educator.

MATTHEW DANZER ’12

Matthew Danzer, ILR ’12, is a Connecticut attorney whose practice focuses on government investigations and complex commercial litigation. He served two terms as the LGBTQ Representative on Cornell’s Student Assembly and has continued that work as a board member of CUGALA, Cornell’s LGBTQ alumni organization, including as its Vice President and the chair of its Development Committee. Matthew has also served as the Treasurer of the Class of 2012 and has been involved with Mosaic in various capacities since graduation.

After Cornell, Matthew went to Columbia Law School, worked at a law firm in Washington, DC, and clerked for a federal judge in New York. He now lives in Norwalk, Connecticut, with his wife Anna and their dog Pepper.

JUSTIN EUGENE DAVIS ’07

Justin is a United States Diplomat, rank First Secretary with the U.S. Department of State. He is currently the Deputy Director of the State Department’s Orientation Division, the flagship introductory course for all incoming U.S. Foreign Service Officers. Most recently, he served as the State Department’s lead on Venezuela Policy where he constructed and led our efforts to respond to the crisis in Venezuela. He has also served as head of the Political Section at the United States Embassy in Havana, Cuba where he played an active role in negotiations to re-establish diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba after more than 55 years. He has also served in New Delhi, India and Monterrey, Mexico.

While in college, Justin led the Black Student Union and, with others from across the country, helped to found and develop the Neo Underground Railroad Conductors (NURC), a non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting and empowering students to be servant leaders in their communities.

Justin holds an M.A. in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Government from Cornell University. He has received several awards for his work with the State Department, including three Superior Honor Awards and a Meritorious Honor Award. He was the recipient of the Wind Beneath My Wings Award given by the Stuart Educational Group at the annual National Black Student Leadership Conference. Justin is a spoken word artist and co-founder of Mildly Offensive Content, an internationally-recognized spoken word organization dedicated to helping young people find their voice. He is an avid baseball/softball player and enjoys mentoring. Justin is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. the United States’ oldest collegiate black Greek letter fraternity.
**Shane Aaron Dunn '07**

Shane Dunn is Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Brandeis International Business School. From 2013-2016, he was Managing Director of Strategic Growth and Development at Excel Academy Charter Schools in East Boston where he helped grow the organization into a four-school network and raised the funds for a brand-new high school facility. Shane worked as Director of Advancement Strategy and Regional Development at Uncommon Schools, including locally with Roxbury Prep Charter Schools, from 2017-2019. Earlier in his career, he worked in a variety of alumni affairs and development roles at Harvard University, Tufts University, and the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Since graduating from Cornell in 2007, Shane has served in a variety of leadership roles on behalf of the University. He was an elected director and officer of the Cornell Club of Boston Board for 10 years, including 2 years as President. Shane served his class as 5th Reunion Chair in 2012, and was Class President from 2012-2017. He previously served on the Cornell Alumni Association and helped transition that board into the Cornell Alumni Advisory Board, which he served on for four years.

In 2016, Shane was nominated to be an alumni-elected trustee, the youngest nominee in the University’s history. In addition to service to Cornell, Shane has been a proud member of the board of directors of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) in Boston since December 2014.

Shane is a first-generation college graduate originally from Waterville, New York. Shane earned a B.S. in Communication with a minor in Inequality Studies and also has a master’s degree in higher education administration from Boston College.

---

**Frank R. Dawson III '72**

Frank R. Dawson is the Dean of Career Education and the Center for Media and Design at Santa Monica College, and is a former Chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department. He is also the Co-Producer/Director of the documentary film, “Agents of Change”.

Frank began his broadcasting career in Ithaca as an on-air radio personality and producer before joining the CBS television network in Los Angeles. As an Associate Programming Executive, he supported the development of series scripts and the production of Network comedy and drama television series. As a creative executive at Universal Television, he was the production executive on the NBC dramatic series, “Miami Vice”, while also spearheading the creation and launching of the ABC network comedy series, “He’s The Mayor”.

Frank Dawson earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell University where he has served as a member of the original Mosaic Committee, founding President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Alumni Association (CBAA) and as a vice-president of the Administrative Board of the University Council. Frank Dawson is a member of the professional gallery of distinguished alumni.

---

**Donna M. Dozier Gordon '81**

Donna Dozier Gordon is director of Diversity & Inclusion for the United States Tennis Association (USTA). In this capacity, she leads the USTA’s Supplier Diversity initiative as well as the Strategic Partnership and Business Resource Group (BRG) elements of its Diversity & Inclusion strategy.

Prior to joining the USTA, Dozier Gordon worked with Darden Restaurants where she held several positions of increasing responsibility. Among them, she established and managed Darden’s Supplier Diversity effort, led its purchasing liaison function, rolled out diversity training to the company’s more than 1,700 general managers and was also responsible for administration of the company’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-certified headquarters facility.

She has also worked in the areas of diversity management, public and community relations for the Hotel Division of Cendant Corporation (now Wyndham Worldwide), Burson-Marsteller, The Rowland Company and the New York City Office of the Mayor.

Dozier Gordon earned her B.A. degree from Cornell University, her M.P.A. from the Wagner School at New York University and an M.B.A. from the Crummer Business School at Rollins College. She also earned a Strategic Human Resources Leadership Certificate from Cornell’s School of Industrial & Labor Relations.

---

**Shane Aaron Dunn '07**

Shane Dunn is Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Brandeis International Business School. From 2013-2016, he was Managing Director of Strategic Growth and Development at Excel Academy Charter Schools in East Boston where he helped grow the organization into a four-school network and raised the funds for a brand-new high school facility. Shane worked as Director of Advancement Strategy and Regional Development at Uncommon Schools, including locally with Roxbury Prep Charter Schools, from 2017-2019. Earlier in his career, he worked in a variety of alumni affairs and development roles at Harvard University, Tufts University, and the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Since graduating from Cornell in 2007, Shane has served in a variety of leadership roles on behalf of the University. He was an elected director and officer of the Cornell Club of Boston Board for 10 years, including 2 years as President. Shane served his class as 5th Reunion Chair in 2012, and was Class President from 2012-2017. He previously served on the Cornell Alumni Association and helped transition that board into the Cornell Alumni Advisory Board, which he served on for four years.

In 2016, Shane was nominated to be an alumni-elected trustee, the youngest nominee in the University’s history. In addition to service to Cornell, Shane has been a proud member of the board of directors of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) in Boston since December 2014.

Shane is a first-generation college graduate originally from Waterville, New York. Shane earned a B.S. in Communication with a minor in Inequality Studies and also has a master’s degree in higher education administration from Boston College.
Dr. Warria Esmond is an alumnus of Cornell University (A&S ‘80) and WCMC (‘84). She completed her training in Obstetrics and Gynecology and has practices as an OB/GYN since completing her residency in 1988. She is currently serving as the Chief Medical Officer of Settlement Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center in East Harlem, NY (since 2004). In addition to her duties at Settlement, she participates in several statewide and national committees that advocate and support health care in low income and underserved communities. Prior to joining Settlement Health’s leadership team, Dr. Esmond was on staff at North Shore University Hospital at Glen Cove, where in addition to her practice, she was involved in the training of Family Medicine residents and medical students as well as providing community education.

After completing medical school, Dr. Esmond continued to be involved with Weill Cornell’s Office of Diversity, and was often found mentoring young future physicians. At present, Keith is a Ph.D. in Human & Organization Development at Fielding Graduate University. He has a Master’s in Human & Organizational Systems from Fielding as well as a Master’s of Science in Organizational Development from American University. Keith is a graduate of Rutgers University Law School and he completed his undergraduate work at Cornell University where he received his B.A. He also has certifications in Executive Coaching, Workplace Mediation and Conflict Resolution, the Intercultural Development Inventory, the Bar-On EQ-i (measuring emotional intelligence) and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.
Tracey R Forde Weaver ’90

Tracey brings extensive healthcare, strategic planning and marketing experience from her 25 year career. She is considered a true servant leader for industry powerhouses such as Deloitte Consulting, Cleveland Clinic, and WPP. Tracey is a patient/customer focused professional that empowers and enables leaders to meet business goals by mining insights and building bridges to new possibilities.

Tracey brings with her a long history of community service both with national and local organizations and has worked to align her talents with organizations that champion the health and education of youth, promote diversity, and foster the love of the arts. She is a long standing member of national women’s organization such as The Links, Inc. and Jack & Jill of America; and her not-for-profit board service includes appointments to the Cornell University Alumni Mosaic Board, Cornell University’s CALS Advisory Council, Cleveland Hearing & Speech, Lillian & Betty Ratner School, Lawrence School, Executive Board of the Women’s Committee of the Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio Advisory Group of the National Women’s Museum of the Arts. Specific committee appointments in Cleveland include University School’s Board of Trustee’s Strategic Planning and Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s largest Employee Resource Group for African American Caregivers.

Tracey earned an MBA from New York University, Stern School of Business in Marketing and Information Technology and a holds a BS in Communications from Cornell University.

Stephanie Keene Fox ’89

Stephanie Keene Fox ’89 is a retired vice president of systems and technology for Bank One (now JP Morgan). Her expertise includes project management, product management, team-building, and change management. Projects include the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System and GSA SmartPay System.

For Cornell, Stephanie is a life member of the Cornell University Council, member of the President’s Council of Cornell Women, and past president of the Cornell Alumni Association. She currently serves on the Cornell Board of Trustees, and sits on the Alumni Affairs, Buildings and Properties, and Finance committees.

She holds a BS from Cornell University and an MBA from the Illinois Institute of Technology with a focus on information systems and operations management.

Linda Marcelle Gadsby ’88

Linda Gadsby is Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Scholastic Inc. As the Divisional General Counsel for its Education, Book Fairs, and National Service Organization, Linda drafts, reviews, and negotiates a wide variety of commercial contracts, author agreements, RFP’s, licensing agreements, and non-disclosure agreements and provides advice and counsel on legal and business issues involving acquisitions, joint ventures, intellectual property, real estate, privacy, security, and compliance. Linda also leads the Labor and Employment Law functions, handles immigration and employee benefits matters.

Giving back to her community, especially in support of youth, education, and women, is extremely important to Linda. At Cornell, she serves on the Board of Trustees and the ILR Dean’s Advisory Council. She’s also an Emerita Member of PCCW and a Life Member and Past President of CBAA. Linda is on the Board of NYU’s Law Alumni Association and an Advisory Board Member of the Law Alumni of Color Association. She’s also one of the founding members of the Stuyvesant High School Black Alumni Diversity Initiative. Linda is also a member of the Montclair Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Essex County (N.J) Chapter of The Links, Inc., the Essex Hudson Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Board of Directors of PENCIL Inc.
Monica Gelinas is a leader in sustainable food and hospitality with over 20 years transforming the natural/organic and local food movement to mainstream.

She got her start at the Cornell Hotel School (’99) and has since pioneered many food companies to success including launching Pret A Manger international as its first Head of Marketing, Supply Chain and Product Development. She has worked and advised every step of the supply chain from start-ups to multi-national/commodity businesses focused on strategy, sourcing and brand evolution. Her purpose in bringing integrity to the food supply chain has spanned civic work with foundations, cities and research at NYU Global Affairs (MS ’07). Monica is currently working on her own food start-up called Happa Kitchen to bring Asian-American food mainstream.

Monica has lead diverse, inter-generational teams for not-for-profit and for-profit organizations. She is a board member of the Pret Foundation US, an elected member of the Cornell University Council and the President’s Council for Cornell Women. On weekends, she can be found playing a mean round of board games with her kids on the Upper West Side of NYC.

Harry Gittelson ’77, majored in business and economics in the College of Agriculture. Received an MFA in 1981, in business and cinema, at The University of Southern California. He has been in the financial services industry as an adviser for thirty-five years.

Over many years Harry has been involved with issues of inclusion and equality through participation as a volunteer and donor to organizations including the Human Rights Campaign, and The Museum of Tolerance at The Simon Wiesenthal Center, where he helped to develop several specific programs. Harry believes in connecting multiple advocacy groups that share a common objective of improving education, opportunity, and a sense of community.

In 1996, Bill was appointed a life member of the Cornell University Council, having served on several committees, including Admissions and Financial Aid, Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship, Arts, and Cornell’s Adult University (CAU).

Bill is a dedicated member of the Class of 1953 and currently serves as its treasurer. In the past, he has volunteered on its council and the Major Gifts Gift Planning Committee for the 45th and 55th Reunions, as well as serving two terms as Fund Committee chair.

A resident of Connecticut, he is the director of the Cornell Club of Fairfield County. When he lived in New York State, he was president of the Cornell Alumni Association of Westchester for nearly 10 years.

Bill has been active in advancing Cornell’s fundraising. In 2003 and 2004, he was a member of the “Thank You” program for the Cornell Annual Fund. He has also been a staunch supporter of financial aid for students.

A former secretary and treasurer of the Cornell Society of Engineers, he has strengthened scholarships at his alma mater, in particular, by establishing the William F. Gratz Cornell Tradition Fellowship in 1983 to support two students and by establishing the James A. Bruno Cornell Tradition Fellowship in 1998 to benefit a student in electrical, civil, or environmental engineering. Apart from his support of young engineers, he has also established, in 1989, the James N. Mariani Memorial Cornell Tradition Fellowship for an undergraduate studying English or Literature.

Bill was recognized in May 1998 as a Foremost Benefactor.
Valisha Graves ’85

Valisha is an Executive Director at Morgan Stanley on the Strategic Client Services Product Development team and leads the One Client data initiative for Wealth Management.

She joined Morgan Stanley’s ModelWare team in 2005 as a Fintech Product Manager responsible for Valuation, Supply Chain, Profitability Maps, LBO and Cross Asset Analytics applications. She was also the Business Technology Officer for Investment Banking and Global Capital Markets. Her career includes a brief stint at an e-commerce start-up, experience in Financial Planning & Analysis (Lehman Brothers) and Consulting (Ernst & Young).

Valisha helped launch EDIT (Enhancing Diversity in Technology) at Morgan Stanley, the first Wall Street forum aimed at Black and Latino technologists.

She is a Trustee at her high school alma mater, Suffield Academy, where she was an A Better Chance Scholar. Member of the Cornell University Council, President’s Council of Cornell Women, Cornell Black Alumni Association and chairs the Development Committee of Cornell Mosaic.

She earned an MBA from Columbia University and a BA in Government/International Relations from Cornell. She teaches Corporate Treasury Management at the New York Institute of Finance and has taught Fintech Strategy at Columbia, Case Western Weatherhead and UMass Lowell Manning business schools.

Eliot J. Greenwald ’73

I graduated from Roslyn High School in Roslyn, NY in 1969, from Cornell Arts & Sciences, majoring in Government in 1973, and DePaul University College of Law, where I was a law review editor. I live in Bethesda, Maryland with my wife Anita. We have two adult children, Michael and Danielle.

I am a telecommunications attorney, working at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for five years, at various law firms for nearly 30 years, and back at the FCC since 2011, where I am Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office, working on policy regarding accessibility of telecommunications and media.

I lived in University Halls Dorm 2 Freshman year, ZBT Sophomore year, and Risley Residential College Junior and Senior years, where I once played the Fire Chief in Ionesco’s The Bald Soprano. I served in the University Senate Junior and Senior years, and on its Executive Committee Senior year.

I served on Class of ’73 Class Council and Cornell Club of Washington (CCW) in various roles, including past President of CCW, and University Council for many terms, where I was a past member of the Administrative Board and Chair, Government Affairs Committee, and now a Life Member.

Melissa Unemori Hampe ’94

Melissa Unemori Hampe, partner at Skog Rasmussen LLC, provides strategic advice to clients with the benefit of more than two decades of public, private, and nonprofit experience, working with entities across the country.

Melissa started her legislative experience in the office of the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink (D-HI). She then joined the Senate Democratic Policy Committee (DPC), advising offices on various legislative issues.

Melissa then worked for the late Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), leading a collaborative legislative and press team including personal and committee staff in the development and implementation of the Senator’s legislative priorities.

Melissa then advocated for federal mentoring public policy and funding issues as Director of Government Relations at MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership.

She joined a DC firm, McAllister & Quinn, in 2008 with MENTOR as her first client. Melissa provided strategic funding and government affairs analysis, advice, and advocacy services to a range of clients. She also provided the genesis and implementation for the firm’s suite of federal and foundation grant services, assisting in growing the grant writing network to more than 200 writers.

She transitioned to Skog Rasmussen LLC in 2019.

Melissa serves as a board member of the Asian American Action Fund, Seabury Hall Parents Organization, and Garden Academy of Maui. Melissa earned her B.S. from Cornell University and M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management.
FRANCES A. HARDIN MS '75

Frances Hardin is an international communications consultant who has worked on projects around the globe. A former journalist, she was a CNN White House correspondent who covered the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. She later became a VP of Widmeyer Communications, from there she went on to serve at the International Monetary Fund as the senior press officer for Africa.

She holds masters degrees from Columbia and Cornell. Her Cornell degree led to a position in the U.S. House of Representatives where she worked on the resolution that became the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the landmark Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act. Her BA in political science is from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ms Hardin lives in Washington DC but still considers San Francisco -where she was raised- as home. She was born in Louisiana and is French Creole. She sings in a jazz choir, speaks French and passable Russian.

ERICA TRACY HEALEY-KAGAN '05

Erica Healey-Kagan '05 is a Junior Partner at The Kurland Group, a boutique civil rights law firm in Manhattan, which handles a wide range of legal matters including LGBTQ issues, women's rights, equal pay and discrimination, housing, healthcare, immigration, family and employment law. Erica received a B.S. in Policy Analysis and Management from the College of Human Ecology in 2005 and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2008.

Erica serves on the Board of Directors of the Cornell Association of Class Officers (CACO), and is a member of the Cornell University Council and the President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW). She is also the Vice President of Affinities for the Class of 2005 and a former Board Member and President of the Cornell University LGBTQ Alumni Association (CUGALA).

Erica lives in Brooklyn, NY with her wife, Leslie.

DONELL ANDRE HICKS ESQ '97

Donell Hicks is a Board Certified Construction lawyer, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Cornell University and his Juris Doctor degree from The George Washington University. He is a member of The Maryland State Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and the Florida Bar. Mr. Hicks represents clients in both State and Federal matters.

Mr. Hicks is a Fellow in the Florida Bar Leadership Academy. Mr. Hicks volunteers on a regular basis in the community and is a current member of the following organizations: National Bar Association; Cornell Club of Greater Miami and the Florida Keys, President; Cornell University Council; Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network; Cornell Black Alumni Association; South Florida GW Alumni Club, Board Member; Veterans Link Up, Board Member; and All Ivy+, Board Member. Mr. Hicks is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell.
Jane J.K. Hyun ’90

Jane is an internationally recognized expert in cross-cultural effectiveness, onboarding, and talent development. A trusted coach to Fortune 500 companies, she partners with organizations in a variety of sectors (including high-tech, consumer products, retail, manufacturing, financial services/banking, healthcare, sports/entertainment, media) to develop teams that enable high performance. Jane draws upon her 25 years of experience in high stakes business environments, as former Operations executive and VP of Organizational Effectiveness/Talent, and Director of Recruiting. Over the years, she has coached thousands of leaders to increase their agility and ability to build trust across differences.

Jane is a frequent contributor to media such as CNN, CNBC, Fast Company, Wall Street Journal, Harvard Business Review, Forbes, and Washington Post to discuss workplace culture, career development and leadership. Apart from her consulting work, Jane is an advisor to the Center for Talent Innovation, American Heart Association Diversity Council, and Operation Exodus, an organization that provides academic mentoring to Latino youth in Washington Heights.

Her newest book, Flex: The New Playbook for Managing Across Differences, examines the art of switching between styles to leverage the power of diversity in teams. She is also the author of the groundbreaking book Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling. Jane enjoys helping individuals flourish in their workplace and in their communities.

Honorable Debra Ann James ’75, JD ’78

Elected to the New York State Supreme Court, Justice James has presided over thousands of civil actions of every type brought in New York State’s trial court of plenary jurisdiction. In 1995, she began her bench career in New York City’s Civil Court. She ran for office in Harlem’s 10th Municipal Court District, where she has resided for thirty years.

Justice James is the president of the New York State Supreme Court Judges Association. She is an active member of the National Association of Women Judges and the Cornell Law Dean’s Advisory Council, and member emeritus of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association.

Prior to judicial office, Judge James served as associate counsel to state public benefit corporations that focus on affordable housing. She also served as the first general counsel of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. She began her career as an assistant corporation counsel of the New York City Law Department, where she appeared in New York state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Judge James received her law degree from Cornell Law School and graduated cum laude in American Government & Politics from Cornell University.

Katrina E. James ’96

Katrina James ’96 is the Founder and Principal of Saga Consulting Services, which provides strategic and programmatic support to nonprofit and educational organizations.

Prior to this position, she was the Senior Director, College and Career Programs at the Harlem Children’s Zone. She also held the position of a Senior Associate at the corporate law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York. Immediately after gaining her JD in 2007, she worked for the firm of Clifford Chance US, LLP for one year.

Ms. James’s early career after graduation from Cornell and NYU was in social work and academic administration, before she made a career change and pursued a law degree. Before entering into law practice, she worked in a multi-service child welfare agency as a social worker and administrator, and in graduate schools of social work and public policy as an administrator.

At Cornell, Ms. James served three terms as Chair of the Cornell University Council, led the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations, Cornell Black Alumni Association, and the Class of 1996, and has served on the President’s Council of Cornell Women and several other Cornell boards. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.
Grace V. Jean ’00

Grace Jean graduated from Cornell’s College of Arts and Sciences in 2000 and holds a Master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. As an undergraduate, she was a Cornell National Scholar, a chimesmaster, principal flute in the Cornell Wind Ensembles, and piccolo in the Big Red Marching Band. In addition to her musical pursuits, Grace coxswained for the Men’s Varsity Lightweight Crew team and co-hosted the student-run television program, Campus Insights. She remains active as an alumna, serving on the Cornell University Council and volunteering with the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Network. Grace is a past president of the Cornell Club of Washington and is also a current member and former co-chair of the Chimes Advisory Council.

In her professional career, Grace is director of strategic communications for the U.S. Navy’s Program Executive Office for Unmanned and Small Combatants. She is also a freelance writer for the Washington Post, writing classical music reviews. Grace was the U.S.-based naval reporter for IHS Jane’s, covering ships, naval weapons, and maritime affairs for several publications, including Jane’s Navy International, Jane’s Defence Weekly, and Jane’s International Defence Review. Grace began her career in broadcast television (thanks to a Cornell alumni connection!) as an assistant producer for Dateline NBC.

Jerry K. Jensen (1969 BS, 1971 MEng)

Arriving from suburban Chicago in the late 60’s, Jerry earned two Industrial Engineering degrees, and was active on campus – Freshman Crew, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, and most notably, heading the Cornell Cinema Society under Alpha Phi Omega. Showing films to over 50,000 Cornellians annually, APO also sponsored memorable concerts – Janis Joplin, Tim Buckley, and James Taylor.

Jerry’s had a long business career, initially in Industrial Engineering and manufacturing processes with General Foods, and then branching out into consulting and management positions with Beatrice Foods, Coopers & Lybrand, Chase/First USA Credit Cards, including becoming Corporate VP for Mueller Industries, a Fortune 1000 Corporation.

Jerry’s now semi-retired in Southern Florida with his partner of 22 years, Gene Bunge. He still consults with small businesses, and has also expanded his passion for Theatre, which he has a long participated for many years at many Community Theaters. Now, he works in professional Theatre as a Director, Actor, and Stage Manager, and often works with companies who present LGBT works.

Committed to Cornell, he has served on the Mosaic Board for several years, and is CUGALA member. Looking forward to attending his 50th Reunion this June with Class of 1969.

Mimi Joh-Carnella ’86

Mimi Joh-Carnella teaches at OCAD University in Toronto and is an active volunteer in the arts, holding positions with multiple Toronto-based arts organizations, including the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, Partners in Art, and Critical Distance Centre for Curators. In addition she sits on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for his new initiative, the Year of Public Art launching 2021.

She is interested in how art can critically reflect and respond to our society and how it ultimately shapes our culture. Joh-Carnella previously worked for many years with German and Austrian Expressionist art in New York, at Serge Sabarsky, Inc and Galerie St Etienne.
Natalya G. Johnson is currently employed as an associate with the law firm Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti, LLP. She focuses her practice on the representation and counsel of management in employment law and business litigation. Natalya frequently speaks and writes about employment law, social media, and diversity and inclusion.

Natalya earned her J.D. from Cornell Law School and a bachelor’s degree with honors and distinction in Government, graduating magna cum laude from Cornell University. Natalya is a past member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Cornell Law School Alumni Association and sits on the inaugural board of the Mary Kennedy Brown Society. In 2019, she was invited to join the President’s Council of Cornell Women.

Natalya has held various leadership roles in the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA), co-founded a women’s network called the Advancement Initiative, and is President of the Cornell Black Lawyers Alumni Network.

In 2018, Natalya received the Young Lawyer Award from the GSBA. Committed to pro bono service, Natalya is a member of Volunteer Lawyers for Justice and volunteers with Pro Bono Partnership. Natalya has been included in the Super Lawyers “Rising Star” list published by Thomson Reuters every year since 2016.

Carl E. Jones, Jr. is an attorney licensed in the state and federal courts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Jones, a native of Georgia, went to Cornell University where he graduated with honors with degrees in History, Africana Studies & Research, and a language proficiency in KiSwahili (the Swahili word for the Swahili language). While at Cornell, Mr. Jones was a National Scholar, Class President, and President of Quill and Dagger, the Senior Honor Society. Mr. Jones went on to the University Of Georgia School Of Law. While at Georgia, he served as his class president, vice-chairman of the moot court board, was awarded an outstanding oralist award at the American Bar Association Moot Court Competition, won the 2005-2006 Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition, and was selected as a pupil of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court. In May 2011, Jones graduated from the LL.M. Program in Trial Advocacy at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law.

Mr. Jones has been selected for inclusion in Pennsylvania Super Lawyers – Rising Stars (2010, 2012, and 2013), a publication that names the top 2.5% of attorneys in the state 40 or younger. Further, in 2012, and then again in 2013, Jones was recognized as a member of The National Trial Lawyers’ Top 40 under 40.

Thomas W. Jones is founder and senior partner of venture capital investment firm TWJ Capital LLC since 2005. Mr. Jones previously was chief executive officer of Global Investment Management at Citigroup from 1997-2005; vice chairman, president and chief operating officer at TIAA-CREF from 1993-1997, and executive vice president and chief financial officer from 1989-1993; and senior vice president and treasurer and other positions at John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company from 1982-1989. Mr. Jones began his career in public accounting and management consulting at Arthur Young & Company (predecessor firm to Ernst & Young) in 1974. Mr. Jones is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and has received the Board Governance Fellow designation from the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD).

Mr. Jones has served as a member of the corporate boards of directors of Altria Group, Assured Guaranty Ltd., Freddie Mac (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp), Traveler’s Group, Fox Entertainment Group, Pepsi Bottling Group, Thomas & Betts Corp, Eastern Enterprises, TIAA-CREF, and Federal Reserve Bank of New York (former vice chairman). Mr. Jones has served on the nonprofit boards of trustees of Cornell University, Children’s Hospital Medical Center (Boston), Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Ballet Company, PBS WNET Channel Thirteen (New York), and Brookings Institution.

Mr. Jones is trustee emeritus of Cornell University and is a recipient of the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award, and has been elected as a Presidential Councillor by the Cornell University Board of Trustees. Mr. Jones received Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degrees from Cornell University, and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Boston University.
Cara Lebowitz Kagan '77, P'05 has been an active Cornell volunteer since she graduated, including as a class officer of the Class of 1977 and a CAAAN volunteer. She has also served as the Reunion Chair for her class’ 35th and 40th Reunions and for the Reunions of the Cornell LGBTQ Alumni Association (CUGALA) in 2014 and 2018. Cara has also served on the Planning Committee for CUGALA’s annual fundraiser, the Siegel Award Celebration, since its inception in 2014 and she served on Cornell University Council from 2015-2019.

Cara and her husband, Len, retired in 2014 after running their medical office together for over 35 years. She volunteers regularly in New York City including at Ronald McDonald House, the Motherhood Center, and New York Presbyterian Hospital at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Jonathan Kracer is the founder and managing principal of SION CAPITAL LLC, a hospitality and real estate consulting and private investment firm focused on the North American, Latin American, and Caribbean regions, with offices in Miami and Mexico City. Mr. Kracer is also a columnist, since 2012, for HotelNewsNow.com, a leading hospitality industry knowledge portal and as a regional expert he writes about cross-border investment topics.

He is a frequent guest speaker at universities and conferences. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree with Distinction from Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration and his Swiss Hotel Management Diploma from the Les Roches International School of Hotel Management and serves in alumni leadership roles for both institutions.

He is the past President of the Cornell Latino Alumni Association (CLAA) and now serves as the CLAA representative on the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations (CATN). He speaks English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. He can be reached via email at jk474@cornell.edu.
Arthur Leonard, ILR ’74, attended Harvard Law School and practiced management-side employment law in New York for five years before joining New York Law School in 1982. In addition to teaching Labor Relations Law, Employment Law, and Contracts, Prof. Leonard edits the monthly newsletter LGBT Law Notes, records the monthly Law Notes podcast, and writes for Gay City News and his blog, artleonardobservations.com. The 3rd edition of his casebook, Sexuality Law, was published by Carolina Academic Press in January 2019. He is a trustee of the Jewish Board of Family & Childrens Services and a board member of TENET Vocal Artists.

With his partner of 40 years, Tim Nenno, he recently celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary. His current Cornell activities include the Scheinman Institute Advisory Board and the Catherwood Library Advisory Board, both at the ILR School.

Mary H. Leong ’89

Born in Rangoon, Burma to Chinese parents, she immigrated to America at a young age and was raised in Astoria, Queens. At Cornell, she studied Biology and Food Science in CALS. She then received her Master’s Degree in Grain Science at Kansas State University. Her 30 year professional career spans roles product development, operations, sales and marketing at Kraft, Campbell soup, Mars, Rhodia and Hain Celestial.

She has had 2 startups in flowers and herbal digestives. She recently received her M.B.A. from Columbia Business school and London Business school.

She has lived in 8 states and France and speaks Chinese and French. She also teaches Systematic Innovation - Creativity “Inside the Box”.

Chimene Linette Liburd ’92

With her partner of 40 years, Tim Nenno, she recently celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary. His current Cornell activities include the Scheinman Institute Advisory Board and the Catherwood Library Advisory Board, both at the ILR School.
Adrienne Rose Martinez ‘01, MBA ‘08

Adrienne Rose Martinez a Vice President at Bank of America and a community leader in Charlotte’s North End. She is a board member for the North End Community Coalition, made up of eight neighborhoods that work together in their community building and engagement efforts. Adrienne grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles. Among the first in her family to earn a college degree, received her Bachelors of Science from Cornell University’s College of Industrial and Labor Relations. After working at a small West Coast nonprofit, she returned to Cornell for an MBA at the Johnson Graduate School of Management. After graduating, Adrienne joined Deutsche Bank in New York City, where she worked for more than five years with institutional clients as a relationship manager. In 2014, she moved to Charlotte, N.C., where she did a stint as director of corporate and foundation relations at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, before making yet another career switch into information security as part of Bank of America’s Global Information Security team.

Adrienne has served as a CAAAN ambassador and later as a chair of her region. Upon returning to Cornell to pursue her MBA, she led the Women’s Management Council at Johnson and VP of Fundraising for her graduating class. From 2014-2018, Adrienne also served as the President and Co-President for the Cornell Alumni Association of Charlotte. As a University Council member, Adrienne remains an active alumna, donor and ambassador to Cornell. Charlotte is now home for this California native, and it is here where Adrienne resides with her life partner Kinson Desmangles and their dog, Sailor Jeri.

David Matthews, ’87

David Matthews, (the ILR graduate and Human Resources professional: not the singer), has actively served on numerous boards and associations. He was an active board member of the Cornell ILR Alumni Association and served on both the Membership and Nominations Committees. He was the Co-Chair of the 2005 Nominations and Elections Committee. David served on the Board for the Bergen County Urban League as the Treasurer and Chairman of the finance committee. He has also served on the Employer’s sub-committee of the President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. He served on the board of the New York Musical Festival as Treasurer. Further, David has experience serving as President of the Board a Faculty Student Association.

David has spent over 20 years championing cutting edge diversity initiatives for major organizations to include Citicorp, Nabisco Inc., KPMG LLP and IBM.

David’s primary area of expertise is the development and implementation of proactive human resources and diversity strategies designed to address the challenges that organizations face in an increasingly competitive, global economy.

David’s ILR education, professional background and active involvement with various organizations put him in a good position to continue making valuable contributions to the goals of Cornell’s Mosaic and its diverse constituents.

With a range of experiences in both the private, public and non-profit sectors, David brings a unique perspective to alumni, the school and its students.

Dr. Irving P. McPhail ’70

Irving Pressley McPhail ’70 is the Founder and Chief Strategy Officer at The McPhail Group LLC, a global higher education consulting practice. He has served as President and CEO at the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. (NACME), Founding Chancellor at The Community College of Baltimore County, President at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, and President at LeMoyne-Owen College.

A tenured full professor and visiting professor at several colleges and universities, his scholarship rests at the nexus of practice, policy, and research in literacy education, postsecondary student success, underrepresented minorities in STEM, and community college leadership. He has contributed to the scholarly literature in each of these areas, and is co-editor of Teaching African American Learners to Read: Perspectives and Practices (International Reading Association), and coauthor of the forthcoming book, Success Factors for Minorities in Engineering (Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group).

He sits on the Board of Directors of the Society of Manufacturing Engineering—Education Foundation, the 50K Coalition Advisory Board, and the University of Michigan School of Engineering Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Advisory Council. He is the recipient of the Educator of the Year Award (2012), Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania; Alumni of Color Achievement Award (2004), Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Pioneer Award (2000), Council on Black American Affairs, American Association of Community Colleges.
DENISE P. MERIDITH '73

Denise Meridith, a Brooklyn native, graduated from CALS with a degree in wildlife biology and from the University of S. California with an MPA. She served with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for 29 years, rising to the highestranked career position, as Deputy Director in Washington, DC, with 10,000 employees, 200 offices, and $1.1 Billion budget.

Her last seven years with BLM were as the Arizona State Director, during which four National Monuments were designated and the endangered condors were returned to Arizona. Since 2002, Meridith has managed her own public and community relations firm-Denise Meridith Consultants Inc (DMCI). DMCI provides a variety of services, including public affairs, business development, lobbying, journalism, media relations, and marketing.

Meridith received many business and community service awards. She has served as a member of the Cornell University Board of Trustees, a long-time professor for eCornell and member of CAAAN, and founded three non-profits Linking Sports & Communities, the Arizona Tourism Alliance and the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce, and has served on innumerable boards, task forces and committees.

KENDALL A. MINTER ESQ '74, JD '76

Kendall A. Minter, a native of New York and graduate and Senior Class President of Flushing High School began his professional path at Cornell University where he participated in the six year combined arts/law program, graduating with a B.A., majoring in Political Science in 1974, and with a J.D. from Cornell Law School in 1976. Upon his graduation from Cornell Law School, he joined Fairchild Industries as Associate General Counsel and Corporate Representative for Broadcasting. His responsibilities at Fairchild also included general "In House" corporate legal matters such as employment and consulting agreements, trademarks, real estate and labor matters. In 1978, Kendall returned to New York City and joined the 56 - lawyer firm Burns, Jackson, Miller, Summit & Jacoby as an associate. In 1980, Kendall embarked upon his solo practice career and established the Law Firm of Kendall A. Minter, which eventually opened affiliated offices in Los Angeles and London.

In 1984, Kendall joined the law firm of Barnes, Wood, Williams and Rafalsky as counsel, where he remained until establishing Minter & Gay in 1987. Minter & Gay was a boutique law firm which specialized in entertainment, sports and labor law. Based in the Wall Street district, the firm grew to nine attorneys with an internationally diverse clientele. In September 1992, Kendall merged his practice into the firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin, Krim & Balon as counsel. In early 1995, Kendall relocated to Atlanta and joined the firm of Sales Goodloe & Golden, as counsel, where he established and developed an entertainment department. Kendall has also been Of Counsel to the New York City entertainment law firm Rudolph & Beer.

Kendall is a partner in the award-winning law firm Taylor English Duma, L.L.P. and represents clients within the Entertainment, Sports and Media practice group of the firm. Kendall represents a diverse international clientele in the areas of entertainment, corporate, intellectual property, sports and new media matters. Prior to joining Taylor English Duma, Kendall operated his own firm, Minter & Associates, L.L.C., which he founded in 2004.

ELIZABETH D. MOORE '75

Elizabeth D. Moore was most recently the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Consolidated Edison Co. of New York Inc., one of the nation’s largest investor-owned energy companies.

Prior to joining the utility, Moore was a partner at Nixon Peabody L.L.P., counseling clients in the areas of public finance, government regulation and employment law, co-chairing the firm’s Diversity Action Committee and established an award-winning inclusion program. She previously served in the administration of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo for 12 years, culminating her tenure as counsel to the governor from 1991 to 1994.

In this role, she directed the executive chamber’s legal staff in negotiating on behalf of the governor’s legislative and budget priorities. She also managed and resolved the state’s complex litigation matters. While she has accomplished much professionally, she is most proud of her efforts to have Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday recognized as a state holiday.

The veteran attorney sits on the board of trustees at Cornell University. Human Resource Executive named her among its “100 Most Powerful Employment Attorneys in America”.

She is the recipient of Cornell University’s Groat Award, the New York City Bar Association’s Diversity Champion Award, Cornell Mosaic’s Medal of Distinction, and the Association of Black Women Attorneys’ Legal Community Award. Moore holds a law degree from St. John’s University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University.
Maria Garcia Nielsen is a seasoned corporate executive. Her experience spans roles as a Fortune 200 Division CEO as well as a startup founder. She currently serves as an Independent Board Director on two private boards and one nonprofit. In parallel, she teaches a course on corporate governance to aspiring directors. Although permanently connected to US multinationals, Maria has worked extensively in Southern Europe.

A committed advocate for gender equality and diversity, among other activities Maria serves on the Board for Ellevate Network in Spain; is Co-President of the WomenExecsOn Boards Network and was invited to serve on the President’s Council of Cornell Women in 2019.

Maria holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Cornell University and an MBA from Wharton.

At a personal level, Maria is originally from Peru, she became a US citizen at 18 having arrived in the US, a non-English speaking 10-year-old immigrant. She received full scholarships for her Ivy League undergraduate and graduate education. She is the proud mother of two sons. One graduated from Cornell in 2017 and one is currently an undergraduate student.

Randall Nixon is currently the Associate Director of the Office of the Maryland Census and Redistricting for the governor of Maryland.

An attorney and farmer, Mr. Nixon has also served as a cabinet member in the Hogan Administration as Director of the Business Ombudsman’s Department and as the Executive Director of Small Business Regulatory Assistance.

Randall has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Cornell family since graduation. He has been the chairman of the Howard County MD chapter of the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador for 19 years, and has conducted contact meetings with prospective students for 34 years. In addition to being a past president of the Cornell Club of Maryland, Randall has been an officer for the class of 1978, and a member of the Cornell Council. Randall recently served as chairman of scholarships and fundraising for the Cornell Black Alumni Association. Randall’s proudest accomplishment is that both of his children – son Blair, Hotel ’12, and daughter Spencer, Hotel ’15 – are both active Cornell Alumni.

Mr. Nixon has lectured at the University of Baltimore, at Goucher College and at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the areas of philosophy, law, and entrepreneurship. His Cornell undergraduate degrees are in philosophy and history, and he has a master’s degree in philosophy from Johns Hopkins, a business degree from Harvard, and a law degree from Indiana University.
Nick Opinsky works professionally in nonprofit fundraising as a Development Associate at Candid, an organization that provides data, research, training and support to the nonprofit and philanthropy sectors. Outside of work, Nick is also committed to giving his time and support to a variety of nonprofit projects. Most notably, in May of 2014, Nick founded a project based in El Salvador, which today sponsors the transportation and lunch of approximately 3,000 youth annually from rural and marginalized areas to visit their national art museum. Nick earned his Bachelor of Arts from McGill University in History and Urban Studies and a Masters of Science in Management from Imperial College Business School. Though not a Cornell graduate, Nick has deep family ties to the university and is extremely passionate about helping to make sure that students from all backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences are given equal access, opportunity and support to thrive. He is very excited to join Cornell Mosaic and is especially keen to help out with any events and development efforts that support the university’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Sasha Pachito is a first-generation college graduate and graduated from CALS in 2003, majoring in Rural Sociology with concentrations in American Indian Studies and Latino Studies. After graduation, she completed a Masters in Urban Planning from Arizona State University and a Masters in Legal Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

She has spent the last 16 years working for American Indian tribal governments and organizations that work for tribal governments. While working for the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, AZ, Sasha successfully created a public transit system for the Community. She also represented all tribal nations in Arizona, Utah, and Nevada on a Federal Transportation policy committee.

Currently, Sasha is employed by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, where she oversees commercial leases for the tribe; building strong, self-sufficient communities is a priority of hers. Sasha is a member of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians and in 2018, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Soboba Economic Development Corporation. She currently lives in Phoenix, AZ with her daughter.

Scott Pesner ’87 is the director of alumni engagement and annual at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Prior to joining Cornell CALS, he worked in alumni relations at Columbia University, first at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and then as the senior director of school based relations at the university. Before entering the world of alumni engagement, Scott spent more than 20 years in media marketing and promotion, mostly in the cable television industry.

As a Cornell volunteer, he has served in numerous roles, including Mosaic. He is the longtime CAAAN co-chair for New York City and recently finished his term as chair of the CAAAN Advisory Committee (CAC), on which he has served for more than 10 years. He has served as vice chair of the Cornell University Council, including two years as its membership chair, and vice president of the Cornell Alumni Association. As a class officer, he has served as his class reunion chair three times and is currently his class’ webmaster. He is a co-founder of NYC Cornellians and served as its initial president, and has been involved with the Cornell Club-New York since its founding in 1989. Scott has also served on the board of the Cornell Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association, as its treasurer and chaired the first-ever LGBT reunion in 2014. He currently serves on the alumni boards of the Big Red Bands Alumni Association and the Cornell Varsity Club, on the board of directors of the Cornell Media Guild (WVBR) and is vice president of the Cornell Hockey Association.
Yaneris Mercedes Rosa ’04

Yaneris M. Rosa is General Counsel Americas, Security and Safety Business and Data Privacy Americas Officer at Resideo Technologies, Inc., a spinoff of Honeywell International Inc. Yaneris started her career as a Corporate Associate at Simpson Thacher and Bartlett LLP, where she was a member of the Advisory Council to the firm’s Diversity Committee and managed pro bono matters. In partnership with Election Protection, a national nonpartisan coalition that works to break down barriers to the ballot box for traditionally disenfranchised voters, Yaneris served as a Director of the Simpson Thacher Call Center in connection with the general election.

Yaneris has been committed to diversity and inclusion and is leading the way in advocating for a diverse workforce. Yaneris is currently spearheading diversity initiatives at Resideo and served as a leader of Honeywell’s Legal and Government Relations Diversity and Inclusion Council. She also served as a leader of a cross-functional Home and Buildings Technologies Diversity Council responsible for diversity initiatives of the business. Through her leadership in the Diversity and Inclusion Councils, Yaneris also strove to make an impact in the community by aligning service efforts with Honeywell Hometown Solutions, the Company’s corporate citizenship and social responsibility program.

Yaneris was born in Dominican Republic and moved to Freeport, New York when she was about 10 years old. Yaneris and her mother left their native Dominican Republic seeking a better life, but the transition to America was not easy, as they adjusted to a new culture, language, and way of life. Yaneris went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Policy Analysis and Management, with concentrations in Latino Studies and African Diaspora Studies, from Cornell University and her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.

Basil Smikle Jr. is a political and policy consultant and holds a PhD in Politics and Education from Columbia University. As a thought leader and political strategist, he is a familiar face on MSNBC, CNN and other media outlets where frequent appearances highlight his insights on electoral politics and public policy. Basil was most recently the Distinguished Lecturer of Politics and Public Policy at the City University of New York’s School of Labor and Urban Studies, and currently lectures at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and Teachers College.

Basil was a senior aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton during her first campaign for Senate and later on her Senate staff. Mrs. Clinton called Basil a “key advisor and tremendous public servant...who makes sure all voices are heard”. Ron Kirk, the former Mayor of Dallas and President Obama's former US Trade Representative, noted that Basil can “negotiate the politics of any community and knows how to marry it with sound public policy”.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University in Industrial and Labor Relations and received a Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Basil is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, and 100 Black Men of New York where he helped start the Eagle Academy in the Bronx which has grown to 6 schools in New York and New Jersey. He is also a founding Board Member of the Harlem Hebrew Academy Charter School and sits on the Board of the NYC Center for Charter Excellence.

Daryl G. Smith is Senior Research Fellow and Professor Emerita of Education and Psychology at Claremont Graduate University. Her work has been in the areas of organizational implications of diversity, assessment and evaluation, leadership and change, governance, diversity in STEM fields, and faculty diversity.

Among other published work, she is an author or co-author of Diversity's Promise for Higher Education: Making it Work, Diversity in Higher Education: Emerging Cross-national Perspectives on Institutional Transformation, Building Institutional Capacity for Diversity and Inclusion in Medical Education, The Challenge of Diversity: Alienation or Involvement in the Academy, Achieving Faculty Diversity: Debunking The Myths, Interrupting The Usual: Successful Strategies for Hiring Diverse Faculty, Organizational Learning a Tool for Diversity and Institutional Effectiveness. She has been an active member of PCCW (Affinito-Stewart Grants, Steering Committee, Vice-Chair University Relations Comm., Diversity and inclusion) (now a sustaining member).

She has served as an evaluator and consultant to campuses across the country and to foundations such as the James Irvine Foundation, the Haas Jr. Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and The Hewlett Foundation. She served as part of two U.S. delegations to Ford Foundation sponsored trinational conferences (India, South Africa, U.S.) on campus diversity, higher education and democracy, that took place in South Africa and the United States. Smith was a Fulbright Senior Specialist in South Africa in 2010 and 2012. Cornell A&S, math, ’65; Stanford, MA; Claremont Graduate Univ. Phd, Social Pysch & Higher Ed.
Ginger So, A&S ’79 is a Senior Vice President at U.S. Bank and manages the Soft Dollar, Policy & Procedure Group, and the Insurance Division Portfolio Management team. She is also the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion for U.S. Bank’s Corporate & Commercial divisions and is a sponsor of the Bank’s NY Women’s Business Resource Group. Her prior experience includes positions at HSBC, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Chemical Bank. She has an M.B.A from the Leonard N Stern School of Business at New York University and holds Series 7 and 63 licenses.

Ginger received the HSBC President’s Award. She is a 2014 recipient of the Cornell University Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Award and was the 2015 Cornell Asian Alumni Association Honoree. In 2016, she received the Cornell Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives Ryokitchi Yatabe award for her ongoing commitment and advocacy for campus diversity. Ginger was the first minority chair of the Cornell University Council, served many roles in the Alumni Association, the Cornell Asian Alumni Association, CAAN, Mosaic and in the Arts & Sciences Dean’s Advisory Council. Ginger currently serves on the boards of the Mountainside Public Library and the Cornell Alumni Advisory Board.

Michael G. Spencer was born in Detroit, MI, and raised in Washington DC. He received the B.S., M.Eng., and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, in 1974, 1975, and 1981, respectively.

He is currently a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Morgan State University; he is also a Professor Emeritus of engineering at Cornell University. He has more than 36 years of research experience in compound semiconductors, such as GaAs, SiC, and AlN and more recently graphene, materials growth and characterization of these systems, as well as the fabrication and measurement of microwave devices, solar cells, and betavoltaics. His particular interest has been in the correlation of device performance with material growth and processing parameters. Recent work has emphasized graphene and wide band-gap materials.

He taught for 18 years in the Engineering School of Howard University, Washington, D.C., a historically black college. He has authored more than 250 publications (per Google citations 11,000 citations h index of 40 i10-index 130) in the area of compound semiconductor research and over 20 U.S. patents many in the area of betavoltaics. Dr. Spencer is a co-founder of the start up company Widetronix (which is developing nuclear batteries made from SiC).

David builds businesses, turns around challenged companies across multiple platforms, including digital marketing and content, e-commerce and traditional media. At Overlook Enterprises provides counsel on launching digital media and ecommerce businesses, and partners with leadership teams to drive successful change management including turnaround.

David dramatically improved top and bottom-line performance of core travel deals business as CEO of ShermansTravel Media, a leading online and mobile travel publisher, where he reengineered the core business and launched a new, high growth Cruise business.

Prior to ShermansTravel, Steward served as CEO of F+W Media, a $200M private-equity backed niche consumer media and e-commerce company, led a dramatic turnaround of a $200M direct marketer and was instrumental in building and redeveloping three of America’s top media brands: People Magazine, Martha Stewart Living (as COO) and TV Guide (as CEO). His leadership, analytical, financial and creative skills propelled these brands into profitable new directions.
Olivia Tai '08

Olivia has served Queer Cornell for the past fifteen years—ever since Orientation Week. While she was President of Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, she was dedicated to campus diversity+inclusion by cultivating a more supportive community for all LGBTQIA+ Cornellians and allies. She also led the MOSAIC student group in initiating a campus-wide dialogue on race and sexuality that was awarded the Dean of Students’ Perkins Prize. Today, Olivia continues that work as President of CUGALA: Cornell’s LGBT Alumni Association.

As a freelance emergency medical technician for events all over SoCal, Olivia is looking forward to working on an ambulance for 9-1-1 city dispatch and bringing this clinical experience with her to medical school. She is determined to specialize in LGBTQ+ health and advocate for healthcare to be accessible, affordable, and adaptive to all people regardless of sexuality, gender, size, age, ethnicity, or ability. Olivia also works on the side as an ACE-certified personal trainer for queer folk.

When she isn’t working or volunteering, Olivia indulges in drag culture, cheerleading her friends’ creative pursuits, family history research, powerlifting, contemporary art museums, Broadway, and Instagram. She is a native Brooklynite currently based in Downtown Los Angeles.

Karen Stewart is currently the Head of Mutual Funds Disclosure for TIAA Funds. Nuveen, a TIAA company has assets under management of US$1 trillion.

Ms. Stewart has worked in the financial services industry for over twenty years with leadership and professional roles in corporate communications, marketing, product management and asset management. Ms. Stewart has a good understanding of the securities industry regulations including prospectus content and delivery requirements, proxy rules, and communications with the public. She is a member of the ICI ad hoc group working on fund companies implementation of rule 30e-3. Ms. Stewart was the Branch Office Manager for Teachers Personal Investment Services, the broker-dealer for TIAA-CREF Asset Management (2014-2016). She was a member of the Investment Company Institute Shareholder Communications Committee and a panelist at the Broadridge Annual Conference Proxy Panel.

Karen Stewart '85

Mark Tatum was appointed NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer on Feb. 1, 2014, following unanimous approval by the NBA Board of Governors.

Tatum, who joined the NBA in 1999, is responsible for the NBA’s business operations, including leading the NBA’s international efforts. He also oversees the Global Partnerships, Marketing, Communications and Team Marketing and Business Operations departments in addition to the NBA G League.

Prior to joining the NBA, Tatum worked for Major League Baseball in Corporate Sponsorship and Marketing, the Clorox Company as a Regional Sales Manager, Pepsi-Cola Company in their Sports Marketing department, and Procter & Gamble in sales management.

Tatum sits on numerous boards including USA Basketball, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, LA 2028 Summer Olympics, and Harvard Business School Board of Dean’s Advisors. He is Chair of the Harvard Business School Club of New York, and a member of the Executive Leadership Council, a national organization that empowers African-American corporate leaders to make impactful contributions.

Tatum received a B.S. in Business Management from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard University.

Mark A. Tatum '91

Karen Stewart '85

Olivia has served Queer Cornell for the past fifteen years—ever since Orientation Week. While she was President of Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, she was dedicated to campus diversity+inclusion by cultivating a more supportive community for all LGBTQIA+ Cornellians and allies. She also led the MOSAIC student group in initiating a campus-wide dialogue on race and sexuality that was awarded the Dean of Students’ Perkins Prize. Today, Olivia continues that work as President of CUGALA: Cornell’s LGBT Alumni Association.

As a freelance emergency medical technician for events all over SoCal, Olivia is looking forward to working on an ambulance for 9-1-1 city dispatch and bringing this clinical experience with her to medical school. She is determined to specialize in LGBTQ+ health and advocate for healthcare to be accessible, affordable, and adaptive to all people regardless of sexuality, gender, size, age, ethnicity, or ability. Olivia also works on the side as an ACE-certified personal trainer for queer folk.

When she isn’t working or volunteering, Olivia indulges in drag culture, cheerleading her friends’ creative pursuits, family history research, powerlifting, contemporary art museums, Broadway, and Instagram. She is a native Brooklynite currently based in Downtown Los Angeles.

Karen Stewart is currently the Head of Mutual Funds Disclosure for TIAA Funds. Nuveen, a TIAA company has assets under management of US$1 trillion.

Ms. Stewart has worked in the financial services industry for over twenty years with leadership and professional roles in corporate communications, marketing, product management and asset management. Ms. Stewart has a good understanding of the securities industry regulations including prospectus content and delivery requirements, proxy rules, and communications with the public. She is a member of the ICI ad hoc group working on fund companies implementation of rule 30e-3. Ms. Stewart was the Branch Office Manager for Teachers Personal Investment Services, the broker-dealer for TIAA-CREF Asset Management (2014-2016). She was a member of the Investment Company Institute Shareholder Communications Committee and a panelist at the Broadridge Annual Conference Proxy Panel.

Karen Stewart '85
Sheryl Hilliard Tucker is the Chief External Affairs Officer at AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc., a leading study abroad program for high school students and young adults in 100 countries. Sheryl heads the communications, market intelligence professionals and alumni engagement teams that lead AFS’s global visibility initiatives.

Throughout her distinguished career as a media and marketing executive, Sheryl has developed innovative solutions for businesses and nonprofits in transition. She has been chief editor of three national publications: Black Enterprise, Essence and Your Company—and was on the senior executive team that managed Time Warner’s portfolio of more than 100 magazines and digital brands worldwide.

As an award-winning journalist and diversity advocate, Sheryl’s research helped redefine diversity and inclusion policies in Fortune 500 corporations. While executive editor at Money magazine, Sheryl worked with the National Football League to create a financial boot camp for rookie players.

Sheryl is a Trustee Emerita of Cornell University, where she received her undergraduate degree, and is currently a member of Mosaic and the Cornell Alumni Association Board. She received her Master’s Degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and attended New York University’s Heyman School of Philanthropy.

Vila-Biaggi is president and CEO of IEDIFIKO, Inc., a building and facilities management company in his native San Juan, Puerto Rico. He also is executive vice president of Professional Offices Park and COO of the Spiritree Forest Company.

Vila-Biaggi began his career managing re-engineering projects for multinational corporations at Andersen Consulting (now known as Accenture) in Miami, Florida. Vila-Biaggi is actively involved in his community, serving as the president of the board of directors for Niños Nueva Esperanza (The New Hope for Children Center). For Cornell, Vila-Biaggi, along with the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN), helped rebuild the Cornell Club of Puerto Rico alumni group, successfully recruiting increasing numbers of students from the island and creating a thriving community for them on campus.

He also has served as co-chair of the Cornell Club of Puerto Rico Scholarship Committee, chair of the CAAAN Advisory Committee, and most recently, as chair of the Cornell University Council (2016-18).

Alicia Torrey is a 1984 graduate of Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She began working at Cornell in 1985 as a counselor and was promoted to Assistant Director in the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment.

In 1991 she was appointed as Cornell’s first Director of Minority Alumni Programs (now Diversity Alumni Programs). During her tenure, Ms. Torrey worked closely with the Alumni Affairs Steering Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees to successfully increase the number of minority alumni participating in alumni programs as well as serving in leadership positions. This initiative continues today through the efforts of the first Minority Alumni Initiatives Implementation Committee (MAIIC) and now MOSAIC which replaced the original MAIIC leadership group.

In 2003, Alicia was named Director of the Cornell Alumni-Student Mentoring Program (CASMP), a program focused on providing minority students with an opportunity to develop a one-on-one relationship with a Cornell alumni mentor. Through the program, alumni were able to enhance the quality of the undergraduate experience for student participants by interacting, exchanging ideas, and sharing their experiences and knowledge. Under Ms. Torrey’s leadership, CASMP was able to set the standard of excellence for a University alumni-student mentoring program.
Jon Walton is a technology and innovation consultant, mentor, and founder of Jon T Walton Consulting. Working with clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies, and multi-national organizations, to small businesses, and not-for-profits, he brings his diverse background and experience to deliver innovative enterprise initiatives. As a skilled leader of diverse global teams, Jon helps organizations capitalize on the inherent capabilities of multicultural teams to solve problems at high levels. Uniquely, he excels at eliciting and harmonizing diverse voices to produce innovative results. He has been featured in print and broadcast media for his work in entrepreneurship and diversity. Jon holds multiple leadership and consulting certifications from IBM, Oracle, Ken Blanchard, and the Family Leadership Training Institute.

His personal experiences living and working in diverse cultures and a passion for solving complex problems drives his work. Jon is the co-founder of Families of Color Colorado, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for families to connect and share cultural traditions. He is also an on-air host and former board chair at KGNU radio where he regularly shares his love for reggae and jazz.

Jeffery J. Weaver is an Executive Vice President, Risk Management, KeyCorp, a $140 Billion commercial bank, where he serves as a member of the Executive and CEO’s Diversity & Inclusion Councils, Model and Qualitative Risk Committees of the corporation. He previously served on the Credit Risk, and Market Risk Committees of the corporation. In this capacity, Mr. Weaver is responsible for the ongoing enhancement of firm-wide non-financial risk appetite and risk assessment of the qualitative processes used to quantify non-financial risks.

Prior to advancement in 2017, Weaver established and led KeyBank’s Credit Portfolio Management practice for 12 years, where he was responsible for setting the risk appetite and concentration risk management for a $115 Billion credit portfolio. Work in this area led to Weaver’s election to Chairman of the Board of the International Association of Credit Portfolio Managers in 2014, a global industry association with 100+ member financial institutions.

Mr. Weaver is a member of the Executive Leadership Council and its Corporate Board Initiative-Cohort 4 Class. Extensively involved in various philanthropic and cultural endeavors, Weaver serves on the Board of Trustees of the Community Service Society of New York; The Cleveland Orchestra; The Union Club of Cleveland and the Cornell University Council where he was bestowed the 2009-2010 Wilbur Parker Distinguished Alumni Award by its Johnson School of Management. He is a recipient of the President’s Commendation from the Ohio State Senate.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and Government from Cornell University, where he also earned his MBA in Finance from its Johnson School of Management.

Reginald H. White is HR Director for the Research Division reporting the Vice Provost for Research at Cornell University. In this role, he manages a team that provides HR services to the OVPR staff that includes a wide range of research centers. In addition, he provides coaching to faculty and staff on a variety of matters including leadership and diversity and inclusion.

Prior to joining Cornell, he was President of a consulting firm, Toran Enterprises, LLC that specialized in executive coaching, diversity and leadership development. In this role, he traveled extensively and facilitated sessions in South Africa, Amsterdam and London. His previous experience includes Merrill Lynch, as Vice President, Divisional Marketing Manager. Before joining Merrill Lynch, he spent a number of years at Fidelity Investments in various roles including Vice President, Marketing, Internal Management Consultant and Vice President, Human Resources.

Reginald is an active Cornell Alum currently serving as Immediate Past President, Human Ecology Alumni Board and member at large of Mosaic. He received his B.S. in Human Development at Cornell University and his Executive M.B.A. at Boston University.
LAURA A. WILKINSON
ESQ. MBA '85, JD '86

Laura Wilkinson is Associate General Counsel – Global Antitrust for PayPal. She has more than 25 years of experience in antitrust law focusing on mergers, acquisitions and strategic alliances. Until recently, she was a partner in the Washington D.C. office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. Laura grew up in Brooklyn, NY and is the first in her family to go to college. She earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in economics. She attended Cornell University’s Law School and Johnson Graduate School of Management, obtaining an M.B.A. in 1985 and a J.D. in 1986. Upon graduation, Laura joined the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. She rose through the ranks and became a Deputy Assistant Director of the FTC’s Bureau of Competition. After ten years, she switched to the private sector. She became a partner with Clifford Chance, an international law firm. She later joined Weil, Gotshal & Manges also as a partner.

She is an active member of the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, and the National Bar Association. She has numerous publications and her career has been marked by numerous awards and recognitions. For example, she won a Burton Award for Legal Writing in 2008, and was honored by Cornell’s Johnson School the Wilbur Parker Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006. In 2015, Savoy magazine recognized her as one of the Most Influential Black Lawyers.

Laura is active in various civic organizations. As a member of the board of directors for Legal Momentum – the Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund, she serves as a Vice President and co-chaired a strategic planning review. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, she has served in leadership roles on the local and international levels.

She is very active as a Cornell alumna. She was the first African American to chair the President’s Council of Cornell Women. She currently serves on the Cornell Law School Advisory Council, and the Cornell University Board of Trustees. She is the chair of Cornell Mosaic.

AMANDA LEE WILLIAMS '17

Amanda graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in China and Asia Pacific Studies. During undergraduate she participated in the Cornell in Washington program, studied abroad in Beijing, and worked in the Learning Strategies Center. Since graduating in 2017, Amanda has been working as an Admissions Counselor for the SC Johnson College of Business and is serving as the Historian of the Women of Color Colleague Network Group and is a facilitator for the English Language Speaking Group program at Cornell. Amanda is also a part-time graduate student, working on her Master’s in Anthropology with a focus in the anthropology of education and higher education access and opportunity.

DENNIS A. WILLIAMS '73

Dennis A. Williams ’73 is a novelist and playwright who teaches writing at Georgetown University, where he retired as Associate Dean of Students. Previously he was director of the Learning Strategies Center and Senior Lecturer in the John S. Knight Writing Program at Cornell, and Education Editor and National Affairs General Editor at Newsweek magazine. A former president of the Cornell Black Alumni Association, he first served on the Cornell University Council in 1984. He lives in Silver Spring, MD.