



Roderick Gong-Wah Chu

“To better prepare Cornellians to lead in addressing the crucial issues and opportunities of the 21st century, the university must continue not only to develop the ability to think critically through outstanding interdisciplinary study, but also to ensure its graduates have the disposition to practice and disseminate critical thinking globally in the conduct of our lives.”

Cornell Degree: MBA with distinction 1971

Other education: BS, University of Michigan 1969

How does Cornell's unique status as both an elite Ivy and a land grant institution position it to be an advocate for, and a symbol of, the importance of higher education? How can the trustees and alumni support this mission?

Cornell's history and values make it uniquely able to continue development of the “first truly American university” to lead in dealing with global crises such as inequity. Cornell's strengths of diversity of study, student, faculty, and staff have provided a broader range of relationships and understanding by Cornellians, opening minds beyond limiting communication bubbles, enabling the furtherance of the founders' vision. The more you open minds, the more they will contribute to society and the world.

Cornell's endowed colleges and land grant colleges support this mission through financial inclusion and scholarly inclusion of both liberal and professionally-focused education. At Cornell, students can do both, producing multidisciplinary thinkers with firm underpinnings in rational educational processes. Take critical thought beyond the Ivory Tower by extending Cornell's “any person ... any study” foundations with its global reach and breadth and world-leading multidisciplinary efforts to address today's greatest needs and challenges.

Each year Cornell welcomes thousands of graduates into a new phase of their lives as alumni. What challenges do you believe make it difficult for recent graduates to stay connected to Cornell? What can Cornell do to better support alumni and their lifelong relationship with the university?

Alumni relationships start with the student experience. Students must view the university as an ally. Facilitate increased engagement within the student body and between students and professors, staff, and alumni. Help with pressures during life's transitions—reach out and provide assistance. Ask “How are you doing? What can Cornell do to help?” Conduct a survey every few years, and respond meaningfully.

Recognize the changes in communications preferences through the ages and increase varied, targeted outreach to alumni. Use different and modern methods and branding: newsfeeds, podcasts, Instagram, etc. One-sized communications methods cannot fit all, given how diverse Cornellians are.

Better reunions and more frequent engagement. Challenge and leave it to students and alumni of Cornell's myriad “affinity groups” to take the initiative to engage each other. Share ideas, successes and failures among these groups. Use reunions to celebrate the success of initiatives, pride in the university, and engagement of alumni.

Describe the reasons you hope to serve on the board. What strengths would you bring to this position? How are you uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success?

I have learned much about the challenges and opportunities facing students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, alumni, and those in their broader communities in hundreds of colleges and universities. I have lived and worked closely with people in many states and even a few countries in the public, private, and education sectors, across all educational levels.

As a Chinese-American, I faced the challenges of growing up with populations of differing experiences and views on race, national origin,

gender, sexual orientation/identity, and economic inequity.

I have successfully advocated for and transformed education in institutions ranging from community colleges through elite research universities for the betterment of all. Understanding the ethos of a broad diversity of individuals and groups has opened my eyes to the hopes and desires as well as the concerns and difficulties across populations. By sharing these perspectives, I hope to help Cornell lead its important mission into the future.

Professional experience:

- Board of Scholars and Councilors, Center for Enrollment Research, Policy and Practice, University of Southern California 2008–present
- Board of Directors, Trinity Lutheran Seminary 2015–2017
- Interim President, Education Commission of the States 2006–2007
- Trustee, Audit Committee Chair, The College Board 2004–2012
- Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents 1998–2006
- Board of Trustees, State University of New York 1990–1998
- Managing Partner, Government Practice, Accenture (Andersen Consulting) 1988–1998
- Commissioner of Taxation and Finance, State of New York 1983–1988
- Staff/Manager/Partner, Accenture (Andersen Consulting) 1971–1983

Alumni service:

- Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award recipient 2016
- Botanical Gardens 2011–present
- Cornell Asian Alumni Association 1990–present; annual banquet honoree 2011
- Cornell Alumni Association of Central Ohio 1998–present
- Cornell Club New York 1975–present
- Cornell Outdoor Education Advisory Council 1992–1998
- Cornell Strategic Planning Advisory Board 1992–1995
- Cornell University Council: 1988–1992, 1994–1998, 2000–2004, 2006–2010; administrative board member-at-large 2007–2010; membership committee chair 2008–2009; vice-chair 2009–2010; council life member 2015–present
- Johnson Graduate School of Management (JGSM) 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, and 45th Reunion campaigns, vice-chair 1976–2016
- JGSM Advisory Council: 1991–2005; emeritus 2005–present

Community/public service:

- Peace Lutheran Church, Gahanna, OH: Vision Board 2009–2013, Finance Committee 2013–present, Interfaith Hospitality Network Team 2010–present, H.O.P.E. Team 2012–present
- State Higher Education Executive Officers: executive board 2001–2004, president 2002–2003
- Midwest Higher Education Commission: 2000–2006
- Asia Society President's Circle: co-chair 1994–1996
- Council for Excellence in Government: trustee 1993–1995
- China Institute in America: President's Advisory Council 1990–1994
- Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival: director 1984–1997

Student involvements/activities:

- JGSM Class of 1971– Convocation Chair
- Univ. of Michigan 1965–69 – numerous leadership positions in student organizations

Additional information, optional:

- Proud uncle of Karen Fadden Fabbri '96 (Arts & Sciences)
- Recipient of nine honorary degrees (Urbana University, Marietta College, Otterbein University, Capital University, Edison State Community College, Cincinnati State Tech. and Comm. College, Youngstown State University, University of Rio Grande)



Cynthia Cuffie

“The single most important issue being faced by the Cornell University Board of Trustees is the increased need for mental health support and associated services of the Cornell community as the community becomes more globally connected, diverse, and complex in a rapidly changing greater society.”

Cornell Degree: BS HumEc 1974

Other education: MD 1978, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; Endocrinology Clinical Fellowship 1982–1984, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York; Career Planning and Development Certificate, 2014, New York University, New York; Executive Coach Certificate, 2015, International Coaching Federation, Kentucky

How does Cornell’s unique status as both an elite Ivy and a land grant institution position it to be an advocate for, and a symbol of, the importance of higher education? How can the trustees and alumni support this mission?

As the world becomes more connected, diverse and complex, preparing students and scholars to meet future challenges will be critical to the progress of society. As a world-class institution founded on the principles of “any study . . . any person,” Cornell has the opportunity to lead in translating cutting-edge research into practical applications that can be used to address societal issues. Trustees can support this mission by holding University leaders, faculty and administration accountable for strategic deployment of resources in the service of this type of work and encouraging collaboration across the University between those engaged in research and those dedicated to applying it. Alumni can serve as role models for how this commitment continues after leaving the University by sharing their own contributions with fellow Cornellians.

Each year Cornell welcomes thousands of graduates into a new phase of their lives as alumni. What challenges do you believe make it difficult for recent graduates to stay connected to Cornell? What can Cornell do to better support alumni and their lifelong relationship with the university?

There are a number of traditions that bind Cornellians together on campus—from ice hockey to Slope Day to gospel choir and everything in between. Once we leave campus, paths diverge, and we begin to direct our energy into the next chapter of life. Challenges that make it difficult for recent graduates to stay connected to Cornell include: 1. reluctance to join new communities during a time of major life changes; 2. difficulty identifying personally meaningful alumni activities; and 3. unfavorable geography. Cornell can support alumni and their lifelong relationship with the university by 1. creating a pre-graduation tradition focused on the next chapter where soon-to-be alumni begin identifying meaningful alumni connections; 2. leveraging technology to connect them to alumni communities; and 3. soliciting information about potential interests for staying engaged. Once students graduate, Cornell can use this information to create a tailored welcome into the Big Red alumni community.

Describe the reasons you hope to serve on the board. What strengths would you bring to this position? How are you uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell’s success?

I enjoy connecting with Cornellians and working with leaders to enhance the university community. Having the privilege to be a steward of the Cornell experience for the next generation would be an honor. I bring to the board lessons learned as a trustee of a prestigious K-12 independent school and my drive for results, collaboration and inclusion. I am uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell’s success because 1. I have broad Cornell experience as an undergraduate student in two colleges and as a professional clinical instructor of medicine at Weill Cornell during my endocrinology fellowship at MSKCC; 2. I am a first-generation college graduate who has invested time and resources to help similar Cornell students navigate the daunting combination of academic, financial and social situations; and 3. as a physician, corporate executive and executive coach, I can diagnose issues and drive toward solutions in a compassionate and data-driven way.

Professional experience:

- President, Aspire Educational Associates Corporation, 2004–present
- Executive Coach, Aspire Educational Associates Corporation, 2012–present
- Vice President, Global Clinical Development, Cardiovascular Diseases, Merck and Company, 2009–2011
- Vice President, Clinical Research, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease, 2005–2009; Endocrinology and Urology, 2002–2005; Various roles of increasing responsibility, 1984–2005, Schering–Plough Corporation

Alumni service:

- 45th and 40th Reunion campaign 2018–2019, 2013–2014; Tower Club Committee
- Class of 1974, vice president of outreach 2014–2019
- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network 2004–2016
- Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) lifetime member; vice president of student relations 2012–2015
- College of Human Ecology Alumni Association 2009–2014; secretary 2012–2013; Board Leadership Development Committee 2012–2014; chair, Student Research Grants Committee 2010–2012
- College of Human Ecology Dean’s Advisory Council 2008–2011; Chair Diversity Initiatives 2009–2011
- Cornell University Council 2012–2016, 2018–present; Administrative Board Mentoring Committee, Mentoring Committee co-chair 2014–2016
- Cornell Mosaic Executive Committee 2012–2016, 2018–present; Development and Alumni Engagement Committee 2012–2016
- Minority Student Mentoring Program, mentor 2004–2007
- President’s Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) 2012–2018; grants vice chair 2014–2016; Grants Chair 2016–2018; sustaining member 2018–present

Community/public service:

- Morris County (NJ) Master Gardener 2015–present; Helpline Team
- The Links Incorporated, Essex County (NJ) Chapter 1986–present; founding member
- American Heart Association, Central and Southern New Jersey Board 2008–2016
- Coalition of 100 Black Women Board 1983–1984; Role Model Committee chair 1983
- The Juilliard School Pre-college Parents’ Association 1997–2004
- Leadership New Jersey Program fellow 2003
- The Pingry School Trustee 2000–2009; Finance Committee

Student involvements/activities:

- Student mentoring/tutoring, College of Human Ecology
- Organist, Informal Black Gospel Group

Additional information, optional:

Honors/Awards

- Outstanding Multicultural Leader—Promoting Diversity 2010, Diversity Council of Pennsylvania
- Outstanding Women in the Pharmaceutical Industry 2001, Women’s Fund of New Jersey
- Thurgood Marshall Award of Excellence 2001, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc.

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’s served a variety of alumni organizations. Cynthia uses her second act career as an executive coach to advise professionals and students. Cynthia, mother of three, resides in Far Hills, New Jersey.



Lorette Simon Gross

"The Board of Trustees should ensure that Cornell remains one of the world's leading universities while maintaining an inclusive, diverse, and innovative environment that is financially robust."

Cornell Degree: BS CALS 1989, MBA 1990

How does Cornell's unique status as both an elite Ivy and a land grant institution position it to be an advocate for, and a symbol of, the importance of higher education? How can the trustees and alumni support this mission?

Ezra Cornell said, "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." This philosophy underlies Cornell's mission of bringing higher education to its diverse student body. Through a combination of undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools, Cornell has a unique offering of educational excellence, both theoretical and practical, found nowhere else in the Ivy League. Cornell's status as a land grant institution with a pioneering credo of inclusivity and education for all qualified students underscores Ezra Cornell's prescient vision. The trustees and alumni can support this mission by continuing Ezra Cornell's pursuit and ensuring these educational opportunities continue to be available to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race or gender. Through innovation, such as at the Cornell Tech campus, and with an ongoing emphasis on liberal arts, Cornell continues to educate students who will contribute to the richness of the state, the country, and the world.

Each year Cornell welcomes thousands of graduates into a new phase of their lives as alumni. What challenges do you believe make it difficult for recent graduates to stay connected to Cornell? What can Cornell do to better support alumni and their lifelong relationship with the university?

"Hail, all hail, Cornell!" from our alma mater embodies my feelings about Cornell. I am committed to having all alumni share this sentiment. Alumni engagement is challenged by busy lives and a diminishing reliance on Cornell to link with others due to self-connection in the age of social media. The bond to Cornell should start at orientation with activities that brand Cornell and be reinforced over the entire Cornell experience. For recent graduates, the Cornell bond could be strengthened by enhancing the use of social media in conjunction with Cornell Career Services and CUELINKS to connect with more established alumni focusing on job opportunities, internships, and networking. A long-range strategy could build upon the existing structure and add more affinity groups based on shared professional or recreational interests, such as existing groups like Latino Lawyers of Cornell and ILR Alumni in Finance. Everyone wants to feel recognized, included, and connected.

Describe the reasons you hope to serve on the board. What strengths would you bring to this position? How are you uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success?

Cornell prepared me for my first act in advertising in New York and Los Angeles, honing my skills in branding, public relations, communication, and marketing. This expertise could be utilized on the board in Alumni Affairs and University Relations to strengthen Cornell's image and branding. My next act was raising my sons, and I was active at their schools, focusing on improving the student experience. At Cornell, I have served on the Department of Communication Advisory Board, Cornell University Council, and Parents Council. Returning as a parent, my perspective has come full circle, and I can bring fresh ideas on ways to improve campus life for Cornellians. My current act as past president and board member of Women's Guild Cedars-Sinai Medical Center includes leading fundraising, stewardship, and long-term strategic planning. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Trustees and bring my experience and passion for Cornell to this role.

Professional experience:

Former advertising career

- D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles (acquired by Publicis), New York and Los Angeles Clients included Burger King, Kraft, Mars, and Procter and Gamble
- Dailey and Associates, Los Angeles Clients included Disney and Nestlé

Alumni service:

- CALS Outstanding Alumni Award recipient 2018
- 30th Reunion campaign chair 2018–2019
- 25th Reunion campaign chair 2013–2014
- 20th Reunion campaign Major Gifts Committee 2008–2009
- 15th Reunion campaign Participation Committee 2003–2004
- Class of 1989, Cornell Annual Fund representative 2014–2019
- Communication Advisory Council 2013–present
- Cornell Club of Los Angeles
- Cornell event speaker: July 2017, November 2017, July 2018
- Cornell event host: March 2015, July 2017, July 2018
- Cornell University Council 2014–2018
- Parents Council 2016–present

Community/public service:

- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Women's Guild president 2010–2014; board member 2002–present, spearheading a long-term strategic plan
- Harvard-Westlake School, Annual Giving captain 2013–present
- Harvard-Westlake School, chair of the Senior Boy's Event featuring Magic Johnson 2016
- Curtis School, speaker series chair and grade representative, multiple years

Student involvements/activities:

- Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority president 1987–1988; house manager 1986–1987
- Cornell Panhellenic Association publicity chair 1988–1989
- Roberta Petruzzi Memorial Scholarship award 1987
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences ambassador 1986–1989
- Supervisory Orientation Counselor/Orientation 1986–1989
- Public Relations Student Society of America board member 1986–1989
- Hillel 1986–1989
- Ithaca Youth Bureau volunteer/community companion 1987–1989

Additional information, optional:

Lorette Simon Gross grew up in the Bronx and currently lives in Southern California with her husband Keith and their two sons, Bennett '20 and Matthew. Lorette and her family have traveled extensively around the world, including a Cornell alumni trip to China. This passion for travel inspired the funding of a Global Initiative Fund at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles to support teacher travel to enhance teaching and the classroom experience. Lorette thrives in an environment of collaboration and uses her leadership skills to foster teamwork in the organizations in which she is involved.

Lorette has endowed a Cornell Fellowship in Public Health as well as a fund for Greek Life Safety and Education.



Terry Horner

“Solving humanity’s great challenges requires the historic breadth of perspective enshrined in Cornell’s vision of “any person ... any study,” and our present-day imperative is to safeguard and enhance that commitment to affordable educational opportunity, diverse intellectual inquiry, and practical extension of knowledge in order to shape a better world.”

Cornell Degree: BS with honors in Nutritional Sciences, HumEc 1992, PhD HumEc 1998

How does Cornell’s unique status as both an elite Ivy and a land grant institution position it to be an advocate for, and a symbol of, the importance of higher education? How can the trustees and alumni support this mission?

Trustees and alumni can best support this mission by ensuring that Cornell attracts the very best students, faculty, and staff well into the future. Yes, Cornell has a unique, historic status, and its alumni are the living proof of higher education’s importance. The reason 85 percent of Cornell alumni report feeling proud to be graduates is the value of Cornell’s motto, “any person ... any study” and its mission of inclusive education, rigorous inquiry, and improving the human condition. At a time when less than half of Americans have confidence in higher education, Cornell’s value has never been greater. As President Martha Pollack said in her 2018 State of the University Address, the 20-year return for a Cornell graduate is more than \$650,000. In addition, higher education brings a lifetime of friendships and networks, personal development, and understanding of our complex, connected world. All of us can help get that message out.

Each year Cornell welcomes thousands of graduates into a new phase of their lives as alumni. What challenges do you believe make it difficult for recent graduates to stay connected to Cornell? What can Cornell do to better support alumni and their lifelong relationship with the university?

One of my joys is welcoming so many Cornell students and recent graduates to Washington, DC. The simple answer to these questions is that recent graduates have many demands for their precious time—a first job, professional education, or volunteer service such as Peace Corps. Therefore, they choose activities that they to know to be valuable. I remain grateful to have met my first alumni while singing Cornell songs at the Statler my freshman year, and Cornell can do better to show more “future alumni” the value of its amazing alumni community. Recent graduates will be alumni much longer than they were students, and personal connections between Cornellians are what launch and sustain a meaningful connection to the university. Cornell can better engage and equip them with flexible, lifelong affiliations with its impressive diversity of alumni organizations—beginning while they are still students.

Describe the reasons you hope to serve on the board. What strengths would you bring to this position? How are you uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell’s success?

Like most alumni, I’m proud of my education, and I want future students to have the life-enriching experiences that I did at Cornell. I’m honored to be considered for service to the institution that “we all love so well,” in the words of the “Alumni Song.” My unique strengths relate to some key challenges facing Cornell. First, Cornell must be a superb steward of resources to meet its mission. From my work making government more effective, equitable, and ethical, I bring strategic expertise helping organizations align resources with their missions. Second, Cornell must find synergies and “radical collaborations” across academic programs and campuses to have large societal impacts. My interdisciplinary training and career prepared me to anticipate unintended consequences when considering changes to complex programs. Finally, Cornell must continuously affirm its values of access and inclusion. While I am not unique as a first-generation college student, I benefited from “any person ... any study,” and my service would contribute that perspective to Cornell’s success and help affirm Cornell’s values.

Professional experience:

- Assistant Director and Product Owner for Business Systems, US Government Accountability Office 2017–present
- Senior Science Analyst, US Government Accountability Office 2000–2017
- Senior Policy Advisory, US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works 2011–2013
- Nutrition Policy Fellow, Center for Science in the Public Interest 1998–2000

Alumni service:

- Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Alumni Advisory Board 2013–2017
- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN) volunteer 2017–present
- Class of 1992, vice president 2017–2022; class council 2012–2017
- College of Human Ecology Advisory Council 2012–2016
- College of Human Ecology Advancement Committee co-chair, Campaign for the Martha Van Rensselaer Hall Courtyard and Walkway 1999–2000
- College of Human Ecology Alumni Association president 1999–2000; chair, Annual and Special Events Committee 1997–1998; director 1996–1999
- College of Human Ecology Centennial Alumni Steering Committee chair 2000–2001
- Cornell Alumni Association vice president 2005–2007
- Cornell Club of Washington, president 2017–2019; first vice president 2015–2017; vice president of membership 2012–2015; director 2011–2012
- Cornell events speaker: April 2018, November 2017, February 2016
- Cornell University Council: 2003–2007, 2009–2013, 2015–2019; Administrative Board member-at-large 2012–2013; Development Committee 2016–2018, co-chair mentoring and orientation committee 2012–2013
- Cornell University Gay & Lesbian Alumni Association (CUGALA) Board of Trustees vice president 2012–2014; Nominations Committee co-chair 2015–2016; trustee: 2012–2013, 2016–2017
- Cornell University Glee Club Alumni Board 2017–2021
- Cornell University Glee Club Hangovers Advisory Committee 2013–2015
- Tower Club MA TA Washington, DC: 2004–2006, 2011–2018

Community/public service:

- Dannon Nutrition Leadership Institute Alumni Association president
- Flats at Union Row president
- Foodnet Nutrition for the Elderly director and chair of development
- Food & Friends volunteer
- Prince George’s Community College adjunct faculty
- Society of Nutrition Education chair for community education
- Washington Men’s Camerata chair and president

Student involvements/activities:

- College of Human Ecology Outstanding Senior 1992
- College of Human Ecology, Flora Rose Prize for Contribution to Society 1992
- College of Human Ecology Dean’s Scholar
- Glee Club president and chair of the advisory council
- Glee Club Hangovers
- Gannett Health Center, SAFER peer health educator
- Information Technology Specialist, Cornell webmaster
- Mennen Hall resident advisor
- NutriQuest Team coordinator
- Protestant Cooperative Ministry, director; co-chair, search committee

Additional information, optional:

Terry is married to Ian Foss, a student loan policy specialist at Federal Student Aid, an office of the US Department of Education. They stay active running, sailing, traveling with family, and playing fetch with their Boston Terrier, Nibbler.