



## Liv Gussing Burgess

**Cornell degree(s):** BS '91 (Hotel)

*The pandemic's disruption of the global economy and the traditional higher educational model provides an opportunity to reimagine a new educational and financial model and learning experience that attracts a diverse group of faculty, students and staff while promoting Cornell's motto of "...any person... any study."*

### 1. How does Cornell's unique status as both an elite Ivy and a land-grant institution position it to improve the world? How can the trustees and alumni support Cornell's mission?

*Cornell maintains the highest standards of academic excellence in its faculty, students, teaching, and research, and engages with and serves communities in various applied fields, across New York State. Cornell can leverage this unique position to maximize the power of interdisciplinary problem solving to improve the world.*

*Today's biggest challenges do not operate in isolation but are interconnected and interdependent. The solutions to issues such as migration, climate crisis, and public health require a multidimensional approach. Cornell's success in executing its pandemic response and welcoming students to campus was an exemplary illustration of such a strategy.*

*Trustees can support Cornell's mission by committing to securing excellent faculty, providing resources for a wide range of academic fields, encouraging collaboration across fields, and securing global opportunities for Cornell.*

### 2. How do you envision the Board of Trustees supporting Cornell's priority to strengthen and broaden diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives across the university?

*The board must challenge Cornell's leadership to uphold these priorities in every facet of Cornell for every member, building on Ezra's revolutionary vision. Trustees can support Cornell's priorities by securing resources to attract diverse faculty and students, reviewing the university's goals and metrics, exchanging best practices with other universities, and monitoring progress through external third parties.*

*The Board of Trustees can also support Cornell's initiatives by ensuring these priorities are incorporated in the board's strategic priorities and initiatives to include executive leadership, board diversity, investment strategy, and global partnerships.*

*My life is rooted in diversity; I have a Swedish father and Kenyan-Indian mother, and am fortunate to have my professional career span four continents. My experience in the global hospitality industry highlights the need for far more diversity at senior management levels. I will leverage my cross-cultural awareness, empathy for others, and professional accomplishments to support Cornell's priorities.*

### 3. Why do you hope to serve on the board and how are you uniquely suited to contribute to Cornell's success?

*Enriching, inspiring, transformative—these are words that I use to describe my Cornell and American experience as an international student. The opportunity to give back and make a positive difference as a board member would be a privilege.*

*Since graduating, I have maintained my connection with Cornell as an ambassador around the world. I have held multiple leadership roles with the Hotel School and university, focusing on strategic impact, development, and international outreach. My international perspective will provide a lens on the long-term vision for the university and its rightful place within the global landscape.*

### Professional experience:

- Luxury Hospitality Consulting, UK, Founder & Managing Director, 2011–present
- Aman Resorts – Amandari, Bali, General Manager, 2003–2010
- Aman Resorts – Amanpuri, Thailand, Resident Manager, 2000–2003
- Aman Resorts – Corporate Pre-Opening Team, US, Morocco, Indonesia, French Polynesia Pre-Opening Team, 1997–2000
- Aman Resorts – The Strand, Myanmar, Rooms Division Manager, 1996–1999
- Dusit Hotels and Resorts, Thailand, Operations Systems Manager, 1992–1995
- The St Regis, New York, Butler, 1991–1992

### Alumni service (2010–present):

- Cornell Club of the United Kingdom, Vice-President, 2016–2021
- Cornell Hotel Society Foundation, President, 2016–present
- Cornell University Council, member, 2004–2008; 2015–2019
- Dean's Advisory Board, School of Hotel Administration, Board Member, 2014–2016
- President's Council of Cornell Women, member, 2014–2015
- Cornell Hotel Society, Global President, 2013; member, 1993–present
- Class of 1991, School of Hotel Administration, Director, 1991–2011

### Community/public service/philanthropic priorities:

- Sea Cadets, Youth Charity, UK, Trustee, 2020–2021
- Amnesty UK, Human Resources Committee Board Member, 2014–2016
- Kasayan Orphanage Bali, Fundraiser Chair, 2003–2010

### Other education:

- University of Brighton, MSc Tourism and International Development
- Awarded: "Best Post Graduate Student of Tourism 2016, UK," Association for Tourism in Higher Education
- Published: "No Ebola... still doomed," *The Ebola-Induced Tourism Crisis*, *Annals of Tourism Research* 70 (2018) 76–87

### Student involvements/activities:

- Hotel Ezra Cornell, Managing Director, 1991; Marketing Director, 1990
- Drown Award Finalist, 1991
- Dean's List, 1990–1991
- Kappa Alpha Theta, Philanthropy Officer, 1990
- Teaching Assistant: Marketing, Human Resources, Restaurant Management, 1988–1991

### Additional information:

I now reside in London with my husband, Brian, and teenage children, Isara and Akash.

As a child, I moved between Sweden, Ethiopia, Somalia and Switzerland due to my father's work with the International Red Cross. This sparked my life-long love affair with travel but also a deep awareness of the wide array of human experiences. I am fluent in Swedish, French and Spanish, and conversational in Thai and Indonesian.

When I am not hiking, exploring a new destination, or running, I enjoy cooking and eating.