

CORNELL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Grace Tucker Rogers, CALS '17, CUC Member

Grace was recruited to Cornell for rowing but was lured to Ithaca by the unsurpassed beauty of Ithaca, Cayuga Lake and the Cornell Campus – as well as the exceptional [environmental sciences program](#) at Cornell. Cornell's program was unique in the way it honored the interdisciplinary nature of economics, public policy, community engagement and natural science while searching for solutions to climate change.

On campus, in addition to her academic studies and Cornell rowing, Grace engaged with the CALS Ambassador Program, Red Key Society, Big Red Leadership Institute and served as a reunion clerk for several years. It was going to the Big Red Tents with alumni as a clerk and then as her Reunion Chair in 2022 that remain some of her favorite Cornell memories. Well, that and seeing Walk the Moon perform at Slope Day in 2016! Oh, and meeting her future husband, Chris Rogers '15.

Grace was an Atkinson Center sponsored intern with the [Environmental Defense Fund](#), which evolved into a full-time job and she and her husband moved to DC after graduation. When I asked Grace “what inspires you” she quickly responded, “anytime I can get outside and engage with nature. It reminds me why I do the work that I do”.

Grace served on the CALS Alumni Advisory Board for two 3-year terms that concluded this past summer and volunteered to host Young Alumni programs for the Cornell Club of Washington. In 2022, the Rogers yielded to the ‘Philly vortex’ and relocated with several other Cornell couples during the time when remote work afforded the opportunity to relocate closer to Ithaca and still within a few hours of several major metropolitan areas. She continues to work for the Environmental



Defense Fund part-time while she is working on her master's degree in city Planning at the University of Pennsylvania.

Demonstrating consistent Cornell student and alumni leadership resulted in Grace being recognized at CALC 2024 with the Robert Harrison '76 Recent Alumni Volunteer Award. When I asked Grace what advice she would give to other alumni about a Cornell volunteer journey she highlighted that there are many ways for people to volunteer and engage in areas of interest to them. She also noted that we will all have different seasons to our volunteering, with ebbs and flows that reflect that other time commitments we have in our life.

She is particularly excited about the way that the regional Clubs are evolving to 'place-based' activities. This provides you with the opportunity to plan events in your local community or for a special interest group (i.e. such as knitters). As to Cornell University Council specifically, Grace noted that it afforded her an opportunity to remain connected to the Cornell community, on campus and with other alumni, during a time when work and grad school are taking most of her time.

If you'd like to meet Grace, rumor has it she will be in attendance at [CALC 2025](#). CU there!



*A photo from Grace and Chris' wedding in 2023.
Look at all those Cornellians!*