



## 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 Staller 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 Camerta 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.