



CCW News

A Cornell Club of Washington Publication
Editor-in-Chief: Matthew S. Lynch '14

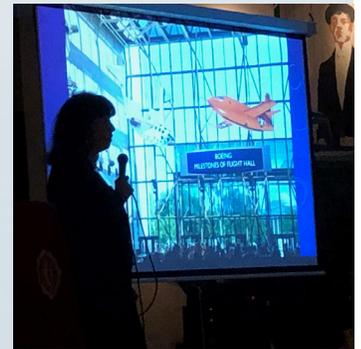
June 2019

CCW Annual Dinner 2019

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A capacity crowd of alumni and friends attended this year's CCW Annual Dinner at Clyde's of Chevy Chase. Margaret A. Weitekamp PhD '01 – who curates the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Spaceflight Collection at the National Air and Space Museum – was the featured guest speaker. Dr. Weitekamp is the author of *Right Stuff, Wrong Sex: America's First Women in Space Program*, which won the 2004 Eugene M. Emme Award from the American Astronautical Society.



Dr. Weitekamp discussed how her career path from Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges to her present role as Smithsonian Curator exemplifies Cornell's founding principle of "... any person ... any study." She also described some of the interesting acquisitions and exhibit development that have been part of her 15-year tenure at the Museum, including the Star Trek Starship Enterprise Studio Model display.

During the business portion of the evening, Terry Horner '92 PhD '98 gave the President's Report. The Club also honored several of its members. Janet Cornfeld '72 was recognized for her decades of leadership in the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network and on the CCW Board. Dan Sherman PhD '85 received the Best Program Award for his August 7, 2018, presentation "Hamilton: Man and Musical." Finally, Katherine Stifel '87 received CCW's highest honor, the Bondareff Award, in recognition of her long and distinguished service to the Club.

- By Lisa Burns Griffin '87

Mark Your Calendar

[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinner Series](#)

Olive Bistro
4649 41st NW, Washington DC
Thursday, June 20th
6:30 p.m.



Questions:
Filiz Serbes JD '88 filisrb@gmail.com



Reception for Class of 2023 Admitted Students

On April 7th, CCW Vice-Presidents Janine Lossing '89 (who also serves as the Chair of the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network [CAAAN] for DC and Maryland) and Matt Nieman '98 (Chair of CAAAN for Northern Virginia) hosted CCW's reception honoring students from the Washington metropolitan area who were admitted to Cornell's Class of 2023. About 60 students, along with more than 85 parents, attended the program at the Doubletree by Hilton McLean Tysons Corner.

Two panels of current undergraduates participating in the Cornell-in-Washington program and recent graduates, as well as local CAAAN Chairs, spoke about life at Cornell and answered questions. Some of the students had already decided to attend Cornell, while others were still undecided. This annual reception is always a highlight of our DC-area CAAAN programming.

The next CAAAN event is the annual Frosh Send-Off Supper on August 18th at the home of DC CAAAN Chair Judy Gleklen Kopff.



Top Row (left to right): Cole Stefan '18; Taylor McBain '18; Olivia Foster '18; Janine Peyser Lossing '89 (General Chair, Maryland/DC CAAAN); Matt Nieman '98 (General Chair, Northern Virginia CAAAN); Aida Shipley '20; and Austin McLaughlin '18.
Bottom Row (left to right): Judy Gleklen Kopff '68 (Chair, Washington, DC, CAAAN); Stephanie Lalos '15; Siobhan Robinson-Marshall '20; Debbie Nyakaru '20; and John Lowry '16.

- Judy Gleklen Kopff '68

2019 Bondareff Award

The Esther and Daniel Bondareff Award was conceptualized by Howard Epstein '57 and modeled after similar awards given by other clubs to honor long and distinguished service. The award was named for Esther Schiff Bondareff '37 and her husband, Daniel Bondareff '36, to honor their many years of service to the Club. The Cornell Club of Washington first presented the award in 1984 to Bob McKinless '48.

At the 2019 Annual dinner on May 14th, CCW awarded the 2019 Bondareff Award to Katherine Stifel '87. She has served two terms as a director on the CCW Board and as Vice President for Programming for four years. She began serving as First Vice President in July 2017. Katherine has contributed substantially to numerous CCW events, including the April 2015 Silent Movies With Live Music at The Avalon Theatre and the May 2016 Tribute to Austin "Kip" Kiplinger to benefit the Scholarship Fund.



Katherine is a second-generation CCW Life Member, as her parents Gladys '58 and Peter '58 are also Life Members, along with brother Andrew '91, all still living in the DC area. Members recall her as a teenager helping at the Annual Father's Day Picnic at Kiplinger's 'Montevideo' in Poolsville, Maryland. Her service to CCW continues even while she establishes her own architectural practice. CCW and all its members are grateful for Katherine's unwavering dedication and many years of service.

- Christine Song '94 MBA '05

Board of Directors

President

Terry Horner '92 PhD '98

First Vice-President

Katherine Stifel '87

Treasurer

Elina Hum '79

Secretary

Elisabeth Boas '71

Vice-Presidents, CAAAN

Janine Lossing '89 (DC/MD)

Matt Nieman '98 (VA)

Vice-President, Communications

Liz Herman '01

Vice-President, Community Service

Laura Gonzales Meyers '04

Vice-President, Membership

Julia Buffinton '14

Drew Zukosky '13

Vice-President, Programming

Jim Schoonmaker '74

Vice-President, Scholarship

Alex Payne '09

Immediate Past President

Grace Jean '00

Directors (through June 2019)

Joanna Ain '05

Alejandro Alemán '89

Janet Cornfeld '72

Tonique Hay MPA '12

Linda Jarschauer Johnson '60 MS '63

Justin Kondrat '14

Matthew Lynch '14

Steve Piekarec '74

Filiz Serbes JD '88

Chuck Schilke JD '88

Mel Zurn '93

Directors (through June 2020)

Kwame Campos Rodriguez MBA '15

Lisa Griffin '87

Christine Song '94 MBA '05

Dan Murphy '96

2019-2020 CCW Board of Directors

The Cornell Club of Washington is governed by a volunteer board of directors, which is chaired by the president. The board consists of the elected officers, the immediate past president, 10 directors elected by the club membership, and up to five directors appointed by the president. Officers are elected for one-year terms beginning on July 1, with the exception of the two-year term for the treasurer. Elected directors serve a two-year term, and appointed directors serve a one-year term. If you would like to learn more about CCW leadership opportunities, please contact President Terry Horner '92 PhD '98 at president@cornellclubdc.org.

The officers and directors for the 2019-2020 CCW Board of Directors were elected by the membership through electronic voting that opened to all active members as of the May 14th Annual Dinner. The election ran from May 15th through May 29th, and 250 members voted. Congratulations to the elected candidates, and thank you for your service to CCW!

Elected Officers

President – Matt Nieman '98

First Vice President – under consideration

Treasurer – Mel Zurn '93 (elected for 2-year term through June 2021)

Secretary – Elisabeth Boas '71

Vice President CAAAN (DC/MD) – Janine Lossing '89

Vice President CAAAN (VA) – under consideration

Vice President Communications – Toniaqua Hay MPA '12

Vice President Community Service – Lisa Burns Griffin '87

Co-Vice President Membership – Annalise Schoonmaker '14

Co-Vice President Membership – Justin Kondrat '14

Vice President Programming – Jim Schoonmaker '74

Vice President Scholarship – Alex Payne '09

Directors Elected to Complete Unexpired Terms through June 2020

Chuck Schilke JD '88

Filiz Serbes JD '88

Directors Elected for Terms through June 2021

Joanna Ain '05

Claudia Benack '74

Julia Buffinton '14

Linda Jarschauer Johnson '60 MS '63

Steve Piekarec '74

2019-2020 CCW President, Matt Nieman '98

CCW's stated purpose is to operate exclusively for the educational purpose of fostering and promoting the interests of Cornell University, but CCW does not have a mission statement. In your view, what is CCW's mission?

I believe CCW should have an explicit mission statement to assist its leadership in evaluating potential opportunities as they arise and to help it convey its objectives to the University, the DC Metropolitan-area community, and all Cornellians—whether members or not. To that end, my model mission statement reads: The mission of the Cornell Club of Washington is to connect Cornellians past, present, and future with Cornell University, each other, and the community at large through opportunities to educate, learn, serve, and socialize.



CCW is an all-volunteer club, and the President is Chair of the Board of Directors and ex-officio member of every committee. How are you uniquely suited to lead the CCW's volunteers and contribute to its success?

While I wear my Cornellian pride on my sleeve, leadership is listening—especially in a volunteer organization. As an employment attorney and litigator, my professional life is focused on listening to people—who come with or from a myriad of agendas, backgrounds, circumstances, and occupations—to understand not only facts but also perspectives. Then, just like CCW's President, from these many voices, I am charged with helping craft the best path forward, which balances organizational needs—both short-term and long-term—with stakeholder concerns, including ensuring those stakeholders will continue to support the organization. These professional experiences, in combination with my other prior military, non-profit board, and volunteer service, uniquely demonstrate my commitment to listening to all those with interest in CCW, not bringing preconceived notions of how things must be done, and recognizing that the ultimate best course is unlikely to be found exclusively from any one volunteer or group.

CCW is an independent, charitable non-profit corporation. What, if anything, would you like to change about the way the CCW operates or about the relationship between CCW, its members, and Cornell University?

I will ensure CCW understands that it is its membership. While joined by a common love of Cornell, I believe CCW can and should expand its impact, opportunities, and reach in the DC area—both on behalf of Cornell and itself. I believe that nothing is more important to CCW's future success than ensuring that its members and volunteer leaders are not only appreciated but augmented with new faces. Speaking from years of experience with CAAAN, constant reliance on the same volunteers not only contributes to burn out but also potentially squanders opportunities to get others involved. Instead, my vision is an inclusive CCW that strives to be a centralizing “clearinghouse” of local Cornell-related activities—even those of more narrowly-focused alumni constituent groups—that provide all local Cornellians—whether they live in DC, the Maryland suburbs, or Northern Virginia—opportunities to be involved.

Local Spotlight-Dr. David J. Skorton

A knock at the door disturbs Dr. David Skorton from his bed. He checks the clock – 10:00 p.m. – and begrudgingly shuffles to the door where he meets a bright-faced freshman Cornell University student. “What?” he asks. “Dance party!” the freshman enthusiastically responds. Skorton shuts the door and begins to turn to his bed, but his wife, Cornell Professor Robin Davisson, waylays his return. “We didn’t come here to sleep,” she lightly scolds, “we came here to dance with students!” And thus, at 10:00 p.m., Skorton and Davisson danced with the students of Mary Donlon Hall.

Dr. David J. Skorton presided over Cornell University as its president from 2006-2015, and this funny anecdote from our conversation encapsulated his legacy as a people-first leader. His tenure oversaw hills and valleys – from the opening of the Cornell Tech campus in NYC to the Great Recession – but a “common thread” he noted among his most treasured memories “involved the students.” During the Great Recession, he allocated money from the endowment to greatly increase student aid and distributed his email address so parents could communicate with him about their fears. After the deaths of several students in 2010, he amicably dialogued with students and produced a film encouraging students to seek help if needed. “Even though there were tensions,” he said, “I still loved it.”



“I don’t know of any other school besides Cornell offering as many opportunities,” Skorton said reflecting on his time at the university. “Cornell offers students excellence in the liberal arts, the top Veterinary school, one of the top creative writing programs, superb land-grant-based extension programs and many other offerings—the breadth and consistency of excellence of things at Cornell is very unusual if not unique.” As a student during Dr. Skorton’s tenure, I can assure readers Skorton’s legacy is one of compassion and support, always reminding students through good and bad, the administration always had a heart.

In October 2015, Skorton left Ithaca for a new post as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., a position he felt repaid a country his father said took in his family. “You work with super smart, excellent people,” he lauded about the job, spotlighting his press officer Linda St. Thomas who was in the room with us, “who actually care about what they’re doing and are happy about what they’re doing.” Most importantly of all, he added, “you get to impact millions of people!”

Skorton emphasized that he takes no personal credit for recent accomplishments, but during his tenure as secretary, the Smithsonian Institution opened the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, launched the American Women’s History Initiative “Because of Her Story,” and spearheaded the first Latino gallery space dedicated to portraying the U.S. Latino experience. Skorton also worked hard behind the scenes bolstering the diversity of the institution. “At the time I’ve been here,” he assured, “roughly 2/3 of the people recruited into director-level positions or above were women and/or people of color. We also hired the first female heads of the American History Museum and the Air and Space Museum.” He never forgot his young museum visitors, though, establishing a Secretary’s Youth Advisory Council to seek input from high school students.

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Events at a Glance

June

- 1...[D-Day and Air Power Event: Figuring Out How To Win WWII In Europe](#)
Questions: programming@cornellclubdc.org
- 1...[Old Rag Hike LXVII](#)
Questions: Clint Brass at ctb14@cornell.edu
- 6...[Cornell Reunions 2019](#)
Questions: alumniaffairs@cornell.edu
- 11...CCW Monthly [Board](#) & [Programming](#) Meeting
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 18...CCW Book Club
Questions: Liz Pomper '98 at ehp3@cornell.edu
- 20...[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners](#)
Questions: Filiz Serbes JD '88 at filsrb@gmail.com
- 23...[16th Annual Cornell Mid-Atlantic Crab Feast](#)
Questions: Christina Ulrich at cu43@cornell.edu

July

- 7...[Ivy Singles - Hike, Pizza, and Light](#)
Questions: Bruce McBarnette (brucemcbarnette@gmail.com)
- 11...[Ivy Social Club at Jazz on Jackson Place](#)
Questions: Henry Chou at henrychou@alum.mit.edu

[D-Day and Air Power: Figuring Out How To Win WWII In Europe](#)

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-Day with Cornell Military Historian David Silbey at the Smithsonian's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center.
Saturday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m.



Questions:
programming@cornellclubdc.org

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Two weeks from the publication of this newsletter, Dr. Skorton will leave the Smithsonian Institution to become president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). "I'll miss the people," Skorton reflected. "We tend to talk about the most senior leaders," either at Cornell or the Smithsonian, "but it's the rank-and-file people who don't necessarily garner recognition who really make the place work and who keep us focused."

"The good physician treats the disease," Canadian Physician Sir William Osler directed, but "the great physician treats the patient who has the disease." Following the spirit of this Oslerism, Dr. Skorton – in all aspects of his work – sought to understand the people who have an issue rather than simply pursued the problem(s) people had. This approach allowed him to make the places he led more responsive to the needs of its patrons (i.e., students, daily guests, etc.) and contributed to a legacy of **heartfelt leadership**.

Good luck in your new endeavor, Dr. Skorton.

-Matthew S. Lynch '14

Upcoming Events



Old Rag Hike LXVII

Saturday, June 1st, 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Sperryville, VA

Alumni and Cornell in Washington students will climb Old Rag Mountain, near Sperryville, VA, for the 67th time in our semiannual trek into the Blue Ridge. This is one of the Washington area's most popular excursions, and we expect a large turnout (25-40 people) each time we go.

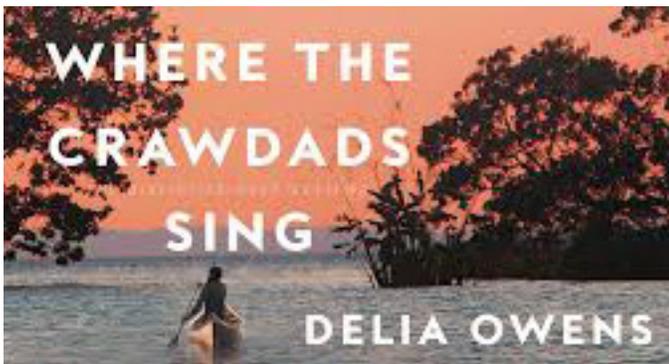
Contact: Clint Brass at ctb14@cornell.edu

16th Annual Cornell Mid-Atlantic Crab Feast

Sunday, June 23rd, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Pasadena, MD

We hope you will join us for this summer staple event at Kurtz's Beach. This fun Cornell tradition located on Maryland's Western Shore will be filled with food, friends, family, and Cornell! There will be fun activities for kids and adults that will make this event one you won't want to miss!

Contact: Christina Ulrich at cu43@cornell.edu



CCW Book Club

Tuesday, June 18th, 6:30 p.m., Teism Penn Quarter, Washington, DC

Join to discuss Delia Owens' thrilling *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a powerful reminder to us that we are influenced by the forces of nature and forever shaped by the children we once were.

Contact: Liz Pomper '98 at ehp3@cornell.edu

Ivy Singles - Hike, Pizza, and Light

Sunday, July 7th, 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC

The Ivy Singles Social Club and Bruce McBarnette (Princeton alumnus) invite you to attend a hike on Saturday morning at Rock Creek Park, followed by complimentary light energy sessions at Sukyo Mahikari Center at 4479 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC, and pizza and refreshments at the Italian Pizza Kitchen 4483 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC.

The hike will be an easy to moderate 3 miles.

Contact: Bruce McBarnette at brucemcbarnette@gmail.com



CCW News

Cornell Club of Washington
2148 O Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
www.cornellclubdc.org
newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

June 2019

Moved? New email? Update your member profile at www.cornellclubdc.org

Do you have ideas for *CCW News*? Or corrections? Email us at: newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

Event Venues and Speakers Wanted

Do you have a meeting space that CCW could use for lectures or receptions?

Do you know a local Cornellian who would be a great speaker?

Contact Jim Schoonmaker at programming@cornellclubdc.org

CCW News

Do you know a local Cornellian who should be featured in a future newsletter?

Contact Matthew S. Lynch at newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

New CCW Members 4/29/2019-5/21/2019

Andrea Adiaconitei	Anna Kook '17
Keith Becker '01	Emily Martin '18
Douglas Birnie '85	Zach Montague '13
Tony Chen '12	Stephen Roblin
Farrell Duncombe '18	Christopher Shinkman
Jennifer Elgin '90	Scott Soltis '17
Rob Hargreaves '95	Michael Stroud '95