



December 2018

CCW News

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

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CCW Holiday Party

On December 17, put some **Big Red** in your 2018 holiday season with your fellow Cornellians from across the Washington area as we celebrate at the University Club.

CCW's special guest is Michelle Vaeth '98, Cornell's new Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs. Michelle is no stranger to the special connections Cornellians have with one another and the University. Let's give her a warm Washington D.C. welcome!



"Cornell is lifelong. You're on campus for a certain number of years, but you are a Cornellian for life. The connections you make after your student experience are incredibly enriching."
— Michelle Vaeth '98

Mark Your Calendar

Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners

Thursday, December 20th
6:00 p.m. Ambar DC

Register: [https://www.cornellclubdc.org/
event-3096609](https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3096609)



Details: From 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm, enjoy wine, non-alcoholic refreshments, and passed hors d'oeuvres. Cash cocktail bar with \$6 domestic beer, \$8 imported beer, and \$12 cocktails. Festive Big Red business attire is encouraged.

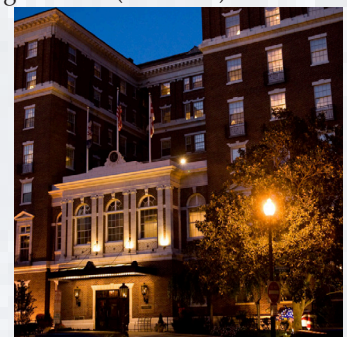
Cost: Member \$40.00 (until 12/5), \$45.00 (until 12/14)
Non-member \$45.00 (until 12/5), \$50.00 (until 12/14)
At the door: \$60.00 (cash only)

Register at [cornellclubdc.org](https://www.cornellclubdc.org)

Metro: Farragut West (Orange & Blue Line) or Farragut North (Red Line)

Contacts:

Terry Horner '92 PhD '98
president@cornellclubdc.org
Katherine Stifel '87
vicepresident@cornellclubdc.org



Honoring Past CCW Presidents:

Danielle Alsop Remarck '92

CCW History

With the March 2017 issue of CCW News, we began a series to honor CCW's 32 past presidents. For many years, the Cornell Women's Club and the Cornell Club of Washington (men only) sponsored their own programs and activities. In December 1965, both boards approved a merger agreement, and a referendum vote was mailed to the alumni. The two presidents at the time, Edwin Miller '35 and Lori Eisenberg '50, completed their terms. Phillip Fleming '52 was elected the first president of the newly consolidated group for the 1966-67 year.

Visit www.cornellclubdc.org/history for more CCW history.

If you are interested in interviewing a past CCW president for CCW News, please contact Terry Horner at president@cornellclubdc.org

Danielle (Alsop) Remarck '92 and I chatted about her time at Cornell and serving CCW. Of note, more CCW presidents are Class of 1992 than any other year (as of this article, at least)—Jon Simon, Danielle Alsop, and your author. Danielle was born in California, and “we moved here right before kindergarten, so really, I have been a northern Virginia native all my life.” After Cornell, she moved back to D.C. and lived in Adams Morgan for years before moving to Alexandria, Virginia.

According to Danielle, “memories at Cornell are interwoven threads of ‘the best part of my life tapestry,’ but if I had to pick just one it would be Halloween weekend freshman year.” Her high school best friend took a road trip to Cornell and arrived to see her first rugby game. Danielle got two-head slammed on the first play and injured her right temple. She was rushed, blood gushing, to Gannett, where an awesome doctor stitched her up. The next day, the two wore togas for Halloween, and Danielle sported a pretty blue eye that matched her blue toga sheet. Someone even tried wiping off her “blue makeup,” because it looked so real. “I don’t remember the pain of that injury. I just remember the wonderful time my best friend and I had that weekend, black and blue eye and all!”



Danielle Alsop Remarck,
President 2003-05

As with most Cornell students, picking a favorite class and professor is nearly impossible, but Danielle fondly remembered Professor Mike Walter, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (now Biological and Environmental Engineering). “Walter’s Hydrology class was amazing, and I loved his teaching style. He was so nurturing and kind, yet bright as they come.” According to Danielle, Walters continues to spark students’ interests in important topics like sustainable development and water quality.

While at Cornell, Danielle also rowed crew. “After rowing in high school and winning nationals, I was hooked.” It was tough to make the crew team, because Danielle was so short, but that also made it one of her greatest Cornell accomplishments. Danielle had to quit her second semester, because couldn’t keep up with twice-a-day practices six days a week and her engineering classes. “Quitting crew was the hardest choice I ever had to make, but I just kept reminding myself that I was not at Cornell to row.”

It was another friend who got Danielle involved with CCW. “My best friend from Cornell and I shared an apartment in Adams Morgan, and it was her idea to attend a CCW board meeting.” They attended a few meetings together, and then she got too busy at work and couldn’t go anymore, but I was hooked.” CCW was such a lovely group of people, and we all loved Cornell. Of her time leading CCW, Danielle is most proud of her time as membership chair. “I was determined to get our membership over 1,000, and I succeeded.” Like many others who have led CCW, Danielle started as an elected board member, then served as a vice president (for membership), then First Vice-president and President. “I can’t speak highly enough of CCW. I am so proud to be affiliated with such a beautiful group of people trying to make a difference in others’ lives.” As Danielle sees it, whether you are young or seasoned, there is a CCW program that will interest you. In addition to the impressive educational, social, cultural, and networking events, CCW is a place to call home if you want to be around other Cornellians.”

By Terry Horner '92 PhD '98

CCW Member Spotlight:

Felix Laboy '85 Teaching the Art of Online Hospitality

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

Ali Wright '11 Law '14

Vice-President, Programming

Jim Schoonmaker '74

Vice-President, Scholarship

Alex Payne '09

Immediate Past President

Grace Jean '00

Directors (through June 2019)

Janet Cornfeld '72

Toniqua Hay Gr '12

Linda Jarschauer Johnson '60, '63

Matthew Lynch '14

Steve Piekarec '74

Chuck Schilke Law '88

Mel Zurn '93

Directors (through June 2020)

Joanna Ain '05

Mary Bowman '87

Kwame Campos Rodriguez JGM '15

Lisa Griffin '87

Christine Song '94 GR '05

Dan Murphy '96



Felix Laboy, a 1985 graduate from the Cornell School of Hotel Administration, shares his career trajectory in the industry and gives insight for those not in the Statler syndicate.

Felix was introduced to Cornell on a college trip for his brother and was immediately transfixed by the fall scenery as well as the curriculum. "I loved the campus," Felix said, "and being able to study with a hospitality focus" in a variety of courses from communications to management. Felix has as many favorite memories as Cornell has degrees, but a select few included "meeting people from all around the world" and giving the commencement speech at his graduation.

After graduation, Felix followed his then-fiancé (now wife) to Washington D.C., where he worked in marketing positions at the Four Seasons Hotels, the Ritz-Carlton Company, Westin Hotels and Resorts, and the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau before setting out on his own. His list of accomplishments includes starting the first digital marketing company for hotels called E-site Marketing in 1999 and helping to create and serve as the first president of Sabre Hospitality Solutions in 2007, now one of the world's largest hotel technology companies.

Felix credits his Cornell education as important to his success. The network and practical experience he earned at Cornell helped him learn how to run a successful business. "What Cornell did for me," he said, "was create a global understanding of the hotel industry, its basic principles, and how important service is to make it all work." While the landscape changed after the introduction of the Internet, Felix knew that quality hospitality would always be in demand.

Today, Felix lives in Washington D.C. with his family, taking the lessons he's learned to his new company, Encore Hospitality Solutions, which creates products for hotels that help them attract and convert more customers on their digital platforms. His wife is a "retired lawyer," to use her words, volunteering for an organization called College Tracks, which helps first generation students navigate the byzantine college application process. His two children – Ben and Grace – work in California; Ben at an energy efficiency firm in San Francisco and Grace on a music career in Los Angeles. Felix and his family love to travel and he has been fortunate enough to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, explore Antarctica, and complete an Ironman Triathlon last year.

Outside of work and his personal feats, Felix remains involved with Cornell. He is currently in his second term on the University Council, a member of the Cornell Society of Hoteliers, co-chairman of his 25th reunion, chairman of his 30th reunion, and the newest member of the Cornell Club of Washington as of this interview.

"I think I would recommend the Cornell Hotel School for several reasons," Felix said. Alongside the worldwide reputation and Cornell's natural beauty, he explained, the University motto "any person, any study" is a compelling offer for any student. This motto is reflected in the culture of the institution, from the dynamism of the students to the collaboration between the hotel school and the other colleges, fashioning for students a strong foundational knowledge that will serve them well in whatever they choose to pursue.

By Matthew S. Lynch '14

Past Event Highlights

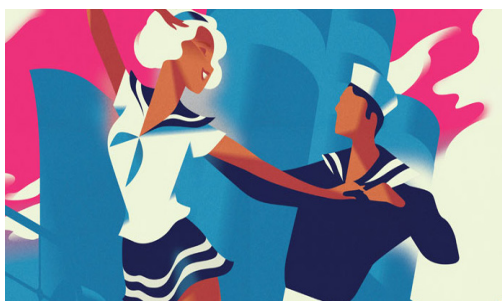
The First World War at 100!

On November 7, 100 alumni of the Cornell, Princeton, and Wharton clubs of Washington joined the Columbia Club of Washington at the Washington National Cathedral to hear two Cornellians discuss World War I and reflect on what it means for America and the world a century later. Professor David Silbey and Nicole Milano, Head of the Medical Center Archives at New York-Presbyterian/Weil Cornell Medicine in New York City, discussed the legacy of the Great War.

By Jim Schoonmaker '74



Anything Goes at Arena Stage with Pre-Gathering



On November 9, Cornellians enjoyed a delicious pre-theatre gathering at the home of Karen O'Brien before seeing the musical Anything Goes. The iconic musical came to life on stage from Cole Porter's uplifting music, to the beautiful singing and tap-dancing, to the humor of the production. All Cornellians in attendance were invigorated by, and extremely happy with, the performance. We thank Karen O'Brien and her husband Viinh for their kindness in hosting.

By Katherine Stifel '87

Walking the Battle: Antietam at 156

On November 11, a few score of DMV Ivy League alumni honored Veterans Day by joining Professor David Silbey on a tour of the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD. We spent the day visiting the Pry House where General George B. McClellan camped, examined where the cannons were stationed, tread the infamous "Bloody Lane," and concluded the day at the Antietam National Cemetery where 6,000 soldiers are buried. We thank the Columbia Club of Washington for co-hosting the event and Professor Silbey for, once again, sharing his deep understanding of the Civil War with us. This trip was the sixth in CCW's Civil War Battlefield series. Stay tuned to find out where we head next!

By Joanna Ain '05



Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners



On November 15, CCW launched its Third Thursdays International Washington D.C. Small Dinners series at Jaleo in Bethesda. Seven Cornellians from varying backgrounds and graduation years gathered for an intimate tapas dinner and chatted about their Cornell experiences and careers. This was the first of many monthly dinners planned to carry forward the Spirit of Zinck's throughout the year. The series is the perfect avenue to build the community of Cornell alumni. Please contact programming@cornellclubdc.org, if you are interested in leading one of these dinners.

By Sara Kim Keller '01

Events at a Glance

December



Young Alumni Holiday Party

Join fellow classmates from 2009 through 2018 for our annual holiday party and kick off the holiday season!

Town Tavern DC, Adams Morgan

Saturday, December 8
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Register at:
<https://cornellclubdc.org/event-3122346>
/Registration

- 1, 2, 9...[Christmas with the Washington Men's Camerata](#)
Questions: info@camerata.com
- 3...[CCW Book Club](#) - Educated by Tara Westover
Questions: ehp3@cornell.edu
- 8...[Young Alumni Holiday Party](#)
Questions: [Julia Buffinton '14](#) or [Michelle Yanda '15](#)
- 11...[CCW Monthly Board Meeting](#)
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 11...[CCW Monthly Programming Meeting](#)
Questions: programming@cornellclubdc.org
- 17...[CCW Holiday Party](#)
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 19...[Washington Capitals vs. Pittsburgh Penguins](#)
Questions: melvin.zurn@gmail.com
- 20...[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners](#)
Questions: kgs6@cornell.edu

January



CCW Holiday Party

Join fellow Washington-area Cornellians over wine, passed premium hors d'oeuvres, and cash cocktail bar.

Monday, December 17
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The University Club

Questions:
Terry Horner '92 PhD '98
president@cornellclubdc.org

- 8...CCW Monthly Board Meeting
Questions: president@cornellclubdc.org
- 8...CCW Monthly Programming Meeting
Questions: programming@cornellclubdc.org
- 12...[Cornell Glee Club 150th Anniversary Concert](#)
Questions: <https://www.leeclub.com/contact>
- 17...[Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners](#)
Questions: kgs6@cornell.edu

Volunteer Corner

Communications

Are you a fan of Instagram and Facebook? Help CCW with our communications efforts including our social media and email updates.

Contact Liz Herman at communications@cornellclubdc.org.

Community Service

We are always looking for community service ideas and volunteers!

Contact Laura Gonzales Meyers at communityservice@cornellclubdc.org.

Finance Committee

Do you have a background in accounting or tax law? Or want to become more familiar with non-profit finance? Then please consider joining us!

Contact Elina Hum at treasurer@cornellclubdc.org.

Programming

The CCW Programming Committee welcomes suggestions for programs and volunteers to help organize!

Contact Jim Schoonmaker at programming@cornellclubdc.org.

Technology

Looking for people with website experience to help with the CCW website.

Contact Terry Horner at president@cornellclubdc.org.

Nominations

Interested in serving on the 2018-19 CCW Board of Directors? Consider being nominated to serve as a director. Contact Eliot Greenwald at nominations@cornellclubdc.org.

Club Announcements

Christmas with the Washington Men's Camerata

Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 pm, Fairlington United Methodist Church, VA

Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 pm, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, MD

Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 pm, The Church of the Epiphany, Washington, D.C.

Enjoy perennial holiday classics, along with new and inventive arrangements of some of your favorite songs of the season! This concert is perfect for the whole family, so join us to start your December with a beautiful and festive concert!

Questions: Camerata at info@camerata.com

Washington Capitals vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm, Capital One Arena, Washington, D.C.

Join fellow Cornellians for a night of hockey. CCW will be heading to Capital One Arena to cheer on the Red...in this case, our own Washington Capitals as they face off against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Questions: Melvin Zurn '93 at melvin.zurn@gmail.com

Third Thursdays International Washington DC Small Dinners

Thursday, December 20 at 6:00 pm, Ambar DC, Washington D.C.

Join fellow Cornellians and friends for an intimate dinner at Ambar DC in the Capitol Hill Eastern Market neighborhood. Each attendee is responsible for the cost of his or her own food and drink. Space is very limited to only 6 people so please register early.

Questions: Katherine Stifel Arts '87 at kgs6@cornell.edu

Cornell University Glee Club 150th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, January 12 at 7:30 pm, Strathmore Hall, Bethesda, Maryland

The Glee Club is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a coast-to-coast concert tour. Please join us for their final East Coast tour concert. The singing will continue in a gala reception following the performance. Tickets are available online through Strathmore. Parking is included with your ticket.

Questions: Gil Keteltas '86 at CUGCinDC@gmail.com

CCW News

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

December 2018

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 Needed

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 Lynch at newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

New CCW Members

Whitney LaRoche '18	Rachel Rhodes MPA '16
Wendy Sneff '75	Todd Ringler PhD '96
Ranissa Adityavarman MPA '18	Amanda Robinson MPA '18
Gail Allen '86	Salma Shitia '18
Leslie Carson '13	Deborah Thompson '94
Karen Hecker '87	
Dan Kwon '17	