The Inauguration of David J. Skorton as the Twelfth President of Cornell University

Thursday, September 7, 2006 · The Arts Quadrangle

The Inaugural Procession, 3:00 p.m.
The Installation Ceremony, 3:30 p.m.

The Arts Quadrangle

The communal and historic heart of Cornell University's Ithaca campus is the Arts Quadrangle, a tranquil green space bordered by venerable stone and brick buildings. It is the site of the university's original campus, and a favorite gathering place for Cornellians. Students study, chat, or toss Frisbees on the lawn in the warmer months, and sculpt snow figures there between classes in the winter.

Founder Ezra Cornell is said to have stood on the future quadrangle's northwestern corner when he announced his intention to build a university on this site. He and co-founder Andrew Dickson White, Cornell's first president, visited many campuses, including those of Oxford, Harvard, and Yale, while planning the layout of the original quadrangle of the new university. White even sought the counsel of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City's Central Park. Succeeding generations of Cornellians have made only minor changes, preserving the Arts Quadrangle much as the founders planned it: a lovely, shady place for community activities, socializing, and reflection, on one of the most beautiful campuses in America.

The founders' statues face each other across the quadrangle. White's is on the east side, and Cornell's on the west, in the middle of "Old Stone Row," which consists of Morrill, McGraw, and White Halls. Morrill Hall, the first building constructed on the original campus, is a national historic landmark. Built of bluestone quarried from the land directly to the west of the quadrangle, which created the steep hill every Cornellian now knows as Libe Slope, these three earliest buildings still house a portion of the College of Arts and Sciences, as do Lincoln Hall and the massive Goldwin Smith Hall on the eastern side of the quadrangle.

The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art building, designed by renowned architect I. M. Pei, stands just off the northwestern corner of the quadrangle. Its neighbors, framing the quadrangle's northern end, are Tjaden, Sibley, and Rand Halls, headquarters of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. In March of every year for the past 105 years, each first-year architecture class has built a dragon in Rand Hall. The huge beast, escorted by throngs of exuberant costumed students, is paraded through campus and back to the Arts Quadrangle, where it perishes in a bonfire that marks the beginning of spring.

Uris Library, on the southwest corner of the Arts Quadrangle, incorporates Cornell's most famous landmark, Jennie McGraw Tower, whose chimes and clock are part of daily campus life. Olin Library, one of the world's great research libraries, anchors the southern boundary. On Cornell's commencement day each May, the president, trustees, and guests gather on Olin's terrace to view the degree candidates and faculty members as they assemble on the quadrangle and begin the march to Schoellkopf Stadium for the graduation ceremonies and celebrations.

AUTOMATA

In the spirit of the fanciful music machines of ancient courts, this composition weaves what best represent the "sound" of Cornell: chimes, machine sounds, African drums, and much more. At its heart are the timbres of the keyboard family, perhaps the most ubiquitous instruments on campus – after the iPod, of course. The theme, "C-D-E-A-A," is a musical anagram for "Cornell" that connects different ideas, like the Fibonacci Series, change-ringing, and sound spatialization. With each re-occurrence, it morphs into something with even greater potential: A hope that I have for my students and colleagues at Cornell.
Spencer Topel, composer of Automata

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia in the United States generally conforms to an intercollegiate code established in 1895. The gown is commonly black, but may be designed with special variations to indicate the level of the wearer's degree. The doctoral gown is paneled in velvet with three matching velvet bars on the sleeves that are black or a color associated by convention with the general field of the degree conferred; i.e., blue velvet is worn by a Doctor of Philosophy, purple by a Doctor of Law, and gray by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Cornell University Trustees wear the doctoral gown. The University Marshal, the Bearer of the Mace, and Faculty Marshals wear ceremonial gowns of solid carnelian. Recipients of the Cornell doctorate may wear gowns of carnelian.

The tassel on the academic cap is black or the color associated with the degree field. Colors for Cornell degrees include *agriculture and life sciences:* maize; *architecture:* blue violet; *arts and sciences:* white; *engineering:* orange; *fine arts:* brown; *hotel administration:* dark red; *human ecology:* maroon; *industrial and labor relations:* orange yellow; *law:* purple; *management:* drab; *medicine:* green; and *veterinary medicine:* gray.

The hood bears a resemblance to the medieval cowl from which it derives. The Cornell hood has a distinctive lining of carnelian with two white chevrons.

Other institutional colors that are frequently seen at Cornell ceremonies include Brown's brown, California's gold with blue chevron, Chicago's maroon, Columbia's light blue with white chevron, Harvard's crimson, Illinois's dark blue with gold chevron, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's bright red with silver gray chevron, Michigan's maize with azure chevron, Pennsylvania's cardinal with blue chevron, Princeton's orange with black chevron, Stanford's cardinal, Wisconsin's bright red, and Yale's dark blue.

The Prelude and the Inaugural Procession

OPENING POEM

Read by Alice Fulton, the Ann S. Bowers Professor of English, from the book *Like a Fragile Index of the World: Poems for David Skorton*

PROCESSIONAL

Automata, an original composition by Spencer S. Topel, graduate student in music composition

ORDER OF MARCH

The University Marshal

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Delegates Representing Learned Societies and Scientific and Cultural Institutions

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Members of the University Faculty and Academic Staff

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The Chancellor of the State University of New York

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The Past Presidents

Members of the Board of Overseers

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Trustee Ezra Cornell

The Bearer of the University Charter

The Bearer of the Great Seal of the University

The Inaugural Speaker

The Provost for Medical Affairs

The University Provost

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Bearer of the Mace

The President

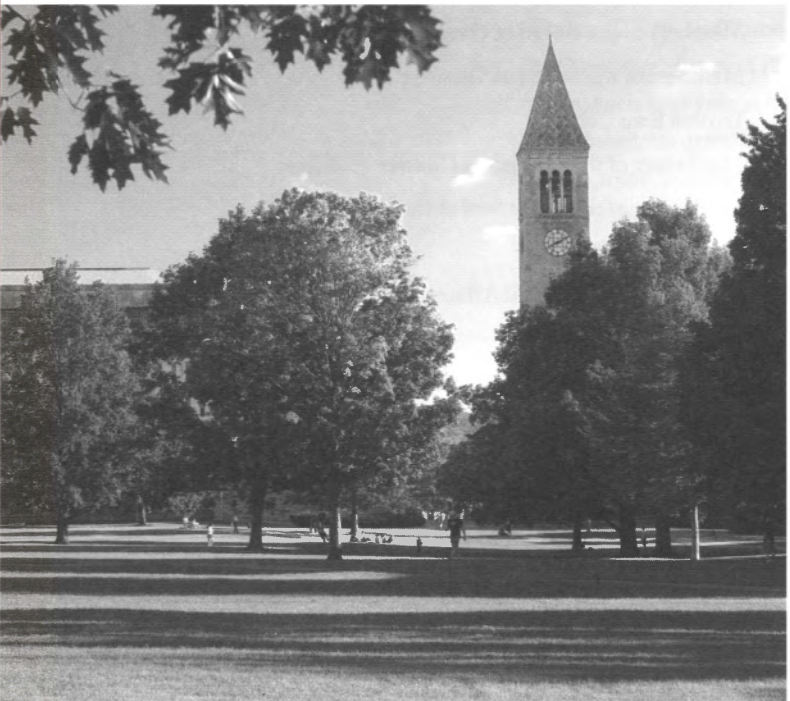
THE UNIVERSITY CHARTER

As the land-grant university of New York State, Cornell University was chartered through an act of the New York State Legislature on April 27, 1865. The charter requires that the "several departments of study in the said university shall be open to applicants for admission thereto at the lowest rates of expense consistent with its welfare and efficiency, and without distinction as to rank, class, previous occupation or locality." Moreover, "persons of every or no religious denomination shall be equally eligible to all offices and appointments."

The charter defined Cornell University's mission as: ". . . to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, including military tactics, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life. But such other branches of science and knowledge may be embraced in the plan of instruction and investigation pertaining to the university as the trustees may deem useful and proper."

Though the New York State Legislature has amended the charter from time to time over the course of the university's history – to establish, for example, Cornell's four New York State contract colleges – its essence has remained unchanged.

The original charter is presented to the president of Cornell University during the inaugural installation ceremony.



Alma Mater

Far above Cayuga's waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
Glorious to view.

[Refrain] Lift the chorus,
Speed it onward,
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater!
Hail, all hail, Cornell!

Far above the busy humming
Of the bustling town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
Looks she proudly down. *[Refrain]*

Sentry-like o'er lake and valley
Towers her regal form;
Watch and ward forever keeping,
Braving time and storm.
So through clouds of doubt and darkness
Gleams her beacon light;
Fault and error clear revealing,
Blazing forth the right. *[Refrain]*

To the glory of her founder
Rise her stately walls;
May her sons pay equal tribute
Whene'er duty calls.
When the moments, swiftly fleeting,
Ages roll between;
Many yet unborn shall hail her:
Alma Mater, Queen! *[Refrain]*

In the music of the waters
As they glide along,
In the murmur of the breezes
With their whispered song,
In the tuneful chorus blending
With each pealing bell,
One refrain seems oft repeated:
Hail, all hail, Cornell! *[Refrain]*

Here, by flood and foaming torrent,
Gorge and rocky dell,
Pledge we faith and homage ever
To our loved Cornell.
May time ne'er efface the memory
Of her natal day,
And her name and fame be honored
Far and wide alway! *[Refrain]*

The Installation Ceremony

PRELUDE AND FANFARE

Cornell University Wind Ensemble

CONVOCATION CALL

Charles Walcott, University Marshal

WELCOME

Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

REMARKS

Antonio Gotto, Jr., Provost for Medical Affairs, and Dean of the Weill Cornell Medical College

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

Carolyn A. Martin, University Provost

INAUGURAL SPEAKER

David M. Feldshuh, Professor of Theatre Arts and Artistic Director
of the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Cornell University Wind Ensemble

INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT

Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

David J. Skorton, President of Cornell University

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Peter C. Meinig, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

ALMA MATER

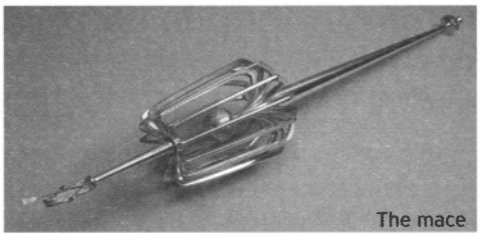
Cornell University Glee Club and Cornell University Chorus

RECESSIONAL

Cornell Steel Band

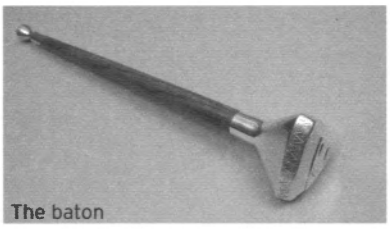
THE GREAT SEAL OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The Great Seal is affixed to every diploma awarded by Cornell University. Two inches in diameter, it features a profile likeness of founder Ezra Cornell in the center, encircled by his words: "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study."


The mace

THE UNIVERSITY MACE AND BATON

The Cornell University mace and baton symbolize the authority of the university as exercised by its principal officers. Both the baton and the mace were designed by Sir Eric Clements of the Goldsmiths' Guild of London. The baton is a rosewood shaft with a wrought-silver triangular knob bearing a rendering of the university arms and surrounded by a frieze of engraved ivy leaves. The mace consists of a tapered silver shaft surmounted by a golden terrestrial globe. Silver ribs surrounding the globe symbolize the universality of Cornell's interests and the worldwide affiliations of its faculty, students, staff, and alumni.


The baton

Reception on the Arts Quadrangle

Please join us on the Arts Quadrangle immediately following the installation ceremony, for a reception celebrating the inauguration of David J. Skorton.

Performances will be featured onstage near the statue of Andrew Dickson White and on Olin Library Terrace.

For this "Taste of Ithaca" occasion, Cornell Dairy has unveiled a new ice cream flavor — Banana-Berry Skorton. In tents around the quadrangle, local caterers are highlighting local foods. Fresh peaches, plums, and apples have been provided by the Cornell Orchards.

Performers

A special thank-you to the performers who are sharing their talents with us:

Simon Shaheen & Qantara
Absolute Zero
Bhangra
Calvary and St. Paul's Gospel Choir
Cornell University Chorus and Glee Club
Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble
Cornell Steel Band
Cornell University Wind Ensemble
Latin Jazz
Sabor Latino
Spencer Topel

Inaugural Concert

Simon Shaheen & Qantara will perform tonight in Bailey Hall at 9:00 p.m.

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Michele M. Moody-Adams, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

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OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES

1636 Harvard University
1701 Yale University
1740 University of Pennsylvania
1746 Princeton University
1754 Columbia University
1766 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
1769 Dartmouth College
1789 Georgetown University
1789 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1791 University of Vermont
1793 Hamilton College
1793 Williams College
1795 Union College
1797 Hartwick College
1819 Colgate University
1819 Norwich University
1819 University of Virginia
1820 Indiana University
1822 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
1824 Cazenovia College
1824 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
1827 University of Toronto
1829 Rochester Institute of Technology
1831 New York University
1831 Wesleyan University
1834 Upstate Medical University
1836 Alfred University
1836 Emory University
1837 Mount Holyoke College
1838 Duke University
1839 University of Texas at Austin
1846 Fordham University
1846 University at Buffalo
1847 University of Iowa
1850 University of Rochester
1851 Northwestern University
1851 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
1855 Elmira College
1855 Michigan State University
1856 Lake Erie College
1856 Niagara University
1856 St. Lawrence University
1856 University of Maryland at College Park
1858 Iowa State University
1860 Bard College
1861 University of Washington
1861 Vassar College
1864 Swarthmore College
1865 University of Kansas
1866 Carleton College
1867 Howard University
1867 State University of New York College at Brockport
1868 State University of New York College at Cortland
1868 Wells College
1869 Boston University
1869 Purdue University
1869 University of Nebraska at Lincoln
1870 Canisius College
1870 Syracuse University
1870 Wellesley College
1871 Smith College
1871 State University of New York College at Geneseo
1876 Johns Hopkins University
1880 Emerson College
1880 University of Southern California
1883 Houghton College
1885 Bryn Mawr College
1887 Pomona College
1889 Barnard College
1890 Keuka College
1890 University of Chicago
1891 Rice University
1891 Stanford University
1892 Ithaca College
1896 Adelphi University
1896 Clarkson University
1898 Peking University
1900 Carnegie Mellon University
1905 University of California at Davis
1908 Alfred State College
1908 Morrisville State College
1909 University of California at Santa Barbara
1911 Connecticut College
1911 Skidmore College
1911 Tsinghua University
1916 The Sage Colleges
1916 State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill
1920 University of New Haven
1924 Nazareth College
1926 Long Island University, Brooklyn Center

1929 Marist College
1929 Quinnipiac University
1937 Medaille College
1937 Paul Smith's College
1937 Siena College
1946 Binghamton University
1946 Broome Community College
1946 Le Moyne College
1946 Mohawk Valley Community College
1946 Utica College
1948 Brandeis University
1948 State University of New York
1953 Cayuga County Community College
1955 New York Institute of Technology
1957 Stony Brook University
1959 Suffolk County Community College
1961 Jefferson Community College
1961 Monroe Community College
1966 State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome
1968 Tompkins Cortland Community College
1969 State University of New York College at Purchase
1971 Excelsior College
1971 State University of New York Empire State College

LEARNED SOCIETIES AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES

1743 American Philosophical Society
1780 American Academy of Arts and Sciences
1812 American Antiquarian Society
1842 American Oriental Society
1863 National Academy of Sciences
1869 American Philological Association
1883 Modern Language Association
1884 American Historical Association
1900 Association of American Law Schools
1902 American Anthropological Association
1905 American Sociological Association
1906 American Society of International Law
1907 Organization of American Historians
1909 American Academy of Religion
1923 Linguistic Society of America
1924 History of Science Society
1925 American Association for the History of Medicine
1934 American Musicological Society
1956 Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities

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The Past Presidents of Cornell University

Past presidents Dale R. Corson, Frank H. T. Rhodes, Hunter R. Rawlings III, and Jeffrey Sean Lehman are participating in the inauguration ceremonies.

Andrew Dickson White, 1866 to 1885
Charles Kendall Adams, 1885 to 1892
Jacob Gould Schurman, 1892 to 1920
Livingston Farrand, 1921 to 1937
Edmund Ezra Day, 1937 to 1949
Deane Waldo Malott, 1951 to 1963
James A. Perkins, 1963 to 1969
Dale R. Corson, 1969 to 1977
Frank H. T. Rhodes, 1977 to 1995
Hunter R. Rawlings III, 1995 to 2003
Jeffrey Sean Lehman, 2003 to 2005

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