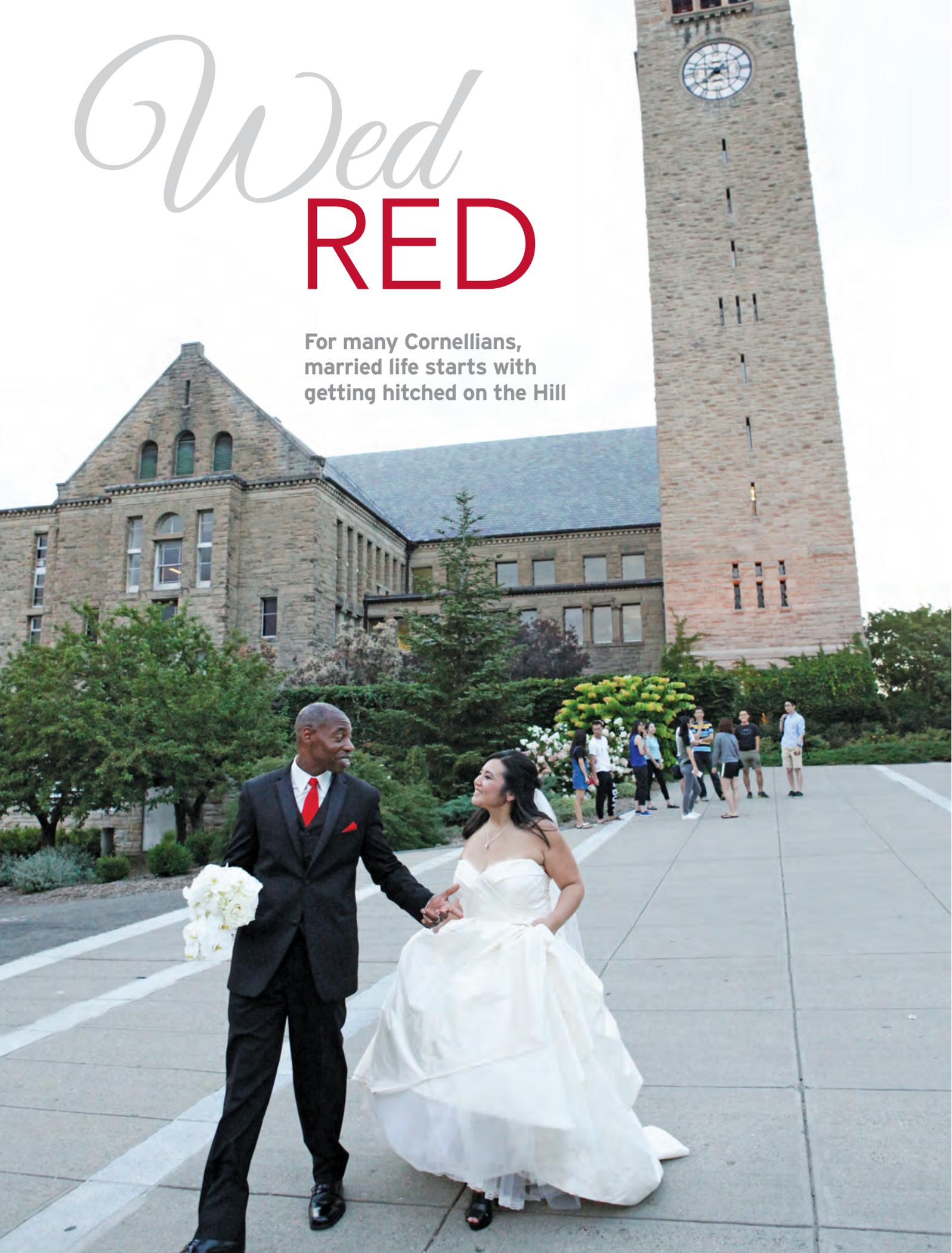


# Wed RED

For many Cornellians,  
married life starts with  
getting hitched on the Hill



Jennifer Fang '03 and James Lamb '03 met in August 1999, at a ballroom dancing class held on the second day of freshman orientation. That first encounter, she says, is a long story involving "Legos, Collegetown, and the world's worst pick-up line." Their first official date came a day or two later, in Willard Straight. "We went to an orientation event at the Memorial Room, but ended up spending the entire night sitting on the Ivy Terrace talking, and watching the sun set and then rise again over West Campus," says Fang, now a postdoc at a Yale cardiology research center. "From that night onward, we were inseparable throughout our years as undergraduates."

When the two decided to marry, the venue was obvious. In mid-August 2015, less than a week shy of their sixteenth anniversary as a couple, they exchanged vows on the Ivy Terrace, "on the very spot where we had first shared a night looking over Cayuga Lake and fallen in love."

They held their rehearsal dinner at the Statler, the site of their first Valentine's Day dinner; the reception was in the Memorial Room, where Lamb had spent countless hours in the Student Assembly. Fang chalked a celebratory message on Ho Plaza, and the couple posed for portraits overlooking Libe Slope. The wedding's official accent color, naturally, was carnelian red. "We never even considered getting married anywhere else," Fang admits. "We were so fortunate that not only was our Cornell wedding hugely symbolic for us, but it was also an incredible wedding venue in its own right." Her non-Cornellian

**'Not only was our Cornell wedding hugely symbolic for us, but it was also an incredible wedding venue in its own right.'**

guests were particularly awed by the Straight, marveling: "It's like you're getting married at Hogwarts!"

Each year, dozens of couples return to the Hill to tie the knot—launching their married lives from a place that's deeply meaningful to at least one (and often both) of the parties. Their celebrations feature Cornellian touches large and small—from Chimes serenades to Cornell Dairy ice cream, Pep Band concerts to photos with the Big Red Bear. While most on-campus weddings take place in one of the two chapels—the stately Sage or the more intimate and informal Anabel Taylor—couples can exchange vows in a variety of venues: the Johnson Museum, A.D. White House, Big Red Barn, Cornell Plantations, and more. "I tell people, if you can connect with the right people and get permission, you can be married anywhere on campus," says Janelle Hanson, the office, events, and building manager for Cornell United Religious Work, and the point person for many Cornellian nuptials.

More than anyone else on campus, Hanson is the Big Red wedding guru. If you call to reserve the Anabel Taylor chapel—Sage bookings were shifted to an online system a few years ago—she's the one who answers the phone. She's a font of information on all things wedding-related, from local florists and photographers to officiants and cake-bakers. On the day itself, she's likely the person running the show in either chapel—wrangling the bridal party for photos, corralling a wayward flower girl, cuing the musicians, and much more. On >



**big day:** Jennifer Fang '03 and James Lamb '03 (opposite page). Clockwise from top left: Leslie Papenfus Reed '54 and Thomas Reed '55, BME '56; Cathy Kullman Paddock '78 and Ken Paddock '77; Barbara Burg Gilman '55, Michael Gilman, DVM '56, and attendants; Shirley Dusingberre Durham '48 and George Durham '44, BME '43; Lorna Burg Shaw '58, Gordon Shaw, PhD '59, and attendants; Carolyn Chauncey Neuman '64 and John Neuman '62, BEE '63; Dorothy Dye Spencer '48, BS HE '49, MEd '64, and Jim Spencer '48, BCE '49, MCE '51; Catherine Hren Whalen '70 and Michael Whalen '69

PHOTOS PROVIDED UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED



a busy summer Saturday, she notes, Sage can host as many as four ceremonies, scheduled back to back. “It’s sometimes like a wedding factory,” says Hanson, whose own nuptials are planned for Anabel Taylor in August. “We keep the timing of everything—keep it moving so the next wedding can come in. We help wherever we can, whether it’s pinning boutonnières on the men or helping the ladies.” And when it comes to veils and trains, she says, “I’m the final fluffer down the aisle.”

For many Cornellians, getting married on campus means a short commute from Sage—the premier spot for vow-swapping—to a reception at the Statler. That’s what Niyati Shah, MEng ’09, did when she and her now-husband, Shane Feely, tied the knot in October 2014. “I grew up a lot at Cornell and learned a lot about myself,” says Shah, a former biomedical engineering student now living in Oregon. “To me it was natural to get married on campus, because Cornell shaped me into the person that Shane fell in love with.” During the ceremony in Sage, the couple sealed letters from their parents, and notes to each other, inside a Cornell coffee can that they’d bought on their first trip to campus together. The Chimes played a custom concert as they left the chapel, and they posed for photos at her favorite campus spots including the A.D. White Library, McGraw Tower, and the West Campus arches. Says Shah: “I was showing off the campus that I fell in love with to my guests.”

**‘I was showing off the campus that I fell in love with to my guests.’**



This spring, with wedding season about to shift into high gear, CAM checked in with some of the staffers who organize and execute campus nuptials. We also reached out to alumni who’d gotten married on the Hill over the years, asking them to share memories and photos of their big day. Some were wed as twenty-somethings just starting out, while others had been together for many years when they tied the knot. But for all, a Cornell wedding held special significance.

“To start your adult life at the University and then have this major milestone also take place there had a lot more meaning than if we just rented a hall downtown,” says Ithaca resident Randy Heffernan ’94, MBA ’10. In June 2015, Heffernan exchanged vows in Sage with Robert Redman, his partner of eighteen years, as their two children looked on; they then strolled to the Johnson Museum for the reception. “My experiences at Cornell—both degrees—were major growth periods in my life, and I came out of it a bit of a different person each time,” he says. “Getting married is a major transition, too. I’d walked across the Arts Quad twice to graduate—and I crossed it again, as part of a married couple for the first time.”

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**happy couples:** Niyati Shah, MEng ’09, and Shane Feely took portraits in many of her favorite campus spots, including the A.D. White Library. Left: Randy Heffernan ’94, MBA ’10, and Robert Redman after exchanging vows in Sage Chapel.

CREDITS: SHAH/FEELY, INDSOY LEE, HEFFERNAN/REDMAN, BRETT CARLSEN

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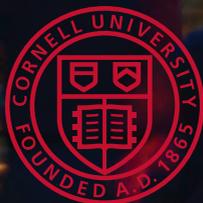
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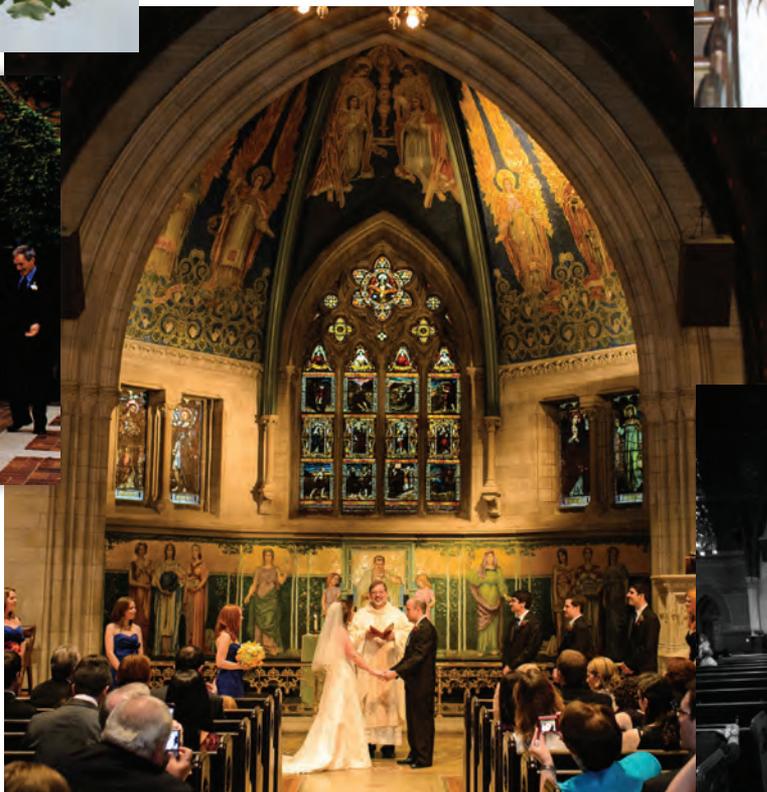
**Campus wedding venues are open to alumni, students, staff, faculty, trustees, and the children of those groups.**



Ceremonies in Sage or Anabel Taylor must be conducted by clergy. Anabel Taylor, which has no Christian iconography, often hosts weddings of other faiths.



Celebrants aren't allowed to throw rice, which is harmful to birds; they can toss birdseed or blow bubbles. Flower girls can't strew petals—they're too difficult to clean up—and aisle runners are forbidden as a tripping hazard.



When the stained glass window in the Sage apse was removed for refurbishment in 2014, the University commissioned a temporary photographic replacement that was so realistic, many guests couldn't tell the difference.



Reservations for Sage and Anabel Taylor chapels are accepted a year in advance, starting at 8 a.m. on the first business day of the month in question.



**saying 'i do':** Kara Tappen Barry '07 and Jordan Barry '06, BS '07 (center photo), in Sage. Clockwise from top left: The bouquet of Kristi Snyder '97, BA '98 (who married John Baust '97), which featured Cornell colors and ivy; Jennifer D'Amato-Anderson '07 and Andrew Anderson; Deirdre Courtney-Batson '72, MA '75, and Philip Batson '70, PhD '76; Scott Richardson '88, BA '89 (right), and Robert Miller; Patti Miller Ross '72 and David Ross '73; Alison Brunger '01 and Jeff Hardgrove '01; Sandy Schorr '70 and Charles Breckheimer, MAT/MS '69.

PHOTOS: SNYDER, HEATHER ANSVORTH; BARRY, JAMES BASS; ANDERSON, ANTHONY TIBALLI; RICHARDSON/MILLER, JON REES; BRUNGER/HARGROVE, JIMMY BROSLUIS; SCHORR/BRECKHEIMER, ANDREW MEYER

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This fall, the Johnson Museum will be unavailable as a wedding venue when it replaces its elevator. But the elevator has already caused some wedding drama: when Cornell Catering staffers learned one Thursday that it was broken—derailing a reception that Saturday—an elegant tent was erected next door, and the event went on as planned.

**'It's like getting married at Hogwarts!'**



Cornell Catering services weddings at the Straight, Plantations, Big Red Barn, and more. 'We build our kitchen at every event,' says assistant director Matthew Cochran, MHA '16. 'Give us a closet, and we can put out a four-course meal for a hundred people.'

**what a ride:** Gretchen Goldman '06 and Tom Di Liberto '06 (center photo). Clockwise from top: Morgan Dickens '08 (left) and Michelle Moyall, DVM '07, with the Pep Band; Pam Lein '81 and Rick Meigs '80; Snyder and Baust topped their cake with figures of their dogs, named for Big Red hockey stars; the Memorial Room decorated for a reception; Erin McGonegle Crespi '06 and Brian Crespi '06; Jaime Wasserstrom Novikoff '03 after marrying Joshua Novikoff '03; Karen Jewett-Bennett '79 on her way to her nuptials; Jolanda Pandin, a lecturer in Asian studies, and Matt Connolly '99, MEng '00.

PHOTOS: GOLDMAN/DI LIBERTO; MICHAEL; GRACE; MARTIN; DICKENS; MOYALL; SPENCER; LEIN; SNYDER; BAUST; HEFFNER; ANSWORD; CRESPI; MEGAN; SCHLEY; NOVAKOFF; ROBERT; KAUSNER; JEWETT-BENNETT; KELLY; DENNIS; COLE

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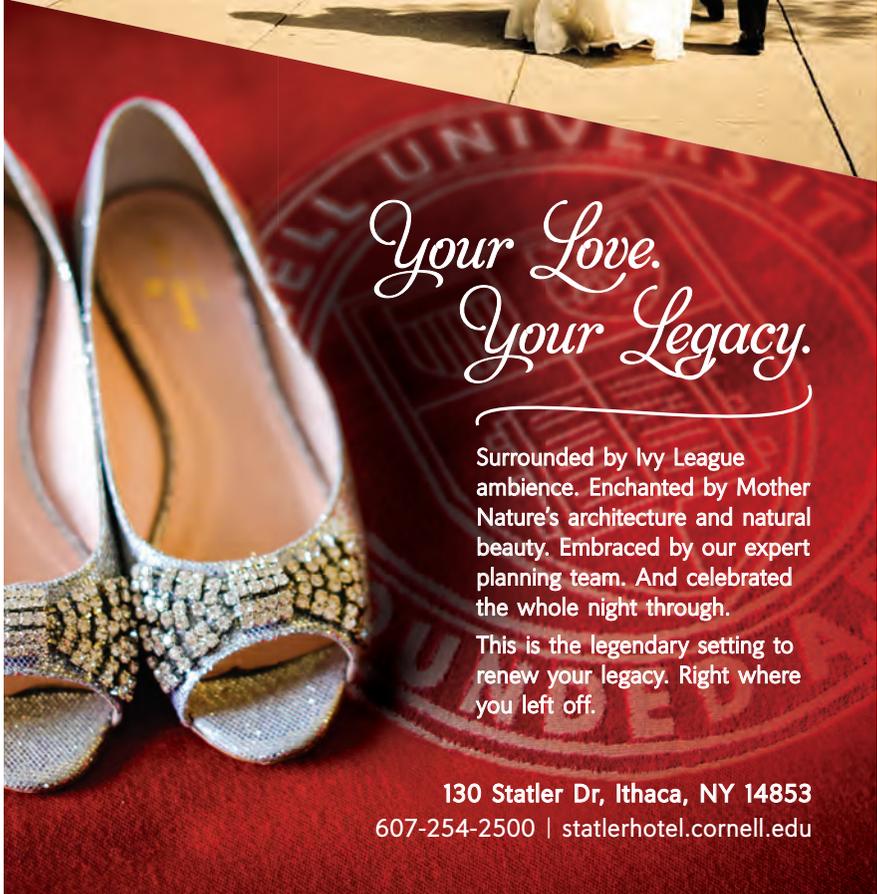
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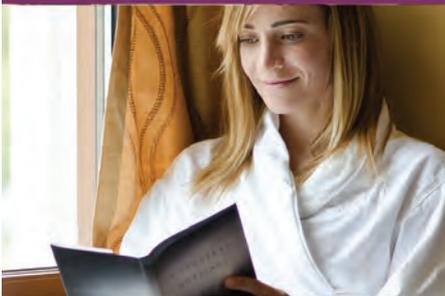
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## 'I don't want a bride to have to worry about anything. I want to let the bride have her moment.'

— Annette Bartlow, a custodian who has been staffing weddings in Sage an Anabel Taylor for more than twenty years.



### all dressed in white:

(From top) Nicole Manning Hart '03 in the Sage crypt before her wedding to Phillip Hart '03; Nicole Neroulis Gupte '01 getting ready for her wedding to Salil Gupte '01; Melanie Acostavalle West '99 and Douglas West '98; Alissa Bovee Terry '02 and Stephen Terry '02; Snyder (right) awaits her nuptials in Anabel Taylor's Founder's Room.

Legend has it that if jitters strike, the ghosts of Ezra and Andrew will rise from their crypt in Sage Chapel and escort a reluctant bride down the aisle.



Perks of holding a reception at the Statler Hotel include the use of one of its spacious VIP suites—boasting a master bedroom, a living room with pullout sofa, two bathrooms, and spectacular campus views.



PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR OWN CORNELLIAN WEDDING BY UPLOADING THEM TO OUR ALUMNI PHOTO GALLERY AT CORNELLALUMNIMAGAZINE.COM.



PHOTOS: HART, ROBERT KAUSNER; TERRY, KEVIN ABLE; SNYDER, HEATHER ANSWORTH