



ITHACA FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHAPTER HOUSE DESTROYED IN FIRE

Ithaca lost a local landmark—and Cornellians lost a watering hole beloved for generations—when a fire heavily damaged the Chapter House building in mid-April. There were no deaths or serious injuries in the early morning blaze, but Mayor Svante Myrick '09 declared the building and one next to it on Stewart Avenue a “total loss.” The fire, whose cause remains under investigation, displaced more than forty students and two staff members.

Giffords to Give Convocation Address

Former Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, MRP '96, and her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, will be the featured speakers at this year's Convocation ceremony on May 23. Giffords left Congress in 2012 after suffering a brain injury in an assassination attempt the previous year. She and Kelly, a former Space Shuttle pilot, have gone on to advocate for gun control legislation. She was chosen, says Convocation Committee chair Rachel Gerber '15, because she “not only embodies the Big Red spirit, but also a passion and determination that is unmatched.”



CORNELL NEWS SERVICE

Gabrielle Giffords, MRP '96

\$350 Health Fee Sparks Protests

The announcement in February of a new health fee sparked outrage from some students, who occupied offices in Day Hall for a few hours and held a protest during a trustee meeting. Going into effect for the 2015–16 academic year, the \$350 fee will apply to students not enrolled in the

JAEL GOLDFINE / DAILY SUN



Cornell Student Health Insurance Plan—affecting about 70 percent of undergrads, 30 percent of professional students, and 10 percent of grad students. “With the new funding model, most Gannett visits (medical, mental health, and physical therapy) will be covered by the health fee, with students paying a simple \$10 copay,” President David Skorton said. “Although introducing a new fee is never desirable, moving to a model that includes a health fee—a standard in college health nationwide—will make student costs more predictable and encourage students to seek the care they need.”

VP Phlegar to Depart

Vice president for alumni affairs and development Charles Phlegar is leaving at the end of June to return to his alma mater, Virginia Tech. Phlegar, who has been at Cornell since 2006—he was President David Skorton's first hire—will serve as vice president for advancement at Virginia's land grant institution. A native of the state, Phlegar earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech.



LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY / CORNELL

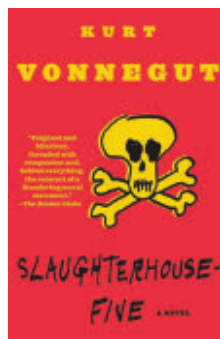
Into the wild: In the Wyoming sagebrush, a greater sage-grouse shares the landscape with an oil drilling pad.

Lab of O Doc to Air on PBS

A documentary produced by the Lab of Ornithology is set to run on May 20 as the season finale of the PBS series "Nature." Entitled "The Sagebrush Sea," it highlights what the filmmakers call one of the most overlooked ecosystems on the continent: the sagebrush, which spans eleven Western states and is home to 170 species including the greater sage-grouse. Also known as the sage-steppe, it faces such threats as residential encroachment, oil and gas drilling, and invasive species. "The sagebrush and the grouse carry on," notes the program description, "but they're losing ground."

Slaughterhouse-Five is Book Pick

The choice for the University's fifteenth annual New Student Reading Project is a classic by a Cornellian: *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut '44. Published in 1969, the novel was inspired by Vonnegut's experiences in World War II, including his survival of the bombing of Dresden as a prisoner of war. Each year, the selected book is the subject of discussions on campus and in the community during fall semester, with copies sent over the summer to incoming freshmen and transfer students. Previous selections include *The Great Gatsby*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*.



Five A. D. White Profs Elected

The latest crop of A. D. White professors-at-large has been elected to six-year terms by the Board of Trustees. They are: jazz great Wynton Marsalis, anthropologist Bruno Latour, political scholar Theda Skocpol, planetary scientist David Stevenson, PhD '76, and artist Xu Bing.

CU Is 20th in Reputation Poll

Cornell has landed at number twenty on the *Times Higher Education* World Reputation Rankings for 2015. The global list is the result of a poll of senior academics, conducted by *Times Higher Education* magazine. It was topped by Harvard, followed by Cambridge, Oxford, and MIT.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO... THESE CORNELLIANS IN THE NEWS



Winfried Denk, PhD '89, Karel Svoboda '88, and David Tank, PhD '83, three of four winners of the Brain Prize, which carries an award of 1 million euros, for their groundbreaking work in two-photon microscopy.

Dining with Diverse Minds, a campus program that hosts events to promote tolerance and open dialogue, winner of Cornell's annual Perkins Prize for Interracial Understanding and Harmony.

David Lustick '85, an associate professor of science education at UMass, Lowell, honored by the White House as a Champion of Change for Climate Education and Literacy.

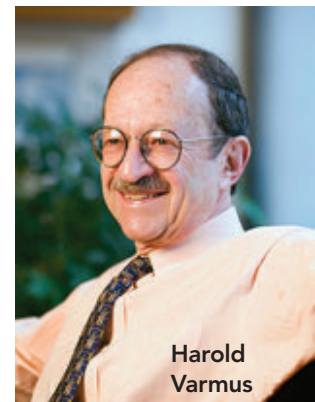
The Medical College's **Belfer Research Building**, awarded LEED Gold status from the U.S. Green Building Council for its environmental sustainability, a rare honor for a laboratory facility.

'They challenge me; they frustrate me at times; they even exasperate me. But they inspire me, they reward me, and they give me great confidence in the future.'

— Retiring vice president
Susan Murphy '73, PhD '94, on Cornell's students

Nobelist Recruited to Med School

A Nobel Prize-winning cancer researcher has joined the Medical college faculty. Harold Varmus, previously director of the National Cancer Institute at the NIH, has an endowed professorship in medicine at Weill Cornell as well as a senior position at the New York Genome Center. He'll also be a senior adviser to Dean Laurie Glimcher. Varmus co-won the Nobel in 1989 for his research on retroviruses and the genetic basis of cancer. "This is a remarkable time in cancer research," he says. "Technological advances have enabled scientists to



MATTHEW SEPTIMUS/MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

conduct comprehensive genomic studies that are revealing detailed portraits of cancer cells, sparking new opportunities to develop next-generation therapies, diagnostics, and prevention strategies."

DID YOU KNOW...

**That Big League Chew was
invented by a Cornellian?**

Rob Nelson '71 was a minor league pitcher when he and a teammate conceived the bubblegum—which hit stores thirty-five years ago this month—as an alternative to chewing tobacco.



Classes Offered with University in Congo

This fall, Cornell will offer two courses in collaboration with a university in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The classes—one on building peace in conflicted regions, the other on understanding disease patterns in sub-Saharan Africa—will be conducted using video links. Ultimately, the program with Eben-Ezer University of Minembwe may include student exchanges.

New Home for AAP in NYC

The College of Architecture, Art, and Planning's popular program in New York City has moved into new digs: the entire twentieth floor of the historic Standard Oil Building in Lower Manhattan. The 11,000-square-foot location, at 26 Broadway, offers more studio, classroom, and event space than the program's previous home on West 17th Street in Chelsea.

R + D

More information on campus research is available at www.news.cornell.edu

A team of student food scientists has created a protein-rich product made of crushed mealworms. Dubbed "C-fu" (for its similarity to tofu), it finished in the top ten out of 350 entries at a collegiate competition in Europe last winter.

Walking and texting can be risky—but a new app could make it safer. Students at Cornell Tech are developing the app, which sends "don't walk" warnings from traffic signals to phone screens.

With federal funding of \$1 million a year for five years, Cornell nutritional scientists aim to encourage low-income families to eat more fresh produce through a multi-state education program and subsidies to buy shares of farmers' harvests.

A University-wide partnership is working to preserve scholarly material stored on magnetic tape media like VHS, Betamax, and Super 8. Organizers estimate that Cornell may have as many as a half-million items that are imperiled due to physical degradation and technical obsolescence.



**Germ of an idea: An interactive map shows bacteria in
Manhattan, Brooklyn, and beyond.**

Mapping Subway Microbes

It's called a pathogen map—or "PathoMap" for short. A team led by Christopher Mason, an assistant professor of physiology and biophysics at the Medical college, mapped the microbes lurking in New York's subway system, collecting more than 4,200 samples and sequencing about a third. Their findings: while most were harmless, about a quarter included live, antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Additionally, two included DNA fragments of anthrax, and three carried DNA associated with Bubonic plague—though they weren't found to be alive and aren't considered a threat. Notes Mason: "These bacteria may even be helpful, since they can out-compete any dangerous bacteria." With PathoMap as a baseline, researchers and public health officials can monitor for potential dangers.

MARK VORREUTER / HUMEC



**Stretch of the imagination: This year's Cornell Fashion
Collective runway show included a twist on sports togs.**

An Ithaca-Cambridge Faculty Swap

A former faculty member is returning to campus to become the new dean of the faculty of Computing and Information Science. Greg Morrisett, an expert in computer security who's currently at Harvard, taught on the Hill from 1996 to 2004. He will assume his new post July 1.

As Cornell lures its new dean from Harvard, the Cambridge campus is getting our vice provost for international affairs. Pulitzer Prize-winner Fredrik Logevall is leaving to teach international affairs at the Kennedy School of Government, with an additional appointment in history. Laura Spitz, associate dean for international affairs at the Law School, will serve in the vice provost position on an interim basis.

'We are fishing out our oceans.'

— Actor and activist Ted Danson, speaking on campus about marine conservation

Verizon Funds Tech Building

Telecom giant Verizon has donated \$50 million to create an executive education center at Cornell Tech. The structure—described as “a gathering space for the tech community and a place for leveraging the campus’s impact on technology beyond its degree programs”—will be part of the first phase of the Roosevelt Island campus. Construction began in January; some buildings will open in summer 2017, with the executive ed center completed later.

25 YEARS AGO IN CAM

A story in the April 1990 issue entitled “The World of Hacking” chronicled the trial and conviction of Robert Morris, who disseminated the first-ever computer worm in 1988 while a grad student on the Hill. Morris claimed he had no malicious intent and had designed the worm to gauge the size of the fledgling Internet.

(“My purpose was to see if I could write a program that would spread as widely as possible,” CAM quoted him as saying at his trial. “My intention was that it should not grow.”) But the worm’s damage to networks—it disabled about 10 percent of online machines by infecting them multiple times and slowing them down to the point of uselessness—earned Morris a fine, probation, and community service. He also had the distinction of being the first person indicted under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, though he’d go on to become a respected faculty member at MIT.



Robert Morris

WIDEWORLD



PAUL SMITH

Purrfect princess: A cat clad as royalty won the costume contest at the Vet college’s annual Feline Follies event.

Giving Day Raises Nearly \$7 Million

Cornell’s first-ever Giving Day, a twenty-four-hour fundraising marathon held on March 25, garnered more than 9,600 gifts totaling \$6.97 million. The event allowed donors to designate their gifts to specific programs, engendering a friendly rivalry as the numbers came in. Athletics and Physical Education topped the list with \$1,819,408, followed closely by the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Hotel Administration. In terms of individual gifts received, Arts and Sciences came in first with 1,496, followed by Engineering and CALS. Gifts came in from fifty-two countries, six continents, and all fifty U.S. states plus Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Puzzled?

In our special Sesquicentennial issue (March/April 2015) we ran a crossword on page 96. Here’s the answer key.

