

VET DEAN IS NEW PROVOST

Michael Kotlikoff, formerly dean of the Vet college, became Cornell's new provost on August 1. He succeeds Kent Fuchs, now president of the University of Florida. President Elizabeth Garrett lauded Kotlikoff as an "exceptional educator," noting that "the breadth of his insight and vision, paired with skilled leadership, have been essential to the Veterinary college's growth, record of innovation and collaboration, and academic and clinical prominence during his eight years as dean." Among his first projects is leading a strategic planning process that begins this semester and runs through December 2016. While a search is conducted for Kotlikoff's successor as dean, longtime Vet professor Lorin Warnick, PhD '94, will serve on an interim basis.



\$50 Million Gift for Biomed Engineering

A \$50 million gift from the Meinig family has endowed a school of biomedical engineering in their name. The gift, which Engineering dean Lance Collins calls "a game changer, in terms of both its size and the effect it will have," coincides with the creation of a new major in the discipline, which the college launched this semester.



Come on Home

Campus is gearing up for the inauguration of President Elizabeth Garrett and other Homecoming Weekend festivities, set for September 18 and 19. Events include

the inauguration ceremony (10 a.m. Friday on the Arts Quad) as well as a community picnic, fireworks and laser light show, 5K run, and the Big Red football game against Bucknell. For more information and a detailed schedule, go to homecoming.cornell.edu.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Radio journalist Jessica Ettinger '87, BS '97, the "Today Show" anchor for Sirius XM, has another claim to fame. Is she . . .



- a) The voice of Apple's Siri virtual assistant?
- b) The announcer for New York City's 4-5-6 subway train?
- c) The narrator of the Hayden Planetarium's popular star show?
- d) The reader of the *Hunger Games* audiobooks?

ANSWER: B

Speaking Volumes

The College of Architecture, Art and Planning has released renderings of its Ho Fine Arts Library, planned to open for fall semester 2017. A start date has not been set for construction on the facility, designed by Wolfgang Tschapeller, MArch '87, and supported by a \$6 million gift from Mui Ho '62, BArch '66. "By investing in books—not instead of digital resources but in addition to—Cornell is staking out increasingly rare territory in defense of the physical artifact as a durable and irreplaceable academic and creative resource in the visual arts," the college said in an announcement.

Palace of the page: The Ho Fine Arts Library will transform part of Rand Hall, occupying space on the building's top two floors.



PHOTOS: HO LIBRARY, PROVIDED; HOMECOMING AND KOTLIKOFF, UP; ETTINGER, LINKEDIN

Bear Facts

On Saturday of Homecoming, a bronze statue of Touchdown, Cornell's erstwhile live bear mascot, will be dedicated in front of Teagle Hall.

- Four cubs served as Touchdown off and on from 1915 to 1939—and all of them were female.
- Including its pedestal, the new Touchdown sculpture will be almost six feet tall.
- Its Brooklyn-based sculptor used images of wild black bears and consulted with wildlife experts.
- In 2008, John Foote '74 published a brief history entitled *Touchdown: The Story of the Cornell Bear*.
- The current (costumed, human) incarnation of Touchdown once had his photo taken with Stephen Colbert.
- The two stone bear sculptures outside Willard Straight Hall are named "The Athlete" and "The Scholar."
- Since 2012, there has been a café and bar in the Ivy Room called the Bear's Den.



Ursine trio: (Clockwise from top right) The human mascot; live cub Touchdown III on the field in 1919; and the new statue, ready for installation on campus

'Having river views in New York is a luxury. Having two river views? No one has two river views.'

— Andrew Winters, Cornell Tech's senior director of capital projects and planning, on the campus's Roosevelt Island location (in *Wired*)

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

The recipients of the 2015 Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award: **Deborah Gerard Adelman '71, MS '74**; **Shelley Epstein Akabas '51**; **Mary Falvey '63**; **William Gratz '53**; **Nancy Schlegel Meinig '62** and **Peter Meinig '61**; and **Elizabeth Moore '75**.

ILR major **Brian Meersma '18**, a disability advocate honored at the White House in July as a "Champion of Change."

Cornell University, rated tenth in the world according to an annual tally announced in July by the Center for World University Rankings.

"**Traminette**," a mid-season white-wine grape that the Geneva Agricultural Experiment Station released in 1996, named this year's Outstanding Fruit Cultivar by the American Society for Horticultural Science.



Novel Perspective

More than thirty felt-tip-pen drawings by *Slaughterhouse-Five* author Kurt Vonnegut '44, including this untitled work, are currently on display at the Johnson Museum. The show, entitled *So It Goes*, runs through December 20.



Show Me the Money

Fans of pioneering geneticist Barbara McClintock '23, PhD '27, are promoting the late Nobel laureate as the new face of the \$10 bill, currently being redesigned by the Treasury Department. Information and links to a petition are at barbaraonthebill.com.

Hot Merchandise . . . in Latin?

The University Library has returned a rare science book—one of about sixty surviving copies of *Oculus hoc est: Fundamentum opticum*, a 1619 text on optics and physiology that led to the development of corrective lenses—that was stolen from the National Library of Sweden in the Nineties. Acquired by Cornell in 2001, it proved to be one of dozens of books stolen by a Swedish librarian who committed suicide after confessing his crimes. The dealer who sold *Oculus* has given the University a replacement copy.

R + D

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

Analyzing fifty years of stories in the *New York Times* and seventeen in the *London Times*, Cornell's Food and Brand Lab found that news coverage predicts future obesity. When vegetables are frequently mentioned in stories, obesity rates decline three years later—but when sweet snacks are covered, they go up.

The "sin tax" on soda in Berkeley, California, has fizzled, reports economist John Cawley, whose study found that it did not cause significant enough price increases to make residents buy fewer sugary drinks.

Investigating "palliative chemotherapy," researchers at the Medical college have found that administering chemo in a patient's final months often does more harm than good, improving neither quality of life nor survival time.

Former MBA students at Cornell Tech aim to market the first "happiness tracker" for canines. DogStar, a start-up that's developing a device to assess contentment via tail motion, is launching an Indiegogo fundraising campaign this fall.



Commons Sense

The long-awaited renovation of the Ithaca Commons has finally wound down. In the works since April 2013, the \$15 million project turned the city's social and commercial center into a construction zone, with many Ithacans—residents, students, and merchants alike—growing increasingly irked by its fencing, noise, and general disruption. But the project's completion has drawn crowds back to the Commons in droves to enjoy the late-summer weather. As Jeff Stein '13 wrote in an editorial in the *Ithaca Voice*: "The new Ithaca Commons is awesome—verdant and vibrant, clean and casual, peaceful yet bustling."

The University has declared the Class of '19 the most diverse in its history:

Total students: **3,219** Students of color: **1,488 (46.2%)**

Self-identified as underrepresented minorities: **756 (23.5%)**

First in their families to attend college: **427**

States represented: **48**, plus the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Countries represented: **44** Applications received: **41,900**

Offers made: **6,315** Overall admit rate: **15.1%**