



'President Rhodes was simply the best thing to happen to Cornell since Ezra.'

— INGRID BERLIN CENTER '66

'When Frank Rhodes became president, Cornell had just been through the trying years of the late Sixties. His inspiring leadership brought back a sense of pride as to what kind of a university Cornell was, and optimism as to what the future would bring.'

— MALDEN NESHEIM, PHD '59,
PROVOST EMERITUS



'President Rhodes will always be "our" president—the Class of 1981, as he entered Cornell at the same time we did. As he joked when reminded that we entered together, he would say, "Yes, but you graduated. I'm still here."'

— FRED COHEN '81

INAUGURATION DAY (from top): Rhodes reviewing his speech; posing with his predecessors (from left) Dale Corson, James Perkins, and Deane Waldo Malott; and in a similar grouping on the day of President Martha Pollack's inauguration with (from left) Jeffrey Lehman '77, Pollack, David Skorton, and Hunter Rawlings. Opposite page: Rhodes on Dragon Day 1993; leading a paleontology outing in 1990; and touring a cryogenics facility in Clark Hall in 1977.



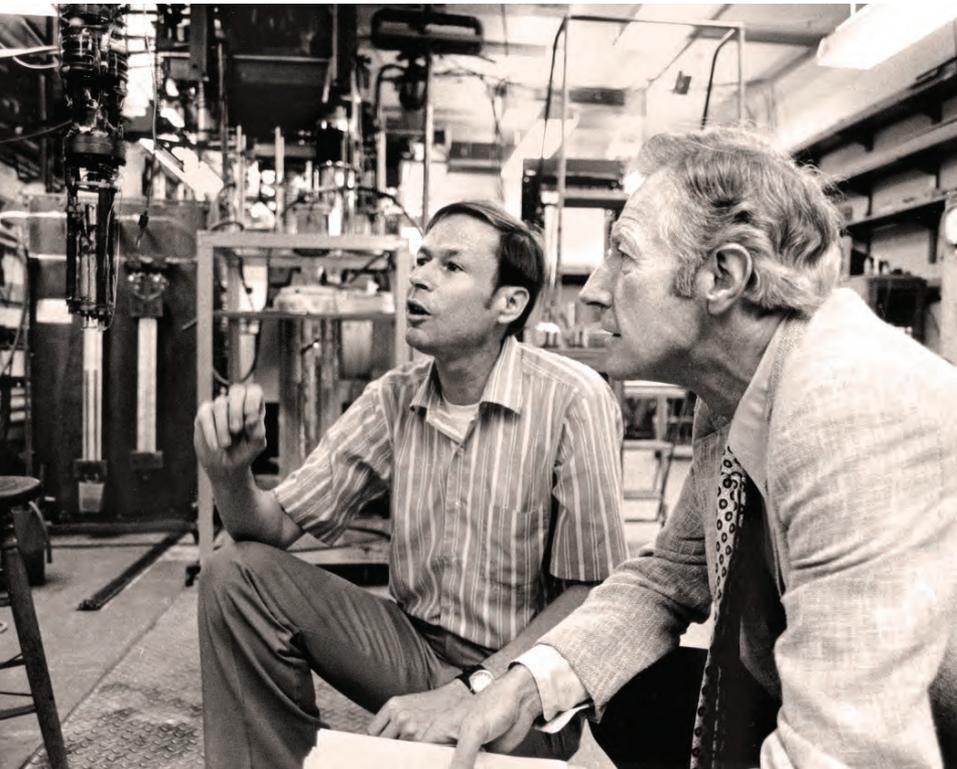
‘Even though Cornell is a huge institution, somehow I felt very connected to President Rhodes; I think all of the students did. I can still remember how much we all loved his Commencement address and how much it meant to us to have him deliver it. We did not want any celebrity or other famous person—we wanted our president!’

— STACY LEOPOLD '81



‘He and his wife joined our little natural history club on a very cold and rainy day for a walk in the gorge. It seemed amazing to me that such an important man would take time to come along on that wee hike. And I found his knowledge of paleobotany even more amazing; he’d look at this fossil or that and tell us all the names from memory!’

— SHARI GOLDFARB '80



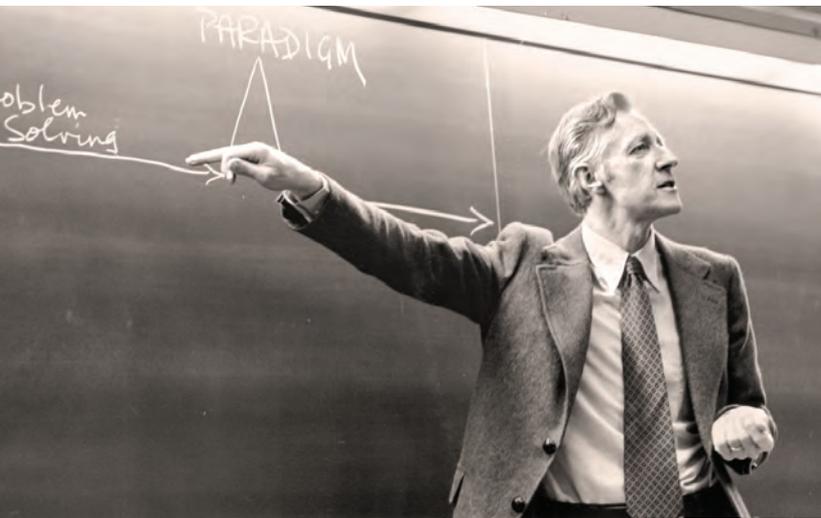


'A great intellect, combined with great charm and humility; you wanted to follow wherever this man would lead.'

— DOUGLAS JOHNSON '78

'On Cornell's Adult University ventures, he wove together geology, archaeology, evolution, history, and the Bible as though they always should have been taught in concert. It seems like yesterday when Frank scampered effortlessly up the steep cliffs of Santorini, leaving those half his age gasping for breath.'

— RICHARD TUNICK '67



'When the "Shantytown" [opposing apartheid] was in full swing, President Rhodes was scheduled to meet with protesters. Despite his handlers attempting to restrain him, he walked among the somewhat hostile protesters and engaged them on their terms. Such personal courage spoke volumes.'

— PETER HOYT '76

QUINTESSENTIAL CORNELLIAN (from top): Rhodes with astronomer Carl Sagan in 1980; escorting the Dalai Lama during his 1991 visit to the Hill; teaching on campus in 1977; and visiting Antarctica in 1988. Opposite page, from top: Rhodes and wife Rosa greet a student in fall 1977; the couple traveling in style at Reunion '78; and taking a photo with Robin Davisson (far right), a faculty member and wife of then-President Skorton, at the 2015 Charter Day celebration.





'When I was a freshman, he struck up a conversation with me at a "meet and greet." During that chat, President Rhodes made the comment, "Don't let classes get in the way of your education at Cornell." It took me years to fully comprehend the profundity of his guidance.'

— HOWARD MARKUS '91



'As a Hotel major working for Cornell Catering at events in the Rhodes's home, I learned so much of the hospitality business from the example that Frank and Rosa set. They were gracious to their guests and as gracious to us. The night always ended with us cleaning up and Frank getting the vacuum cleaner out to help.'

— SHARON NUNAN STEMME '88



'In celebration of our Ivy championship, my soccer teammates and I had the opportunity to visit President Rhodes and Rosa at their home. He was well ahead of his time in appreciating women in sport, not always the case on campus at that time. As I left I made a note to myself that I wanted another Ivy championship just so I could have an audience with this remarkable, humble, hospitable leader.'

— JENNIFER SMITH '90



'As a freshman, I fell for the joke issue of the *Daily Sun*, which said that Thanksgiving break had to be canceled. I found President Rhodes's home number in the phone book and called him at 7 a.m. in a panic. He gently reassured me that the break would occur as scheduled. It's that warmth I will remember.'

— BILL MIKULAK '84

'We always enjoyed his locker room visits and passionate speeches, even though we knew he knew very little about American football. He'd always end with a fist pump and a hearty "Go Big Red!" It was simply his presence and sincere interest that we admired. We still talk about it years later.'

— MARK MILLER '84



CAMPUS LIFE (from top): Rhodes driving the Engineering college's experimental electric car in 1977; outfitted for one of his frequent squash games in 1997 (at left) and on Cornell's indoor climbing wall in 1992; and greeting football players in the locker room in 1977. Opposite page: Rhodes at a 2016 campus celebration in honor of his ninetieth birthday.

'We use the word "leader" to mean almost anyone now, but real leadership is rare. A true leader provides assurance that your role—whether student, member, or employee—is of value and purpose. Frank Rhodes, with immense grace, did that.'

— GEORGETTE ASHERMAN '85



'I will never forget walking across the stage in Carnegie Hall to receive my Medical College PhD diploma. As my family let out a cheer—they were supposed to be quiet until the end—President Rhodes leaned in and said, "Susan, keep them cheering." A small thing, but it meant the world.'

— SUSAN FITZPATRICK, PHD '84

'He was our Commencement speaker, and to this day I recall advice he bestowed upon us so eloquently. In his exceptional style, he said, "Do not mortgage all your todays for some vague and gossamer tomorrow." '

— PATRICIA ENNGAARD BETZ '79