



Cornell University

Office of the Councils
President's Council of Cornell Women

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF CORNELL
WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING 2010

Countdown to the Anniversary!

It is almost hard to believe that nearly 20 years have passed since Lilyan Affinito and Pat Stewart met with President Frank Rhodes to discuss how to advance the involvement of women students, faculty, staff and alumnae in the Cornell community. Help us celebrate PCCW's 20th Anniversary at the Annual Meeting, April 29 – May 1 in Ithaca. The Annual Meeting Committee has planned an event worthy of celebrating the achievements of the last 20 years and preparing for exciting times to come. Register online now!

Message from PCCW President Carolyn P. Landis

I am delighted to share with all of you exciting news from the Cornell ADVANCE Center <http://advance.cornell.edu> which speaks directly to the PCCW mission to consult with the President on issues important to Cornell women. As you may recall, in 2006, the National Science Foundation awarded Cornell Provost Bidy Martin a five-year grant to advance women in the sciences. Since then, with support from the Cornell ADVANCE Center, Cornell has significantly improved recruitment, retention, and promotion of women faculty in the sciences.

The ADVANCE grant is scheduled to be completed in November 2011. Planning for the transition of functions of the ADVANCE Center to institutional status, current PI, Provost Kent Fuchs, is establishing an ADVANCE Transition Steering Committee. The Transition Steering Committee will recommend options to institutionalize Cornell ADVANCE center activities such as video training for department chairs. Provost Fuchs intends that functions of the ADVANCE Center designed to advance women faculty in science and engineering will be broadened to promote the advancement of women faculty in all areas of the university. The Transition Steering Committee will also recommend ways in which progress can be measured in departments and offices.

All members of PCCW are cordially invited to join members of the Diversity-ADVANCE Center Task Force in a conference call at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 7 when we will talk with Dr. Yael Levitte, Executive Director of the ADVANCE Center. Call-in number: (800) 823-4846 Passcode: 267682

Carolyn
cplandis@gmail.com

VIDEO INTERVIEWS WITH PCCW GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE HERE!

As a result of the wonderful work of Grants Committee member Laura Ericson Granger, video interviews with four recipients of PCCW Leadership and Affinito-Stewart Grants are now available on DVD and will be available online in the future. Any PCCW member may borrow one or all of the four 10-minute DVDs for use at a local Cornell gathering or for individual viewing. When the PCCW website is next updated, the video interviews will also be available online. To borrow a DVD, simply request it from Carole Quealy carole.quealy@cornell.edu providing her your preferred address and method of shipment.

Video interviews on disc are available for:

Kristen Kennedy, student: PCCW Leadership Grant supported the Cornell Chira Island (Costa Rica) Project through the Cornell Public Service Center. In June 2009, the first annual group of students traveled to Chira Island to support projects in micro-enterprise, composting, and community development requested by the community.

Jeomi Maduka, student athlete: PCCW Leadership Grant supported travel and lodging for six members of the Cornell Women's Track Team who competed in a national 60-team meet in Sacramento, CA. Of the six Cornell women who competed in this 2007 meet, three (including Jeomi) won All-American status by finishing in the top 8 nationally.

Bernadette Meyler, Law asst. professor: PCCW Affinito-Stewart Grant supported archival research in CT, PA, and SC on Colonial common law. In her book, Dr. Meyler argues that the multiplicity of common laws in the USA and the disparities between Colonial and British common law immediately prior to ratification of the US Constitution require that current judges and attorneys avoid interpreting original intent of the US Constitution based only on British common law in force immediately prior to ratification of the Constitution.

Justine Vanden Heuvel, CALS asst. professor of viticulture: PCCW Affinito-Stewart Grant supported the development of computational tools to analyze data on the amount of light reaching grape clusters in the middle of the growing season and produce canopy exposure maps. These maps have been used to predict flavors/aromas of wine produced from the grapes grown in Cornell vineyards and in commercial vineyards in the USA and abroad.

With the endowments for the PCCW Leadership Fund and the PCCW Affinito-Stewart Fund exceeding \$1 million each, we are able each year to award more than \$50,000 in grants from each fund. This is fabulous!

PCCW ARCHIVIST

Are you interested in helping preserve PCCW history while serving on the PCCW Steering Committee? Now is your chance! For several years, Gloria Lang,

member-at-large on the Steering Committee, has informally maintained historical records for PCCW. To provide for orderly succession, the Steering Committee recently created two new positions: Archivist and Associate Archivist. By June 30, an Associate Archivist will work with Gloria to maintain an electronic reference file for the tenure of the current PCCW Chair. As committee vice chair, the Associate Archivist will also serve on the Steering Committee which meets by telephone or in person in alternate months. If you are interested in being considered, please contact Gloria: glang8647@optonline.net.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting this year will be pulling double duty as we take time to celebrate 20 years of PCCW. There will be a special video presentation of PCCW's history among the many special things planned.

Informal festivities begin on Wednesday night when early arriving PCCW members can dine with sorority members (PCCW members may select the sorority or ask to be assigned). Contact Nancy Clark for more details clark@blacksheepcheese.com.

The festivities officially kick off on Thursday, April 29 with a graduate student mentoring lunch. At 3 pm, PCCW's Sheryl WuDunn and her husband, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, discuss how to turn oppression into opportunity for the world's women, a topic they explore in their book *Half the Sky*. The Pulitzer Prize winning couple will be on hand to sign books as well. Carolyn See of the Washington Post wrote, "*Half the Sky* is a call to arms, a call for help, a call for contributions, but also a call for volunteers. It asks us to open our eyes to this enormous humanitarian issue. . . It does so with exquisitely crafted prose and sensationally interesting material. . . I really do think this is one of the most important books I have ever reviewed."

Thursday night will be the celebration dinner—be sure to wear something festive and be ready for a surprise!

Friday is chock full of campus updates, faculty presentations, welcoming our new members, a presentation by PCCW's Abby Joseph Cohen, and of course, more celebration.

Saturday we will have committee meetings, a terrific panel of women trustees, and the ever-popular undergraduate student mentoring lunch.

It will be an event to remember for the next 20 years. Hope you can make it!

ALUMNAE ENGAGEMENT

New York City – PCCW members gathered for a very successful Second Bottomless Closet Event. Phyllis Haserot chaired, and was assisted by Julie

Lipsius, and Madeline Noveck in organizing the event on March 10, 2010 at the Bottomless Closet. There were 21 in attendance. It was a catered evening event. Alison Levasseur spoke about PCCW scholarship after Phyllis led self-introductions. Cornell Law Association was also part of the invitee list. Many clothing donations were made and a lot of networking occurred. This is Phyllis' final AE NYC event as she transitions to alumnae status. Thanks to Phyllis (and Lynda Gould who is currently on development) for many years of excellent leadership for PCCW in NYC!

San Francisco – Look for upcoming events. Susan Chen has an informal brunch in work to be scheduled. She welcomes suggestions of successful regional events venues/activities that have worked well – museums, hiking, lunches, etc. She is in touch with Eva Sage-Gavin in this effort. Chen_ss@yahoo.com , eva_sage-gavin@gap.com

Chicago – “After Cornell, Diverse Paths to Success,” an event on women’s health will be scheduled for this summer.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: PCCW Leadership Scholar Chosen

We are pleased to report that our very first PCCW Leadership Scholar has been chosen, Sin Yeong An, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences from Chula Vista, CA. Sin Yeong is a Meinig Family Cornell National Scholar and is the co-president of the Undergraduate Research Board at Cornell. She has shown extraordinary leadership while she has been here. In addition, Courtney Evans AB '11 from Rockledge, FL is the first recipient of the Patricia Carry Stewart President's Council of Cornell Women Scholarship, and Holly Lau AB '11 from Snellville, GA is the first Elizabeth C. Everett '97, President's Council of Cornell Women 20th Anniversary Undergraduate Scholar. (These latter two PCCW scholarship funds are counted in our total for the \$1 million campaign for the PCCW Leadership Scholarship.) We are hoping to introduce you to these amazing Cornell women at our upcoming 20th Anniversary Celebration on campus. As of mid-February, we are delighted to report that we have raised almost \$225,000 in cash gifts and pledges. This generosity represents only 20% of the PCCW membership.



Sin Yeong An AB '10

To achieve our member participation goal of **100%**, the development committee is planning on reaching out personally to many of our members. If you have already made a donation to the PCCW Leadership Scholarship Fund, we thank you so much. If you have not, please take a moment to do so now.

You can make a gift quickly by going to: www.giving.cornell.edu/give and designating the following account in the “Other Gift Designation” option.

\$ _____ #0006042 PCCW Leadership Scholarship Fund

Or you may send your check payable to Cornell University to:

President’s Council of Cornell Women, Cornell University
P.O. Box 223623 / Pittsburgh, PA 15251-2623

PCCW relies on its members in order to support this exceptional project! **Your gift is given class credit and is counted toward the applicable Cornell Fund giving society and the *Far Above* campaign.** Matching gifts from your company are encouraged and appreciated. You may also spread your gift over 3-5 years. **Any gift you can give will be greatly appreciated.**

Look forward to seeing many of you at our wonderful 20th Anniversary Celebration in the Spring!!

PCCW Members in the News



Laurie Berke-Weiss '71 was awarded the 2010 ILR Groat Award. Judge William B. Groat (1899-1986) served as counsel to the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Relations, where he played a pivotal role in founding the ILR School and drafting its charter. The Groat Alumni Award was established in 1971 in honor of Judge Groat's vision and in tribute to his professional accomplishments, which culminated in appointment as justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Eleventh Judicial District.

The single most important criterion for selection as the Groat recipient should be achievement in "the field" of industrial relations, as broadly interpreted to include all aspects of labor relations and human resources management in any of the major sectors labor unions, management, neutrals, government service and academe. Service to the School and participation in alumni activities are also criteria to be considered in selecting the Groat awardee.

Laurie represents businesses, partnerships, not-for-profit corporations and individuals in connection with commercial disputes and transactions,

employment issues, as well as with respect to a wide range of personal concerns. She regularly appears before federal and state courts and government agencies on a range of matters, including breach of contract claims, non-competition agreements, partnership disputes, sexual harassment and other complaints of employment discrimination, and independent contractor disputes.

Since graduating from the Fordham University School of Law, Laurie has been a New York City Assistant Corporation Counsel, a litigator at two Manhattan law firms and, for the five years prior to the formation of Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP, a sole practitioner. She serves as a mediator for the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court, New York County and was appointed by the Court as a Law Guardian in custody disputes.

Laurie had been an active alumna: she is a past president of the ILR Alumni Association as well as a member of PCCW. Outside of her Cornell activities, Laurie is a past president of the New York Women's Bar Association, a director of the New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc., a Vice President of the Fordham Law Alumni Association, and Chair of the Audit Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

See her profile at the Groat award site:

http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/alumni/profiles/alumni/Laurie_Berke-Weiss_71.html

Lynn Heymont awarded the 2009 Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award

The Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award has been presented annually since 1983 to alumni of the College of Human Ecology who have demonstrated those qualities exemplified by the late Helen Bull Vandervort '26. These qualities include outstanding performance in each of the following areas:

Service to the college and university, professional roles and/or volunteer roles and responsibilities, and contributions and honors as recognized by one's peers.

A veteran human resources executive in the media industry, Lynn has dedicated her life to effecting change in the entertainment community by promoting job opportunities for minority students and campaigning for public service announcements to highlight critical social issues.

In recognition of her achievements, Lynn was honored as one of forty female executives selected by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* for its "Women Making a Difference Award", celebrating L.A.'s most successful business women.

Lynn's dedication to Cornell is evidenced by her many years of service to the College of Human Ecology and to the University. She has been a Cornell Ambassador for nearly 30 years. She is a member of the Cornell Club of Los

Angeles and a lifetime member of the Human Ecology Alumni Association. Lynn serves on the President's Council of Cornell Women and was appointed to the Human Ecology Dean's Advisory Council. She received a bachelor's degree from Human Ecology in 1973.

In her career, Lynn has served as a human capital leader in the entertainment industry for nearly 30 years, most recently as Vice President, Human Resources – West Coast for CBS. Prior to joining CBS, she was Vice President, Human Resources at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

In addition to all of this, Lynn is committed to serving the community at large. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Emma L. Bowen Foundation for Minority Interests in Media, which was established to help increase access to job opportunities for minority students through long term mentoring commitments by employers within the media industry. Lynn's contributions as a member of the Operating Board of Directors for the Entertainment Industry Foundation allowed her to champion initiatives in AIDS awareness, smoking cessation and cancer research. She is also a member of the Human Resources Round Table at UCLA and serves on the Dean's Advisory Board of UCLA Extension.

Newsletter Content

Please send your news and updates to Alison Weir at weir_alison@yahoo.com and Sally Jacobsen at sallyjacobsen@optonline.net by May 10, 2010, so that we can include you in our next Newsletter.

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