

# Cornell Convocation

# Byline Funding Application

## 2012-2014



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Byline Funding Application

## LETTER OF INTENT

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TO: Adam Nicoletti  
Student Assembly, Vice President of Finance  
109 Day Hall

FROM: Cornell Convocation  
Willard Straight Hall

Dear Vice President Nicoletti,

The Cornell Convocation Committees (herein referred to as Convocation) formally requests continued Byline Funding for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years. For this funding cycle it is imperative that we receive more support from the students, and hence Convocation is requesting an allocation of \$12.06 per undergraduate student. In accordance with the instructions set forth by the Student Assembly, Convocation has compiled this application complete with an overview of the organization and budget breakdowns from the past two academic years, as well as projected budgets. Included in these breakdowns are individual expenses and all revenues.

Convocation is a subset of Class Councils, a unit of the Office of the Dean of Students and receives the entirety of its budget from the Student Activity Fee from undergraduate students. Convocation is operated by and completely comprised of Cornell University students. The purpose of Convocation is to provide the campus and general community with a yearend large scale speaker who would be free to listen to for all. In the past, Convocation has brought nationally popular and widely sought-out speakers, and with increased funding we hope to create a sustainable program that will benefit Cornellians for years to come.

Sincerely,

Harris Nord '12 -- *Chair*  
Class of 2012 Convocation

Roneal Desai '13-- *Chair*  
Class of 2013 Convocation

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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The mission of Cornell University Convocation committee is to foster a sense of unity and pride within the graduating class by selecting and sponsoring a speaker to address the class during Commencement Weekend. The speaker shall instill a sense of unity and shall be selected to appeal to the diverse nature of our campus community.

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## **ORGANIZATIONAL BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMING/EVENTS**

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Senior Convocation has a complex and rich history. Born as a student initiated program over 25 years ago, Senior Convocation has evolved from a small supplemental student program to a university event that draws thousands of parents, families, friends and graduates each year. For many years, Barton Hall was center stage for a speaker to address the graduating students and their guests the day before graduation. In 2001, the senior class adopted the Convocation medallion, an award that recognizes an individual for their meaningful contributions, success in instilling the desire to learn and dedication to undergraduate achievement and excellence.

Support from the University for Senior Convocation has been very encouraging. As the demand and expectations for the program grow, the university has partnered with students to provide an environment and avenue to select, coordinate and support a plethora of speakers. Throughout the last 7-8 years, the University President and his senior staff have assisted with inviting speakers, producing the event and providing financial support.

In 2004, President William Jefferson Clinton was our speaker and the demand for the event necessitated the relocation of the event from Barton hall (capacity 5,500) to the university stadium. As a result, the expectations from students, families and our community increased. In 2005 we held the event in Barton Hall with overflowing crowds and a hard to manage situation. The estimated attendance for that event was over 7,000 with several hundred people waiting outside the doors for entry. This situation forced us to consider moving the event outdoors for future years. With the assistance from the VP of Student and Academic Services, we were able to accommodate a larger crowd in 2006 estimated between 10,000 and 15,000 in attendance by having the event in the stadium.

Unfortunately, the support from the administration has been under scrutiny due to the current economic times. To secure the outcome of future successful convocations, students must increase and stabilize the funding for this program. We realize that obtaining top-choice speakers will require a substantial increase in our current allocation and we are hopeful to continue partner with the administration to make offers that are more competitive and attractive.

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The Convocation Committee is typically convened in the spring of a class's junior year. However, now with 2 committees simultaneously trying to acquire speakers at the same time, the younger class with here forth begin meeting in the spring of their sophomore year. The committee is made up of juniors who will be on the Senior Class Council and juniors who will serve in the Student Assembly. This committee has ranged in size over time, but currently both committees have over 50 members.

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### 2012 Committee Members

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Harris Nord	Maura	Marian Sackey	Melanie Berdecia
Catherine Kim	Greenwood	Edwige Joseph	Rob Shapiro
Matt Koren	Peggy Ramin	Michael Mueller	Lauren Marx
Lisa Chen	Jeffrey Tissue	Diana Simpson	Peter Bouris
Rebecca Kaplan	Adam Belfer	Sam Moss	Adam Fisher
Jon Rau	Danielle Samuels	Meredith Bosco	Nick Tandy
Noella Bigirimana	Michelle Honor	Lisa Zhang	Erica Gluck
Adam Nicoletti	Abby Kohn	Ariella Weintraub	Jennifer Jin
Mike Linhorst	Julia Kim	Corinna Romantic	Mohit Gulrajani
Steven Zhang	David DyTang	Noelle Cornelio	Natalie Raps
Annabel Fowler	Philip Gatto	Eva Drago	Nate Schorr
Ryan Bresnahan	Colleen Brill	Alex Kuczynski-	Nicole Mormillo
Irfan Zia	Amy Couch	Brown	
Philip Goldstein	Cameron Breen	Mike De Lucia	
Antonio James	Emily Cusick	Kevin Song	

### 2013 Committee Members

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Abby Robinson	Gabrielle	Jonathan	Megan Buckley
Adam Gitlin	Fernandez	Weinberg	Nadia Raynes
Ali Yazdi	George Hornedo	Jordan Goldstein	Nicholar St. Fleur
Alisha Vimawala	Gila Belsky	Josephine Chen	Peter Jacobs
Amanda Chan	Grace Kaminer	Julia Krauss	Rachael Schuman
Angela Lu	Gregory Hoffman	Julio Cabral	Ramsey Ataya
Anisha Chopra	Haeyeon Yoon	Kai Tan	Robin Simpson
Ankur Bajaj	Harisen Kardon	Katerina	Ryan Yeh
Fowler	Helene	Athanasiou	Samir Doshi
Annie (Yijing) Gu	Beauchemin	Kristen Archibald	Shawn Malloy
Casey Sweeney	Hollis Hanley	Kristen Jenkins	Sooyeon Kim
Christina O-	James Feld	Lindsay	Whitney Holman
Connell	Jason Kowalski	Rosenstein	
Cody Martinez	Jeff Stein	Lucas Policastro	
Colby Heiman	Jesella Zambrano	Maddie Scollick	
Cynthia Vella	Jessica Testa	Mariyah Ahmad	
Dan Kuhr	Jessica L. Powers	Matthew Seward	
Danica Gredona	John Mueller	Matthew	
Esther Hoffman	John Paul Couce	Rosenspire	
Fiona Ismail		Matthew Trusdail	

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY CLASS COUNCILS CONSTITUTION

### APPENDIX A

#### SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

#### **ARTICLE 1. ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS**

##### **Section 1. Eligibility**

- 1.1.a Applicants must be a member of the Junior Class at time of selection.
- 1.1.b Applicants must be available on campus throughout the entirety of their term in office in order to fulfill their duties.

##### **Section 2. Requirements**

- 1.2.a All chairpersons are required to attend their respective Class Council meetings immediately after the selection process.
- 1.2.b All chairpersons are required to attend their respective Class Council events and be active members (as outlined in Article III) for the entirety of their term in office.
- 1.2.c All committees are required to give an update of their respective committee's progress at Class Council meetings.
  - (1) All chairpersons are required to submit any incurred expenses, with receipts, or revenues collected to the Vice President of Finance. This should be done within 24 hours of its occurrence.

##### ***Duties of Chair***

- **Convocation Chair**
  - Convene a meeting of Class representatives to serve as a Selection Committee. This committee is to be comprised of: All active members of Class Council at the time the committee is formed, elected members on the Student Assembly at the time the committee is formed and those fifteen members selected by the Convocation Chair and Class President. Other individuals may be appointed by the Dean of Students or the Vice President for Student and Academic Services with consultation of the Convocation Chair.
  - Invite, via email, members of the class to be part of the Convocation committee.
    - Fifteen members from the class will be selected, by the Convocation Chair and Class President, from the pool who show intent by responding to the emailed invitation.
    - Selection of these fifteen members from the class will be based on representing the diverse interests of the class. The selection

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process shall be transparent to all members of the Cornell community, with the Convocation Chair and Class President directly accountable for those selected.

- The Selection Committee meetings shall be conducted in confidentiality and any member of the committee who breaches this confidentiality shall be removed from the committee.
- Responsible for organizing the Convocation Ceremony, including the following:
  - Working with the Selection Committee to establish a list of potential speakers and make initial contacts with agents during the fall semester of Junior year.
  - Confirm with the Special Events office that a room at the Statler Hotel has been reserved for the Convocation speaker.
  - Have a confirmed acceptance of our invitation by the end of Junior year to insure a speaker for Convocation.
  - After the speaker has been confirmed, make reservations and travel arrangements for his/her arrival.
  - Work closely with the Vice President for Publicity and the Cornell News Service to ensure timely, accurate, and adequate publicity of the ceremony and biographical information on the speaker.
  - Make arrangements for a breakfast with the speaker and a news conference before Convocation for just the Executive Board and the speaker, as well as, a reception following Convocation for the speaker, the Class Council, the Selection Committee, their families, and invited guests (appropriate administrators and faculty based on the speaker.)
  - Make all arrangements for the speaker after Convocation until his/her departure.
  - Send a personal thank you to the speaker after Convocation from the Class Council.
  - Make a reservation for next year's Convocation Reception.



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## PAST CONVOCATION SPEAKERS

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- 2014: ???
- 2013: ???
- 2012: ???
- 2011: Rudy Guliani, Former Mayor of New York City
- 2010: Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- 2009: David Ploufe, Campaign Manager
- 2008: Maya Angelou, poet
- 2007: Soledad O'Brien, newscaster
- 2006: Martin Luther King the III
- 2005: General Wesley Clark
- 2004: President Bill Clinton
- 2003: James Carville, political strategist
- 2002: Danny Glover, actor and human rights activist
- 2001: Janet Reno '60, former US Attorney General
- 2000: US Senator Charles E. Schumer
- 1999: Samuel (Sandy) Berger '67, national security advisor
- 1998: Keith Obermann '79, sports/newscaster
- 1997: Dr. Bertice Berry, TV personality
- 1996: Robert Kennedy, Jr., environmental lawyer
- 1995: Morris Dees, chief trial lawyer for the Southern Poverty Law
- 1994: Dr. Mae Jenninson, M.D., '81, astronaut
- 1993: Matthew Ruff '87, novelist
- 1992: Geraldine Ferraro, first woman nominated for US Vice President
- 1991: David Drinkwater, former Cornell University Dean of Students

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- 1990: Kenneth Blanchard '61
- 1989: Ambassador Sol Linowitz '38
- 1988: Dr. Joyce Brothers '47
- 1987: New York Governor Mario Cuomo
- 1986: US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
- 1985: Stephen H Weiss & Kenneth William