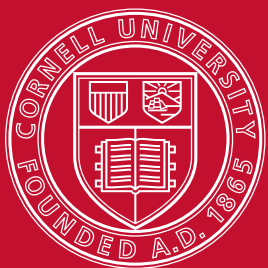


# Annual Report 2012 - 2013



Cornell University  
Student Assembly





Dear President Skorton,

The Student Assembly has had a very productive year working on initiatives from student health and safety, diversity and inclusion, student life, funding, and sustainability, among other initiatives that strive to improve the student life experience at Cornell. We would like to thank you, Vice President Murphy, Dean Hubbell and other members of the administration for your continued partnership and guidance on matters relating to undergraduate student life.

On behalf of the Student Assembly, attached please find the 2012-2013 End of Year Report. Thank you again for your continued partnership.

Best,

Adam Gitlin  
President  
Student Assembly

John Mueller  
Executive Vice President  
Student Assembly

# Student Assembly Members 2012 - 2013

## Executive Board

Adam Gitlin	President
John Mueller	Executive Vice President
Melissa Lukaszewicz	Vice President of Internal Operations; Arts & Sciences Representative
Roneal Desai	Vice President of Finance; Minority At-Large Representative
Stephen Breedon	Vice President of Public Relations; Hotel Administration Representative
Ross Gitlin	Vice President of Outreach; Industrial & Labor Relations Representative
Ulysses Smith	Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion; Architecture, Art & Planning Rep.
Jonathan Weinberg	Director of Elections
Aaron Santangelo	Parliamentarian

## General Body Members

Don Muir	Arts & Sciences Representative
Moseh Cho	Arts & Sciences Representative
Geoffrey Block	At-Large Representative
Anisha Chopra	At-Large Representative
Jay lee	At-Large Representative
Peter Scelfo	At-Large Representative
Sarah Balik	Agriculture & Life Sciences Representative
Jill Marshall	Agriculture & Life Sciences Representative
Chelsea Cheng	Clerk
Gregory Braciak	Engineering Representative
Thomas Hittinger	Engineering Representative
Juliana Batista	Freshmen Representative
Ian Harris	Freshmen Representative
Garrison Lovely	Freshmen Representative
Matthew Stefanko	Freshmen Representative
Dan Kuhr	Human Ecology Representative
Enrico Bonatti	International At-Large Representative
Dean Iwaoka	LGBTQ At-Large Representative
Cameron Pritchett	Minority At-Large Representative
Inge Chen	Transfer Representative
Narda Terrones	Women's Issues At-Large Representative

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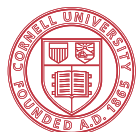
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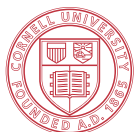
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## Student Health

Over the past two years, S.A. members have partnered with the student organizations and the administration, especially Gannett Health Services, to increase student health on campus. Student health initiatives were spearheaded by the S.A. Student Health Task Force, chaired by Geoffrey Block. Initiatives included:

### Cayuga's Watchers

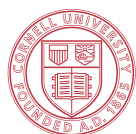
Last Fall, Adam Gitlin and John Mueller founded Cayuga's Watchers, a peer social monitoring program that works to reduce high-risk drinking on campus by taking away the groupthink philosophy of excessive drinking. The ultimate goal is to foster widespread culture change on campus. Since last year, Cayuga's Watchers has



become an independent organization and is in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status. Cayuga's Watchers has selected a full executive board led by Eric Silverberg, implemented an "CW Ambassadors" program reaching out to Greek houses and has over 150 applicants for employment. S.A. members are excited to see the organization continue to grow.



Students attend Cayuga's Watchers' inaugural orientation event.



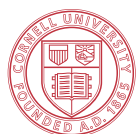
## Every1 Campaign

Seeing the need for greater visibility of the on-campus and local sexual health resources, the Every1 Campaign submitted a Student Assembly Special Projects Request to design and print credit card sized resource cards. The cards can be easily carried in students' wallets and referred to during emergencies. Working with Geoffrey Block and Gannett Health Services, the Every1 Campaign has successfully designed, printed, and distributed the cards to thousands of students. S.A. members will continue to partner with the Every1 Campaign in the upcoming academic year.

**EVERY1**  
LET'S START THE CONVERSATION.

## Lift Your Spirits

The Student Assembly, Cornell Minds Matter, the Cornell MINDS Foundation and CU [dis]connect partnered together to host the Lift Your Spirits celebration on Friday, April 12th. The event was originally conceived in 2010 as a way for students from across campus to join together in the wake of multiple student suicides. This semester's event brought the Cornell Community together again, reminding students of the importance of mental health and the need to celebrate ourselves, our school, and most importantly, members of our community.





## Crisis Management Follow Up

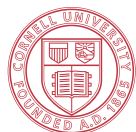
Sponsored by Melissa Lukasiewicz, S.A. Resolution 29 called for the university's crisis management protocol to include a follow up check-in with students who experience a crisis. The check-in would occur after a set amount of time following the resolution of the crisis as determined most appropriate for the specific situation. S.A. members noted that the follow up procedure would provide support for students and hopefully mitigate mental health issues. A follow up contact or check-in, furthermore, will ensure that the student is supported when he or she is ready to discuss the crisis and is aware of the various resources that are available on campus. S.A. members continue to work with the university crisis managers to ensure the resolution is implemented.

## Student Safety

In the wake of numerous reported incidents of sexual violence at the beginning of the year, the Student Assembly has focused its work on short and long term efforts to increase the safety and wellbeing of all students and especially those who find themselves in crisis. Student safety initiatives were organized by the S.A. Public Safety Task Force, chaired by Anisha Chopra. Initiatives included:

### Safety Smart Phone App

Spearheaded by Anisha Chopra, the S.A. partnered with members of the student body to create the ResCUer app. Available on iPhone since January and recently released to the Android market, ResCUer is designed with a very simple interface intended to help students in need of a quick solution. Students can use the app to call for an auxiliary escort through the Blue Light system when in the library late at night or to call an ambulance or CUPD, or even just a cab home at the end of long night. ResCUer was designed by Cornellians, for Cornellians to help them work hard and stay safe.



## New Student Orientation Programming

Sponsored by Melissa Lukasiewicz, Anisha Chopra, Narda Terrones and Geoffrey Block, S.A. Resolution 22 called for the creation of a comprehensive education program regarding personal health and safety to be a part of First Year Orientation. S.A. members suggested that the education program could include components about consent, sexual violence, high-risk drinking and New York State and Cornell's Good Samaritan law, mental health, and diversity, among others. S.A. members believed that an education program of this nature will help mitigate increasingly prevalent issues on campus through improving awareness regarding personal health and safety, as well as promoting active participation in a campus culture of safety, community, and equality. S.A. Members, after passing the resolution, partnered with the Orientation Steering Committee to test a pilot program that is being included in the upcoming First Year Orientation program.

### *New Sexual Assault Prog. Responds to Fall Attacks*

By JOSEPH NICZKY  
Sun Senior Writer

In response to several reported sexual assaults in the fall, Cornell introduced a program on sexual assaults and safety to orientation week in January. University officials say that it may make participating in the program, called "Speak About It," mandatory for all incoming students in the fall.

The program aimed to educate students about issues related to preventing sexual assault.

One hundred forty-nine new students attended the program. Administrators will evaluate their feedback before deciding whether to offer the program in the fall, according to Sarah Jones, assistant dean for new student programs.

"Speak About It" focuses on consent, boundaries and healthy relationships," Jones said. "It's a one-hour presentation by a group of performers who are sharing real stories from college students from around the country. They use those stories to talk about sex and healthy relationships ... and how every member of the community has a role in preventing sexual assault."

Jones said that the program encourages students to discuss numerous topics regarding sexual relationships.

"The goal is really to introduce students so that they can get examples of different ways to use language to talk about consent," Jones said. "It was also about ways to be a bystander in our community. So if you're at a party and you see someone or you see your friend has had too much to drink, how do you reach out to them to see if they need help?"

Laura Weiss, director of the Women's Resource Center, said she thinks having an event like 'Speak About It' in orientation is a good conversation-starter.

"Introducing [students] to the idea early is a good idea," she added.

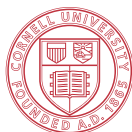
Weiss said that the new program is only a portion of Cornell's overall response.

"I think it really needs to be big picture. ... It's never a job that's really done," Weiss said.

Weiss said that she thinks the University will continue the 'Speak About It' program next semester.

"I think the Speak About It program will be a continuing part of orientation going forward because I think introducing to students the issues that it covered from their first moments on campus is important," Weiss said.

See **SEXUAL VIOLENCE** page 5



## Cornell Caring Community, Illuminate the Night

Since the first Cornell Caring Community event in Spring of 2010, Cornellians have redefined what it means to come together and support one another. Last Fall, in light of recent sexual violence and bias incidents, students joined together to reaffirm their right to thrive in a safe community. At the event, Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Harrison, President David Skorton as well as student leaders spoke about fostering a community of mutual responsibility and respect for one another, shaping the future of our university and changing our campus culture for the better. The event concluded with a membership drive for student organizations that promote campus safety.

# Illuminating Night, Univ. Unites Against Bias, Assaults

By **KERRY CLOSE**  
Sun News Editor

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Wednesday, several hundred members of the Cornell community gathered in front of Willard Straight Hall. They stood shoulder to shoulder, in relative darkness, holding glowsticks that, when lit, engulfed Ho Plaza in a

'13. Co-sponsored by more than 50 student organizations, the event featured a variety of speakers and concluded with a recruitment session for student groups that promote sexual assault prevention and social justice.

Shrouded by the light of the glowsticks, attendees listened to anecd-

not solve all the safety issues on campus. Blue glowsticks will not resolve some of the structural issues or hurdles in our society," Gitlin said. "But the event and the glowsticks are symbolic of so much more ... Tonight is a recognition of [the fact that] over

hundreds of students ... can commit ourselves to strengthening our community."

Skorton — who stood in the crowd for the majority of the event — also emphasized the importance of creating a strong community in the face of the recent inci-

dents.

"We have all to learn from each other, we have all to lean on each other, we have all to learn each other's language and hear and listen and really hear," he said. "We have to pull together. We have

See **ILLUMINATE** page 4

**"Blue glowsticks will not resolve some of the structural issues or hurdles in our society."**

**Adam Gitlin '13**

sea of blue.

The gathering, called "Illuminate the Night," was organized by the Cornell Caring Community and served as a public opportunity for Cornellians to support each other in the wake of recent incidents of sexual assault and bias on campus, according to Student Assembly President Adam Gitlin

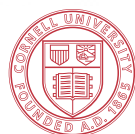
notes and reflections that included students with personal experiences of bias on campus and University President David Skorton. Organizers emphasized that the event was not designed to develop a concrete solution to addressing issues of sexual assault and bias on campus.

"Tonight's event will



MIAMI UNIVERSITY / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHY

**Skorton takes a stand** | President Skorton speaks at the Cornell Caring Community's 'Illuminate the Night' event on the Arts Quad on Wednesday evening.



Cornell University  
Student Assembly



## Student Life

On a regular basis, S.A. members tackle initiatives that enhance the student life experience for the student body. The initiatives were spearheaded by the Student Life Task Force, chaired by Ulysses Smith. Initiatives included:

### Gender Inclusive Housing

Sponsored by Dean Iwaoka, Ulysses Smith, Dank Kuhr and Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union President Emily Bick, S.A. Resolution 12 called for the creation of a gender inclusive housing program on campus. Student Assembly members collaborated with student leaders of Haven and with Residential Programs to introduce a program this past Spring. The program provides a safe living option for gender non-conforming, gender queer, and transgender students by offering them the option to live with whomever they choose and whomever they are most comfortable with, regardless of biological sex, gender, or gender identity. S.A. members believe that gender inclusive housing aligns with Cornell's core commitment to diversity, a value central to the university's founding vision, as well as its progressive goal to build a university-wide capacity to address the needs of an increasingly diverse population of students.

# Cornell Launches Gender-Inclusive Housing Option

*Students can select opposite-sex roommates*

By WESLEY ROGERS  
Sun Staff Writer

Students participating in on-campus housing selection this semester will — for the first time in Cornell history — have the option to live with a roommate of a different gender.

After the Student Assembly passed a resolution to adopt a gender-inclusive housing in October, President David Skorton endorsed it that same month, allowing Cornell to adopt a gender-inclusive housing policy.

**“[The policy] will provide a much-needed housing option for students.”**

Joseph Burke

programs.

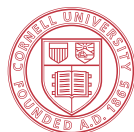
“[Gender-inclusive housing will] provide a much-needed housing option for students, increase awareness and [encourage] better understanding of gender and sexuality,” Burke wrote in an email.

Dean Iwaoka '13, LGBTQ liaison at-large to the Student Assembly,

Of the 3,340 people who have signed up for this year's housing lottery so far, 87 people have expressed interest in gender inclusive housing as of Wednesday, according to Barbara Romano, director of residential and event services.

The policy will normalize attitudes toward gender, according to Joseph Burke, director of residential

See **DEBATE** page 4



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

## Cornell Collegetown Student Council & Neighborhood Fair

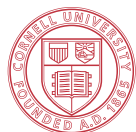
Co-founded by John Mueller, Adam Gitlin and leaders of the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association and CUEMS, Cornell Collegetown Student Council seeks to identify and address issues facing students, landlords and residents in order to foster a shared sense of community and produce a more vibrant Collegetown. The council has organized a fair to bring the community together and is currently lobbying for restrictions on landlord's ability to lease properties so early in the academic year. After the passage of S.A. Resolution 47, the Council has been formalized as a Student Assembly subcommittee.

## Dining Committee Initiatives

Chaired by Jill Marshall, the S.A. Dining Committee focused on improving healthy snack options on campus, particularly fresh fruit and vegetable availability at Dining locations. Collaborating with S.A. committee members, Cornell Dining introduced new fruit cups in Trillium, Goldie's and various locations, which are higher quality fruit and at a more affordable price point. Dining has researched and presented new ideas for merchandising, sourcing and encouraging purchases of fruit and vegetables. The committee plans on focusing on improving vegetable options next fall.

## National Coming Out Day

In an effort to increase the collaborative efforts of the Student Assembly and Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, Dean Iwaoka sponsored Resolution 4, that called for the S.A. to formally recognize October 11th as National Coming Out Day. This sense of the body resolution was accompanied by a program on Ho Plaza on NCOD that was jointly organized by Haven and members of the S.A. Members of the Student Assembly will continue to collaborate with Haven and other student leaders to celebrate the day every Fall semester.



## AIDS Week

This past December the Student Assembly in conjunction with Haven and the Willard Straight Student Union Board celebrated the second annual AIDS Awareness Week. Outlined in S.A. Resolution 25, the S.A. formally recognized the week leading to AIDS Awareness Day as AIDS Awareness week. The programming that accompanied the recognition ranged from International AIDS Awareness posters and the traveling AIDS quilt to a condom fashion show.

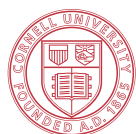
## Student Assembly Freshman Committee

Created by S.A. Resolution 7, S.A. members established the North Campus Committee. Sponsored by Ross Gitlin, Garrison Lovely, Matthew Stefanko, Juliana Batista and Ian Harris, the committee is actively trying to improve its outreach to freshmen students and has begun to create new opportunities for freshmen to get involved on campus. The committee acts on an ad-hoc basis as a think-tank, consisting of members of the Student Assembly and the community at-large striving to improve the quality of life on North Campus.



## Ivy Council

In November, the Student Assembly sent Cameron Pritchett and Jessica Barragan, the two co-head delegates for Cornell's chapter of Ivy Council. Cameron, Jessica, and the delegation of 12 students participated in discussions centered around leadership at the Yale Summit. With resolution S.A. Resolution 33, Ivy Council has been officially re-affiliated with the S.A. and will work in the future to research various policies and programs at our peer institutions.





## Sustainability

Over the course of the year, S.A. members spearheaded projects that furthered the university's commitment to the environment and continued to elevate Cornell's image as a global leader in sustainability. Initiatives included:

### Green Revolving Fund

Spearheaded by Energy Corps President Jacob Reisch and Sarah Balik and cosponsored by Jill Marshall, Anisha Chopra, Jay Lee, Greg Braciak, Narda Terrones, Cameron Pritchett, Enrico Bonatti, Inge Chen and Garrison Lovely, the S.A. passed Resolution 15 last Fall, calling on the administration to create a Green Revolving Fund. Green revolving funds invest in energy efficiency projects to reduce energy consumption and reinvest the money saved in future projects. They are called "revolving funds" because the funds loan money to specific projects, which then repay the loan through an internal account transfer from savings achieved in the institution's utilities budget. To date, there are over 75 institutions benefiting from these types of programs, including many of our peer institutions. Members of the Student Assembly are excited to work with Green Corps as well as partner with the administration to finalize the Cornell Green Revolving Fund (GRF) in the upcoming year.

## Proposed Fund Will Aid Green Projects at C.U.

By TYLER ALICEA  
Sun Staff Writer

Student leaders said they are confident that a Green Revolving Fund will be created at Cornell, after University President David Skorton sent an email to members of the Student Assembly Thursday saying he would "consider [giving] a one-million dollar loan to create the fund."

Through this fund, individuals — as well as departments within the University — would be able to fund projects that

**"We weren't sure that this was going to happen, and now that it is, all the trivial detail can be worked out."**

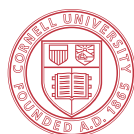
**Sarah Balik '15**

would "enhance energy conservation efforts," according to S.A. President Adam Gitlin '13.

The revolving fund — which derives its name from the fact that money saved as a result of the conservation efforts would return to the fund — is intended to foster student engagement in the University's sustainability practices, according to Jacob Reisch '13, president of Energy Corps at Cornell, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainability on campus.

"A [Green Revolving Fund] opens up opportuni-

See **GREEN FUND** page 5



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

## Campus-Wide Plastic Bag Fee

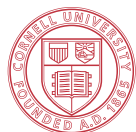
Student Assembly Resolution 28, sponsored by Sarah Balik, called for the reduction in plastic bag use and distribution across campus by implemented a \$0.05 fee on each



plastic bag. The fee would encourage students to be better consumers and think before deciding whether to put their purchases in plastic bags. The Cornell Store implemented the fee on Earth Day and according to staff it is very effective. Cornell Dining has not decided to implement the fee yet, but instead will only be using paper bags in the future and implement an educational campaign focused on decreasing overall bag use. S.A. members still hope that Cornell Dining will consider implementing a fee as well.

## Collegetown Composting

During the Fall semester, with the support of Sarah Balik and Jill Marshall, the S.A. funded CU Compost, a Collegetown Compost project, which aims to encourage students in collegetown to compost. There are now multiple compost drop bins in collegetown available for students to utilize and participate in the program.



## Student Life Funding

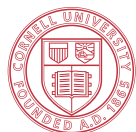
S.A. members continually seek to streamline and improve student life funding structures on campus to enhance student programming. The initiatives were spearheaded by the Student Life Funding Task Force, chaired by Roneal Desai. Initiatives included:

### Students Helping Students Grants

Members of the S.A. expanded the university's Students Helping Students (SHS) grant program. The S.A. established SHS Fund in 1985 to assist Cornell students in financial need. The fund provides assistance to students with necessary emergency expenses that cannot be funded by other means. Previously students could only apply during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. S.A. members expanded the program so students can apply and receive funds during the summer and university breaks. The program was expanded after passage of Resolution 27, sponsored by Dan Kuhr and Matthew Stefanko.

### Amendment to Appendix B

After hearing the request from byline funding organizations for more communication with the Appropriations Committee during non-funding years, the Assembly passed Resolution 34 and, after further consultation from President Skorton, an amended Resolution 49 to help tackle this issue. The final resolution amends Appendix B of the Student Assembly Charter to establish the byline funding procedure for both byline funding organizations and the Assembly during non-funding years, including the purpose of the meeting of each group with the Appropriations Committee and the recommendations put forth by the Committee. The resolution ensures that the Assembly and byline funding organizations are doing their part to maximize the benefit students receive from the Student Activity Fee and the byline funding process.





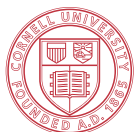
## Student Assembly Finance Commission Overhaul

Over the course of the past year, the Student Assembly has looked to address the concerns that students have had in applying for funds from the Student Assembly Finance Commission (SAFC). Sponsored by Roneal Desai, Cameron Pritchett and SAFC co-chairs Matthew Gruber and Brandon Coulter, the S.A. passed Resolution 4 in the fall which allowed groups to receive their annual allocation in one semester. This permitted groups that operated seasonally, such as some club sports, to fully benefit from the SAFC process.

The S.A. passed an additional amendment to the SAFC funding guidelines, Resolution 50, this Spring. Specifically, these changes incorporate multiple application cycles for the SAFC into each semester. The change will give groups the opportunity to apply for SAFC funds at multiple points throughout the semester, allowing them to do so when they have had the ability to most properly plan out their initiatives as opposed to forcing all groups to apply at the beginning of the semester. The resolution will simultaneously help groups trying to increase programming during the first weeks of the semester by moving the first funding deadline up to an earlier date, while also aiding groups who need more time to plan their events by offering later application deadlines.

## Clarification of Special Projects

S.A. Resolution 51, sponsored by Roneal Desai, Cameron Pritchett and Don Muir clarified the purpose of special projects within the Assembly's budget, a question which has historically led to much confusion over what types of projects the Appropriations Committee and Assembly should be supporting with those funds. Under the resolution, it is stipulated that among other conditions, only projects that are either led by a member of the Assembly or align with an initiative of the Student Assembly should be funded. This definition allows the funds to support both new Student Assembly initiatives and other student projects that tackle issues relevant to the Assembly. The inclusion of the wording will undoubtedly lead to a fairer and less arbitrary allocation of special projects funds in future years.

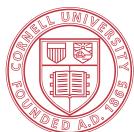


## Student Activity Fee Endowment Fund

Earlier this decade, members of the Student Assembly attempted to create an endowment funded by an annual deposit from the Student Activity Fee that would one day be able to subsidize the SAFC component of the Student Activity Fee. After researching the topic for over two years, the current Assembly believes that this objective would take an inefficient period of time and determined that the SAF Endowment that had so far been accumulated could now be used to benefit students in greater ways.

The recommendation that received the most initial support from the Assembly was to use the payouts from the endowment to fund a Student Assembly Innovation Fund, which would be used to fund more entrepreneurial or unforeseen student initiatives on campus. This fund could fill a void that currently exists for startup projects or initiatives that develop in response to a particular event. Payouts would be withdrawn in a way that would still allow the fund to grow, so that this innovation fund would not only be sustainable but would additionally become even larger over time. A recommendation for such a plan has been presented for the 2013-14 Assembly to consider, which will cease payments into the endowment from the Student Activity Fee and will provide an initial annual payout of approximately \$20,000 for an innovation fund that would grow at a rate of 5% every two years. Research on alternative uses of the endowment, such as supporting a specific annual expense or using the entirety of the current endowment balance on a capital expenditure, has also been compiled and next year's Assembly will have the freedom to explore the option they choose.

Overall, the research done by this year's Assembly, has created a potential opportunity to tremendously alter the extent to which the Student Assembly can both support students and improve the Cornell undergraduate experience.



## Diversity & Inclusion

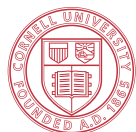
The Student Assembly is extremely committed to incorporating the principles of diversity and inclusion into all aspects of student life, and continually sought to further engage and include all communities on campus. Initiatives included:

### Student Assembly Diversity Affairs Coalition

Created by S.A. Resolution 9 and led by Ulysses Smith, the Student Assembly Diversity Affairs Coalition (SADAC) helps the S.A. address diversity issues on the academic college level. The group is composed of students and staff members from each of the individual schools and colleges. The group serves as the body through which the S.A., the diversity councils of the undergraduate schools and colleges, the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives (OADI), the Center for Intercultural Dialogue, and the University Diversity Council coordinate their efforts to promote awareness and understanding of the increasing importance of diversity. The group has been looking into the creation of the new initiatives for each college as they pertain to Toward New Destinations, the creation of an inclusive book policy, and the possibility for expanded coursework surrounding diversity.

### Student Assembly Committee for Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives

The S.A. Committee for Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives (SACIDI), created last Fall by Cameron Pritchett, Ross Gitlin, Roneal Desai and Stephen Breedon by the passage of S.A. Resolution 17, brainstorms, initiates and facilitates initiatives related to diversity and inclusion within the student body. The committee also invites members of the administration to meetings to review policies related to diversity and make recommendations on behalf of the student body. Under committee co-chairs Juliana Batista and Oscar Correia the committee provided an invaluable resource as a hearing board for a cross-section of initiatives.





## United Student Body

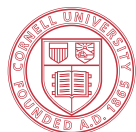
The Student Assembly passed Resolution 45, establishing the United Student Body Plan. The plan, spearheaded by Adam Gitlin, Ulysses Smith, Juliana Batista, Ian Harris, Juan-Carlos Toledo, CAPSU President Wei Yang and Sustainability Hub Co-Chair Jing Jin was modeled after Toward New Destinations but adapted for student organizations. The plan asks that student groups select three annual diversity and inclusion initiatives from a menu and incorporate them into the activities of their organizations. The initiatives will strengthen organizations and the activities they carry out by connecting communities and bringing activities and events to different places on campus. The plan will be gradually implemented, only affecting Byline Funded and SAFC top tier organizations for the first year.

## LGBTQ Ally Ambassador Program

The Student Assembly stepped in to moderate and promote collaboration between the Tri-Council and Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union in an effort to initiate The LGBTQ Ally Ambassador Program. This program created by Dean Iwaoka through S.A. Resolution 39, seeks to place individuals in every Greek chapter across the three councils who are familiar with LGBT student needs and the resources available on campus. The Ambassadors serve as liaisons between Haven and the LGBT Resource Center for all their respective brothers and sisters as confidants and first points of contact for any members who are exploring or questioning their sexuality and/or gender identity.

## Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion

In the Fall of 2012, the S.A. passed Resolution 10, creating a new Executive Board position, the S.A. Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion. This position is responsible for ensuring that the actions, legislation, and decisions of the S.A. are culturally inclusive. The position will also be the formal link to the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives, the Center for Intercultural Dialogue, and the diversity councils of the colleges and schools. Over the semester, much work has been done to coordinate the various efforts



of the S.A., including creating a diversity and inclusion plan. Adapted from Toward New Destinations, the plan gives the S.A. five initiatives of measurable progress to complete in an effort to better prepare representatives for actively engaging the various communities that they serve.

## Know the Power of Your Words Campaign

The Know the Power of Your Words Campaign, founded by Ross Gitlin and Dean Iwaoka, aims to raise awareness about the profound effects that hurtful language can have on our peers, neighbors, and friends. The Campaign kicked-off at the Schwartz Center on April 4, 2013. The event began with introductory remarks by Vice President of Student and Academic Services, Susan Murphy '73; showcased a panel comprised of students who shared their personal experiences with intolerance; continued with an open dialogue between panelists and community members; and concluded with

### Event Aims to Teach Students the 'Power of [Their] Words'

By SARAH CUTLER  
Sun Staff Writer

Six panelists spoke about their experiences as female, Muslim, lesbian, African American and transgender students at Cornell on Thursday.

The event, which kicked off a campaign called "Know the Power of Your Words," aimed to raise awareness about the effects that hurtful language can have on peers, neighbors and friends.

Susan Murphy '73 Ph.D

'94, vice president of student and academic services, opened the discussion by reflecting on the expression, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

"That expression is not true," Murphy said. "Kids

know what's going on, they see what's going on and they say the adults are clueless. And in being clueless, the adults are seen as endorsing it."

The panelists spoke about a variety of issues, including tokenism, safety concerns and the ways they confront slurs.

Jadey Huray '14, an international student from Singapore, spoke about the way her experience as a lesbian has been affected by the country she was in. In Singapore, she said, homosexual sex is illegal, which made her look forward to coming to the United States for college.

"My perception of America was, 'Wow, the land of the free; I can be out as a lesbian,'" Huray said. But she said she has had experiences that contradicted that perception, such as when she was awakened in the middle of the night last semester by a student yelling gay slurs at another student. "Tot what seemed to me like an esemity," Huray said.

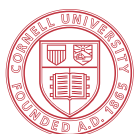
According to Huray, asking people not to use slurs "faggot" and "dyke" is not an argument

remarks by Nathan Shinagawa '05 M.A. '09. The event concluded with attendees signing a pledge that recognizes the 'power of their words' and incorporates a commitment to refrain from using hurtful language.



Power of words | Sasha Mack '13, one of the panelists at an event that aimed to examine the power language can have on people, speaks Thursday about her experience as a black student on campus.

See EVENT page 4



## Ongoing Initiatives

In the upcoming year, the S.A. looks forward to continuing to work with the administration on the following initiatives:

### Divestment/Toward a Responsible Endowment

The Student Assembly joined members of a student organization, KyotoNOW!, calling on Cornell to divest from direct holdings and commingled funds in the fossil fuels industry by passing Resolution 32. S.A. members believed the university has a moral responsibility to respond to climate change and that the university must do everything possible to engage and invest in sustainable practices. KyotoNOW! and S.A. members asserted that divestment aligns with Cornell's core commitment to sustainability in that the university "supports research, scholarship, and the practical application of knowledge that address one of humankind's greatest challenges: achieving a sustainable world for all." Divesting, moreover, is consistent with Cornell's pledge to reach carbon neutrality under its Climate Action Plan and will further elevate Cornell's image as a global leader in sustainability.

# The Cornell Daily Sun

Vol. 129, No. 86

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013 ■ ITHACA, NEW YORK

16 Pages — Free

## *Student Assembly Urges C.U. to Divest From Fossil Fuels*

By ERICA AUGENSTEIN  
Sun Staff Writer

In a victory for environmental activists at Cornell, the Student Assembly passed a resolution Thursday demanding the University divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry by the end of 2020.

The resolution, which also calls for 30 percent of the divested money to be reinvested in sustainable enterprises, was passed by the S.A. by a vote of 22 for and 2 against, according to former Kyoto NOW! co-president Anna-Lisa Castle '13.

Kyoto NOW! — a climate justice organization — began working on the resolution about a year ago, according to Castle. The S.A. debated the proposal last week, according to S.A. President Adam Gitlin '13.

The resolution served as a way to put pressure on the administration to invest in sustainable organizations, former Kyoto NOW! co-

"This is an important statement from students encouraging the University to invest in a greener and more sustainable future."

Adam Gitlin '13



ZAC PETERSON / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Speaking up** | The Student Assembly voted Thursday to recommend that the University end its investment in fossil fuels, at the urging of environmental group Kyoto NOW!

See **DIVEST** page 4



Cornell University  
Student Assembly



## New LGBTQ Associate Dean Position

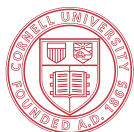
The Student Assembly urged the administration to hire an additional Associate Dean position within the LGBT Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students. Sponsored by Dean Iwaoka, Ulysses Smith, Ross Gitlin, and HAVEN Presidents Emily Bick and Jadey Huray, S.A. Resolution 20 asked that the position serve as an adviser to Haven, the LGBTQ Student Union, work on program development, and serve as support staff in the Office of Intercultural Dialogue. S.A. members believed that the lack of support is detrimental to the student life experience and the well being of LGBTQ students on campus. The Associate Dean position within the Resource Center has remain unstaffed and there are not any plans to fill the position.

## International Students Center

The Student Assembly passed Resolution 36, sponsored by Enrico Bonatti in response to the longstanding need to support this unique and very large portion of students on campus. The S.A.'s priority is to establish a space connected to the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) that can serve as a gathering place for international students while they also access the ISSO for its many resources. Following meetings subsequent to the passing of the resolution with GPSA representatives, Deans and other interested parties, the conclusion reached was that the needed space exists but needs to be officially allocated to the ISSO for its expansion. S.A. members hope that this project will come to fruition as soon as possible and serve as a tangible means of support for such a large proportion of both the undergraduate and graduate and professional student body.

## Safety Survey

Last Fall after the passage of S.A. Resolution 14, the Student Assembly released a survey exploring student sentiments regarding late night safety on campus. This survey was promoted through Facebook, the S.A. website, and many other listservs, and received over 750 responses. The survey was closed in April, 2013 and is currently in the process of being analyzed. The results will be shared with the Public Safety Advisory Committee, the Student Assembly, members of the administration, as well as CUPD, in



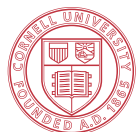
order to explore which areas of campus safety are lacking, as indicated by the survey, and explore how to best address the issues. The initiative is being led by Sarah Balik, Ross Gitlin and Anisha Chopra.

## Events Calendar

The Cornell community hosts thousands of great events on campus every semester, but it can be hard for students to hear about all events occurring on a given night. In S.A. Resolution 48 sponsored by Ian Harris and Juliana Batista, the Student Assembly recommended that the university restructure the manner which Cornell students gather information about campus events. S.A. Members plan to form an email focus group in the Fall to determine the most effective and aesthetic method to disperse information via email. The Assembly also plans to explore integrating the Events Calendar into the SAFC funding platform, OrgSync. S.A. Members have been collaborating with Student and Academic Services Communications, staff in the Student Activities Office as well as staff in the CIT office.

## Inclusive Book Policy

The Student Assembly unanimously passed Resolution 46, a recommendation to the Faculty Senate regarding steps the faculty should take in order to help minimize the cost of books for students. The resolution was sponsored by Ulysses Smith and Ian Harris. S.A. members believed that faculty should indicate on course syllabi whether or not a student can use an older edition of a textbook for their class. The resolution also urges faculty to consider using an Open Textbook for their course, which allows students to access course materials online for free. The S.A. recommends that this policy be funded in part by the Towards New Destinations Annual Initiatives Grant, the University Library, and additional grants. Enacting such a policy would further Cornell's commitment to inclusion and keep the institution leading amongst our peers when addressing diversity and inclusion.







# Full List of Student Assembly Resolutions

Resolution 1 - Approval of the 2012-2013 Standing Rules

Resolution 2 - Approval of the 2012-2013 Operating Budget

Resolution 3 - Changes to the SAFC Guidelines

Resolution 4 - In Support of National Coming Out Day

Resolution 5 - Amending the 2012-2013 Standing Rules

Resolution 6 - Engaging Unelected Community Members Through Associate Membership

Special Project Request: Cornell Collegetown Student Council Neighborhood Fair

Resolution 7 - Establishment of the Student Assembly Freshman Committee

Resolution 8 - Amendment to the 2012-2013 Standing Rules

Resolution 9 - Establishment of the Student Assembly Diversity Affairs Coalition

Resolution 10 - Creation of the Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion

Special Project Request: Every1 Campaign

Resolution 11 - Requiring Committee Applications for All Potential Assembly Members

Resolution 12 - Adoption of a Gender Inclusive Housing Policy

Resolution 13 - Renaming of the Financial Aid Review Committee

Resolution 14 - Late Night Safety Survey

Resolution 15 - In Support of a Green Revolving Fund

Special Project Request: CU Compost

Resolution 16 - Fall 2012 SAFC Appeals

Resolution 17 - Reforming JAMIC as the Student Assembly Committee for Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives (SACIDI)

Resolution 18 - Improving Student Assembly Voting Procedures

Resolution 19 - Support for the Allocation of Space to the Cornell Outing Club

Resolution 20 - Calling for the Hire of an Associate Dean of L.G.B.T.Q. Outreach

Resolution 21 - Adoption of a Diversity Plan

Resolution 22 - Urging Mandatory Sexual Assault & Rape Education During Orientation

Resolution 23 - Restructuring the SA Communications Committee

Resolution 24 - SA Staffing Committee

Resolution 25 - In Recognition of the Second Annual "A.I.D.S. Awareness Week"

Resolution 26 - Approval of the Spring 2013 Elections Rules

Resolution 27 - Expanding Availability of the Students Helping Students Grant

Resolution 28 - Student Support for a Campus-Wide Plastic Bag Fee

Resolution 29 - Crisis Management Follow Up Resolution

Resolution 30 - Approving the Student Assembly Finance Commission's Executive Board Members and Commissioners

Resolution 31 - Clarifying Student Assembly Special Projects Funds

Resolution 32 - Toward a Responsible Endowment

Resolution 33 - Re-affiliating Ivy Council with the Student Assembly

Resolution 34 - Amendment to Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter

Resolution 35 - Increasing Member Accountability Through a Revised Initiative Tracker

Resolution 36 - In Support of the Establishment of an International Student Centre

Resolution 37 - In Support of the Violence Against Women Act

Resolution 38 - Establishing a New Events Calendar

Resolution 39 - In Support of the LGBTQ Ally Ambassador Program

Resolution 40 - Creation of the University Student Supreme Court (1)

Resolution 41 - Creation of the University Student Supreme Court (2)

Resolution 42 - Creation of the University Student Supreme Court (3)

Resolution 43 - Student Assembly Finance Commission Performance Tier Proposal

Resolution 44 - Building Better Committees

Resolution 45 - Fostering a "United Student Body"

Resolution 46 - In Favor of an Inclusive Book Policy

Resolution 47 - Formally Establishing the Collegetown Student Council

Resolution 48 - Addressing the Student Activity Fee Endowment Fund

Resolution 49 - Amendment to Appendix A of the Student Assembly Charter

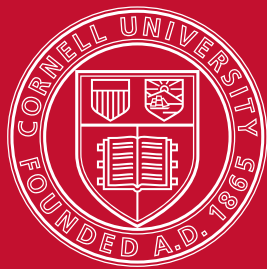
Resolution 50 - SAFC Funding Guidelines Amendment Spring 2013

Resolution 51 - Clarifying the Purposes of the Student Assembly Special Projects Funds

Resolution 52 - Clarifying the Organization of the Cornell Chapter of the Ivy Council

Resolution 53 - Adding Student Trustees as Ex-Officio Members

Resolution 54 - Approving the Student Assembly Finance Commission's Executive Board Members and Commissioners



Cornell University  
Student Assembly