# 2014–2015 Facts at a Glance

## Academic and Career Services

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<td>Students visiting the Carol Tatkon Center (daily average)</td>
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## Athletics and Physical Education

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## Gannett Health Services

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## Housing and Dining

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<td>Students who are members of a fraternity</td>
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<td>Members in fraternity housing</td>
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<td>Students who are members of a sorority</td>
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<td>Members in sorority housing</td>
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<td>Students on university meal plans</td>
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## Service and Philanthropy

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<td>Students participating in Public Service Center ongoing community service</td>
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## Find out more

Find out more at [sas.cornell.edu](http://sas.cornell.edu) and [sc.cornell.edu/who-we-are/fundraising-initiatives](http://sc.cornell.edu/who-we-are/fundraising-initiatives)

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On the cover: James Wu ’17 of The Big Red Marching Band performs on Ho Plaza during the 2015 Student and Academic Services Sesquicentennial Kickoff Celebration.

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An architect’s rendering of the view from the northwest of the expanded health services facility. (Courtesy of Chiang O’Brien Architects)
Our goal is simple: Help every student thrive

A Message from Susan H. Murphy

This past year has been one of looking forward and looking back as President David Skorton and I both concluded our tenures at Cornell. We laid the foundation for an exciting 10-year investment in advancing the university’s commitment to public engagement, thanks to the very generous 10-year grant from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust. We also worked hard to advance our caring community agenda, focusing on the national issue of sexual violence prevention and addressing the local campus needs for equitable access to health care on campus in a facility to meet the needs of the 21st century. We also continued to advance the institution’s commitment to building a community of respect.

As we continued to focus on the needs of the present and the opportunities in the future, I found myself reflecting on all that has transpired these past 21 years in Student and Academic Services. In those two decades, the campus has changed. New residence halls and a university commons are on North Campus. West Campus is transformed with the construction of five new houses and a community recreation center. New facilities support all athletes in their strength and conditioning as well as provide top-notch venues for our wrestlers, baseball and softball players, and track and field, soccer, squash, field hockey and ice hockey athletes. And existing buildings have been repurposed, such as 626 Thurston Avenue, which now is the Center for Intercultural Dialogue.

While the physical changes remind us of the dynamic nature of the university, it is the programmatic changes that truly make a difference. Our first-year experience on North Campus allows us to welcome our newest Cornellians in a more coherent and cohesive manner, creating life-long bonds and class identity. Our focus on sophomores, especially in the West Campus House system and its corresponding faculty leadership and engagement, has created a vibrant living option for students. The fraternity and sorority system is adapting so it continues to support leadership development and life-long connections for our students.

As our programming has changed dramatically in the past two decades, so has the population of students. The growing number of diverse student organizations enriches our campus, whether they are Greek affiliated, national-origin based, dance, drumming or singing groups. All of them bring diversity to the campus culture that reflects the growing international and national diversity among our students, both graduate and undergraduate.

The greatest energy, however, remains with our students. Their leadership on issues of critical importance – the environment, campus climate, respect, consent, personal safety – has established the foundation for our caring community and has catalyzed the campus to change when circumstances demand it. Students create extraordinary excitement as athletes representing Cornell in the Ivy League, at national competitions and even international venues, demonstrating that excellence in academics and excellence in athletics do exist at a university. And without student creativity, the vibrancy of the campus would be so much less than it is.

It has been an extraordinary experience to serve my alma mater as vice president. I am excited to welcome my successor, Ryan Lombardi, to lead the division and build on the foundation we have created over the years. To all of you who made all of this possible, a heartfelt thank you. Generations of Cornellians have and will benefit because of your commitment and generosity. It has been a personal privilege to work with you over the years.

Forever grateful,

Susan H. Murphy ’73, Ph.D. ’94, vice president for student and academic services, at the Official Sesquicentennial Kickoff reception and dinner during the Trustee Council Annual Meeting Weekend.

Murphy attends the 2015 Commencement Ceremony.
Dan Huang '15 and Patrick Wang '18 (inside the head) perform a traditional Lion Dance at Asia Night.
Connecting Creatively Across Differences

*SAS Strategic Plan Objective: Develop and support a campus climate, programs, and services that foster diversity, inclusion, and learning among all members of the Cornell community.*

In 2014, Cornell welcomed the most diverse and international freshman class in its 150-year history. Underrepresented and other minority groups represented nearly 33 percent of our Ithaca student population, with international students representing 20 percent. SAS creates educational opportunities that take advantage of the diversity of culture and experience in our community and that help students develop multicultural competencies that allow them to embrace their roles as global citizens when they leave Cornell.

**Food for Thought**

After reviving the Breaking Bread series in 2013-14, Renee Alexander ’74, associate dean of students and director of intercultural programs, scaled up the program, which brings student affinity groups together over a meal. “We hosted about 15 dinners,” she says. “We’d have dinner, then push the dishes aside and have a facilitated conversation designed to drill down and get into topics that help us to go deeper. The key was to get a conversation rolling, then get out of the way and let students talk.”

One dinner brought together the Coalition of Pan-African Scholars (students whose parents were first-generation African immigrants), the Caribbean Students Association, and Black Students United. Intra-group conversation with the Chinese Students Association, the Hindu Students Council and other organizations addressed differences among their members.

In March, Dining with Diverse Minds – a project of Cornell Minds Matter and ALANA (African Latino Asian Native American) Intercultural Board – received the 21st annual James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial Understanding and Harmony. For eight years, the project has brought together a group of 100-150 students, faculty, and staff to promote understanding, respect, and cooperation through open and honest dialogue.

**LGBT Center Turns 20**

The Cornell Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014-15 beginning in October with an all-campus LGBT reception. The celebration peaked with Lavender Graduation in May.

“We’ve helped students explore concepts of gender and sexuality as interrelated and not mutually exclusive,” says Brian Patchcoski, associate dean and director of the center. “Now students want to take their ideas and energy into the greater community and engage in broad campus conversations on gender and sexuality, as well as on sexual violence and other crucial topics.”

With a new five-year strategic plan in place, “we’ll be launching new initiatives in the fall,” Patchcoski says, including: “a program aimed at education for the entire campus community; a program around transgender identities; mentorships that pair grad students with undergrad students; a first-year experience group; and a leadership program, Q-Lead. And we’ll be working with the Department of Inclusion and Workforce Diversity to provide education for faculty, staff, and student employees.”

A musical performance at the 2015 Lavender Graduation Ceremony.
Two Peer-Mentoring Programs Expand

Among our many student mentoring programs, two grew and thrived this year through the efforts of student leaders. Three years ago, the Black Women’s Support Network started a peer-mentoring program called Building Our Sisterhood and Success (BOSS). “It matches first- and second-year students with upper-level students to help them navigate the institution and help them adjust,” says Alexander. Last year, about 90 students were involved in BOSS, which sponsored its first mental-health summit in April. “This was a critical achievement because in communities of color mental health is often something of a taboo subject,” Alexander adds.

Several student leaders bolstered a mentorship program for first-year Asian students. Danny Qiao ’15 started the program during his sophomore year at the Asian & Asian American Center. Two years later, while facilitator for the Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union, Qiao along with Athena Shea ’16 and Linda He ’16 ramped up the program and expanded to accommodate 20 first-year mentees.

“We focused on curriculum, mentorship, and leadership,” Shea says. “We wanted to introduce concepts including Asian-American advocacy, and their identity in the context of the Asian-American experience at Cornell, alongside leadership development and professional development.”

“Research indicates that peer-mentoring programs help underrepresented and minority students adjust,” Alexander says, “connecting students of color to each other, and also to the broader university.”

Athletes Speaking Out

The “We Don’t Say” campaign at Cornell looks to create an athletic environment where all athletes feel valued and accepted. Members of Cornell Athlete Ally, Red Key Honor Society, and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee created a series of photos with compelling messages. “The goal of our campaign is to stamp out derogatory and negative language in our athletic community,” according to the We Don’t Say campaign’s Facebook page. “It is our hope that shedding light on why these phrases can have detrimental effects in our athletic community will start to shift our culture toward more inclusive language.”

Greek Life Helps Students Find Community

Andrea Kim ’16, a Cornell Tradition scholar, found her home at the university when she pledged Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. “It really helped with my transition to Cornell,” she says. “Although I may not be Latina, this was a place where I found myself comfortable.”

As president of the Multicultural Greek Letter Council (MGLC), which comprises 13 culturally based fraternities and sororities, Kim “wanted to strengthen the Tri-Council (the alliance of three self-governing councils: Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and MGLC), and also reach out to umbrella organizations like Black Students United, CAPSU (Cornell Asian Pacific Islander Student Union), and LAL (La Asociación Latina).”

She adds, “For example, we offered sweets with facts during Black History Month, raised awareness of sexual assault by hanging T-shirts in Willard Straight lobby that were decorated by students and community members as a vehicle to express emotions on the issue, and had a Tri-Council March of Solidarity around campus to address high-profile incidents of racism around the country.”
Profile: **Jessica Barragan ’15**

“Cornell always was my dream school,” says Jessica Barragan, a first-generation college student who was raised by her Ecuador-born mother and grandmother.

A double major in government and sociology and triple minor in law and society, equality studies and Spanish, Barragan has been an active leader outside of the classroom. She served as co-president of La Asociación Latina, participated in the Latino Ivy League conference as one of 10 students representing Cornell in the annual event, and captained the Spanish debate team, which took top prize at the Pan American University Debating Championship in Miami in January. Barragan also was president of the Ivy Council, a nonprofit organization comprising student leaders from all the Ivy League schools. “As president one of my big goals was to bring Ivy Council to campus, and I was able to do that very successfully,” she says. “We hosted the Ivy Leadership Summit at Cornell for the first time. I served as conference director – it was an incredible experience and one of the most challenging ones.”

A Meinig Family Cornell National Scholar, Barragan hopes to become a family, entertainment, or immigration lawyer. The Meinig program provided funding for her to go to Panama with the Cornell Global Law Brigades, where she shadowed Panamanian lawyers providing services to underprivileged communities.

Profile: **Men of Color Council**

Founded in 2003, the Men of Color Council (MOCC) has shifted its focus in the past two years to helping minority males pursue career success. “Once you graduate you have to make sure that you’re ready and able to sell yourself when you’re applying to these corporations,” says Antoine Saint-Victor ’16, co-president and a Meinig Family Cornell National Scholar. “What better way to do that than put them in contact with employers and other people who could provide them with professional opportunities. So it was my quest to help MOCC get corporate sponsorship during our term.” He succeeded, landing support from Ernst and Young, as well as Verizon.

Saint-Victor along with fellow co-president and Meinig Scholar Kaleb Banks ’16 and past co-president Edwin Rosendo ’15 created “Trifecta,” a three-pronged – social, academic and professional – approach to working together with the leaders of SWAG (Scholars Working Ambitiously to Graduate) and The LINK Men’s Alliance (founded to support the black and Latino male communities) to plan events and promote unity in the broader men of color community. “It made sense to get organizations that are targeting the same community to work together,” Banks says.

Team-building workshops such as this on the Hoffman Challenge Course help student groups develop leadership skills and strengthen interpersonal bonds to shape a positive and supportive organizational culture. Greek organizations benefit from these workshops through the Greek Leadership Academy, which in the fall of 2014 offered five-week programs for 39 chapters, an all-time high for the program. Greek students receive one unit of academic credit for their participation. In this year’s evaluations, 96 percent of students agreed they are better leaders as a result of participating in the class. (Photo provided by Cornell Outdoor Education)
Through health services, fitness and wellness programs, dining and nutrition, crisis prevention and intervention, and more, SAS advances the university’s holistic view of student and community health that fosters a campus-wide culture of self-care and caring for one another. Through the expertise of SAS staff, Cornell is a national leader and partner in comprehensive, evidence-based programs that address major challenges to student well-being.

Breaking Ground for Health Services
With the March commencement of construction on an expanded and renovated health facility and a groundbreaking celebration with donors and friends in May, University Health Services is on its way to making this long-awaited project a reality. The new addition is scheduled to open in July 2016, with project completion projected for August 2017.

The project will update the existing space to support current and future program needs and facilitate the staff’s state-of-the-art approach to collaborative care while continuing to provide services that are inclusive, accessible, integrated, responsive, and cost-effective to Cornell’s diverse and growing population. Its transformation will show the centrality of student health and well-being to the university’s academic mission and identity as a caring community.

Skorton Center for Health Initiatives announced
The expanded facility also will be home to the new Skorton Center for Health Initiatives. Named in honor of President Emeritus David Skorton, the center recognizes his achievement in elevating student health as a core element of the university’s learning mission. The center will provide institutional leadership for promoting campus health and will expand Cornell’s role as a national leader on student health and well-being.

Led by director Timothy Marchell ’82, Ph.D., MPH, the center will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals who will implement innovative programs, policies, educational strategies, and new partnerships across campus that support the physical, psychological, and social health of students and the campus community. Center staff also will guide university councils on mental health, alcohol and other drugs, hazing, and sexual violence prevention.

Graduate and professional student well-being
SAS partners to improve the graduate and professional student experience through the Graduate and Professional Community Initiative strategic plan, which the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly issued in 2013. A few recent progress areas include increasing both student-alumni career networking opportunities and central career advising resources for Ph.D. students; hiring more peer advisers to guide graduate students in housing searches; assessing interest in dining services in the Big Red Barn graduate student center; and bolstering communications to improve knowledge and use of career-related programs and campus services for students with families.

A partnership for Slope Day

Cayuga’s Watchers — a non-profit, student-run organization — works to reduce harms associated with high-risk drinking at Cornell. The Watchers collaborated with the 2015 Slope Day Programming Board to incorporate bystander intervention techniques into volunteer training. The students’ aim is to bolster effective peer interventions with those in need of assistance on the Slope. “With Watchers, since they’re anonymous and playing it cool, they’re positioned to go up and approach someone to intervene in a situation,” says Garrison Lovely, chair of the Slope Day Programming Board and a Meinig Scholar.

L-R: Sarah Reitman ’15 (Cayuga’s Watchers), Shane Moore ’16 (Cayuga’s Watchers), and Garrison Lovely ’16 (chair of the Slope Day Programming Board).
Health and Well-Being

Profile: **Angela Han ’15**

Through her involvement in the Women’s Resource Center, Angela Han has spearheaded programs that positively influenced her fellow students while also serving as an effective residential adviser.

Han led a program called Project Star: Celebrating Women, a workshop where women “come together to share our stories, nurture positive self-relationships, and celebrate who we are in our lives through creative expression.” What is more, with support from the Clinton Global Initiative University conference, she was able to bring Project Star to her hometown of San Francisco and host a six-week workshop series in the Bay Area. On campus, she also helped to coordinate We Step Into The Light, a project to raise awareness about sexual assault.

Han served as an RA for two years in Akwe:kon, a program house established to celebrate American Indian culture and heritage. “It’s a community that has become family to me,” she says. “It’s very closely tied to the American Indian Program, so my experience there and through AIP are part of this core influence that has shaped me to be the person I am today as well as my principles and the way I understand how society works. It’s been a great gift.”

During her leave of absence, Cullo remained involved in Cornell Minds Matter, helping to create the Healthy and Disordered Eating Series. “We had a great mix of speakers, and students were excited to attend these events, since it’s not something that’s been openly talked about,” Cullo says. “The one thing that surprised me was the amount of students that told me they appreciated starting the series, because they had experience with something similar. These were people I had known for years and I never knew that about them. That was one of the rewarding results of that series.”

Cullo is working at a rural health clinic through AmeriCorps, and will return to Cornell in January 2016 to finish her degree.

Profile: **Angelica Cullo ’17**

Since 2004, Cornell Minds Matter has promoted the overall mental and emotional health of all Cornell students and it has worked to reduce the stigma of mental illness. It’s an organization that literally helped to save the life of Angelica Cullo.

“Not only has it really allowed me to acknowledge the mental health challenges I have myself that I needed to address,” says Cullo, who had been battling an eating disorder since she was 10, “but I’ve also been able to help my peers realize that they may need assistance or educate peers by speaking from personal experience.”

Cornell Minds Matter also offers a leave-of-absence support group. “I spoke with some students about their leave, how it helped them and how they came back,” Cullo says. “They stressed it was crucial to take care of your health first; you don’t need to rush to finish your education. So I took a health leave, and it was a great decision.”

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This year sexual violence prevention on college campuses drew national attention, as Senators Claire McCaskill and Kirsten Gillibrand drove federal conversations and New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signed new campus sexual assault prevention legislation. Four campus leaders discuss how Cornell is working to reduce sexual violence (L to R): Matthew Laks ’15, facilitator for Wingman 101; Laura Weiss, director of the Women’s Resource Center; Timothy Marchell ’82, Ph.D., MPH, director of Mental Health Initiatives for Gannett Health Services; and Nina Cummings, sexual violence prevention coordinator and university victim advocate.

Q: What were some of this year’s student-driven efforts to prevent sexual assault?

Laks: Wingman 101, which teaches men about bystander intervention and a safe environment for healthy relationships, reached out to fraternities and sports teams this year. It’s easy to think someone else will take action if you don’t, but we’re trying to empower people to intervene. During Sexual Assault Awareness Week (April 13-17), 18 organizations expanded the dialogue, brainstormed new ways to make Cornell safer, and held awareness events.

Marchell: Helping bystanders learn how to step forward and intervene is one of the common threads across all areas of health and well-being.

Q: How has staff supported student efforts this year?

Weiss: Staff helped students broaden their reach through large events such as two film-screenings of “The Hunting Ground.” The panel discussion allowed people to question what is really happening in our community and how can we do better.

At “Take Back The Night,” survivors shared their stories. When you hear an actual person’s story, it creates investment on the issue in a way that statistics can’t.

Q: What’s going on in the Council on Sexual Violence Prevention (CSVP)?

Cummings: Now going into its third year, CSVP’s strength is that it brings together undergrads, grad and professional students, staff, faculty, alumnae, and community partners. It provides a voice for campus; affords an opportunity for message consistency; and creates opportunities for education. We’ve been able to make recommendations about directions we think the university should be going.

Q: Cornell participated in the Association of American Universities’ Climate Survey this year. Why is it important?

Cummings: We need to know where to focus our efforts. The survey helps us not just to understand more about incidents and prevalence, but also to find out levels of knowledge about resources, and whether or not individuals understand their reporting options.

Q: Why is it important that we engage many different constituents and leadership at a high level on this issue?

Laks: Preventing sexual assault requires interest from all people from all backgrounds and genders. I became involved with Wingman 101 because men need to do more. Often men don’t show up at awareness events because it’s not “cool” or they’re tired of being called a perpetrator.

Marchell: Cultural change requires involvement from the entire community and it’s important that our senior administrators continue to set expectations for how to be a caring community.

Q: What are we doing to educate new Cornell students?

Weiss: The past three undergraduate orientations have included Speak About It, a performance group that addresses sexual violence and related issues through theater. The stories resonate with students. For graduate and professional students, we held small group discussions at orientation, and for January transfer students, a panel of students talked about healthy relationships and the like.

Marchell: We are proud of our new orientation program for all student athletes that focuses on issues like bystander behavior, sexual violence, alcohol, and mental health. Programs for individual teams focused on sexual violence in more depth.

Q: How is Cornell engaged in helping to shape compliance requirements?

Cummings: In the fall Vice President Susan Murphy, Chief of Police Kathy Zoner and I met with the staffs of Senators Gillibrand and McCaskill, to broaden their understanding of the realities on college campuses. We’ve met with local and state legislators to help them understand our needs, and to share our community-wide approaches. Kathy Zoner participated in a roundtable on law enforcement organized by Senator McCaskill.

Q: Where are we going in the next year?

Marchell: The causes of sexual violence are complex, so preventing it requires multiple strategies. Education is necessary but not sufficient to bring about real change. Perceived sexual norms, alcohol, and beliefs about sexual entitlement provide the cultural scaffolding in which sexually aggressive individuals can find cover for their behavior. Part of our strategy is to help students remove that scaffolding by reshaping the campus culture and creating a more respectful sexual climate on campus. There’s very little known scientifically about effective sexual violence prevention. We’ll be developing and evaluating strategies to contribute to this national conversation.
The 2015 Nutritional Science (DNS) NS 4880 dinners in the West Campus dining halls included this Farmers’ Market at Jansen’s Dining Room.
Meaningful Connections Outside of Class

SAS Strategic Plan Objectives: Create and support learning communities filled with opportunities beyond the classroom for students and faculty to integrate and link those experiences with their learning from academic programs. Create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to participate together in intellectual, spiritual, social, cultural, athletic, and service activities.

Cornell’s West Campus House System celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, marking a decade of offering upper-level students an actively engaged community through interaction with faculty members. Alice Cook House opened in 2005, followed over the next three years by Carl Becker House, Hans Bethe House, William Keeton House and Flora Rose House.

“The West Campus House System is one of the best things going on campus right now,” says Scott MacDonald ’78, Ph.D. ’86, the Dale Corson house professor and dean at Hans Bethe House. “It really is what the founders hoped it would be – a way of re-envisioning what the residential experience at a big university like Cornell could be like.”

“And that big goal of making that sort of seamless intellectual life for our undergraduate students was intended to be accomplished primarily by finding ways to get faculty involved in houses themselves,” says MacDonald.

Home to 1,800 students, 1,200 of them sophomores, West Campus houses each have 30 House Fellows – Cornell faculty members, administrators or distinguished members of the Ithaca community – who visit the house regularly, eat dinner or teach courses there, take students on trips, or invite them into their own homes for dinner. Dynamic student leadership groups in each house play a significant role. Events – dinners, lectures, discussions – are designed to build community. “We’re not trying to extend the classroom to West Campus—we’re trying to supplement what goes on in the classroom,” MacDonald says. “We work at creating opportunities and an environment where students and faculty come together for rich substantive intellectual content, but doesn’t look anything like what happens up the hill.”

He adds, “As a student, Cornell opened up a world that I never knew existed – I remembered what it was like to catch fire from all the classes and students around me. As a house professor, I try to do that for our students.”

Program Houses Thrive: EcoHouse

North Campus is home to eight program houses – or themed residence halls – that offer students the chance to immerse themselves in interests within an engaged community of residents and out-of-house members. These close-knit communities have a high level of involvement, with regular events, programming, and outreach opportunities, often in collaboration with related academic departments.

The Hurlburt Residential College for Environmental Education and Awareness, or EcoHouse, has about 100 residents who share an interest in environmental issues. “It’s been the keystone of my time at Cornell,” says Aaron Match ’15, a Meinig Scholar and winner of a Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, which honors State University of New York students for integrating academic excellence with other aspects of their lives. “I was attracted to live there because there were upper-class students there, and they had a lot more experience to learn from.”

This year, EcoHouse was involved in Project Greenhouse, an initiative to “construct and nurture a shared community greenhouse in order to explore the environmental, ethical, and functional practices of organic agriculture,”

Aaron Match ’15, in the facility that EcoHouse residents built as part of Project Greenhouse.
according to its mission statement. EcoHouse residents also participated in the Campus Conservation Nationals, an energy-reduction campaign in which residential houses could monitor their energy consumption through a campus-wide Building Dashboard web site. “We were able to see when use spiked and why,” says Match. “People were really into it.”

Match also was a CORE (“Community Respect”) resident adviser in EcoHouse for two years, part of a campus-wide effort to improve relations among students by infusing concepts of respect into their residential communities. “We did a program called ‘Ethics and Tea,’ where we brought in Nina Cummings, sexual violence prevention coordinator and university victim advocate, and discussed bystander situations,” he says. “A lot of students felt really positive about it.”

**Hasbrouck’s Cultural Mosaic**

On the edge of North Campus, Hasbrouck Apartments offers housing to graduate students, post-docs and research associates and their families. “Eighty percent are international students, so you feel like you’re in the United Nations,” says Candace Mingins ’70, Hasbrouck’s youth and family program coordinator for nearly 17 years. Many residents are from China; others hail from countries across Asia and South America.

Along with serving as a source of information about schools and child care Mingins organizes programs for Hasbrouck’s families and kids. “A lot of them are things that people can do without knowing much English, such as art or cooking.”

Since many babies are born to families at Hasbrouck, Mingins organizes weekly sing-alongs. “A lot of our programs are just to bring people together, and then they can form their own friendships and support groups,” she says. “Families are ripe for community. They need to have it for their kids. It makes Hasbrouck a really nice place.”

About 700 people live in Hasbrouck; more than 100 of them are children. “These are people from all over who are getting along and learning from each other,” she says. “It just makes me have hope for the world.”

**Fighting Food Insecurity**

While Cornell Dining has long been known for providing great food, there are always some leftovers. Rather than letting them go to waste, students formed the Food Recovery Network (FRN) to make weekly donations to area food pantries.

John Lowry ’16, spearheaded the effort after taking a course, Sustainable Lifestyles, while also working in dining services. “That class helped me appreciate the value of our leftover meals,” says Lowry, a Cornell Tradition Scholar. “Through middle school I had volunteered at my hometown food pantry and so the topic of hunger was not foreign to me. But the hunger in my hometown pales in comparison to Tompkins County where around 13,000 people go hungry on a regular basis. I learned we had the power to change that.”

Tony Kveragas, chef manager at Carl Becker House, supported the FRN’s efforts, as did Therese O’Connor, Cornell Dining’s assistant director for staff development and training and assistant director for sustainable initiatives oversight, who helped the students learn necessary protocols and acquire the needed training and equipment.

“The Food Recovery Network is a simple program that could grow and make a significant difference,” Lowry says. “With dedicated, driven volunteers, the FRN can expand to more dining locations and continue long after we have graduated.”

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Music professor Paul Merrill, drummer Curran Sinha ’17, bassist Stephanie Lozina ’16 and pianist Robert Araujo ’15 give a jazz group performance at the University Block Party on North Campus during the 2014 Move-In Weekend.

Erica Rausch ’15 and Celina Scott-Buechler ’18 portion out food in Carl Becker House that will be delivered to local recipients via the Food Recovery Network.
Profile: Angela Goscilo ’15

Most people know they’re supposed to eat more fruits and vegetables. But actually doing so can take some nudging. That’s why Angela Goscilo helped to develop the Have You Had Your Five Today? campaign during the week of March 9-13.

“We asked students to pledge to eat five cups of fruits and vegetables for each of the five days,” Goscilo says. “More than 2,800 students participated – they signed apple-shaped pledge cards that we put in all the dining locations on campus. We were able to see that the sale of fruit cups, as well as the ‘FreshTake’ salads, increased in the month of March. Which means it actually worked.”

Goscilo worked with Michele Lefebvre, RD, CDN, director of nutrition management for Cornell Dining, to devise the campaign. “It was a spinoff of last year’s ‘Five Days’ campaign, which focused on food allergies and was more staff-driven,” Goscilo says. “This year we wanted to make it more student-driven.”

A quinoa-beet burger tasting at Trillium and a recipe contest in which different chefs submitted recipes for student testing rounded out the campaign. “Students really seemed into it,” Goscilo says. “We sent out a survey afterwards, and students said they’d like to continue doing this beyond the month of March. I think we really brought awareness to fruits and vegetables on campus, and to the fact that we have a dietitian and a nutrition student staff.”

Goscilo, who in the fall will attend Tufts University for a combined masters and dietetic internship program, also helmed one of the student-led dinners on West Campus as part of the Nutritional Sciences 4880 course. “We called our event A Feast of Ice and Fire in tribute to ‘Game of Thrones,’” she says. “We featured a lot of food inspired by the show. We got to plan the entire menu, decorate the dining room and ultimately execute the event.”

Profile: Carolyn Fisher, grad student

“I really like working with undergrads,” says Carolyn Fisher, a graduate resident fellow in Alice Cook House for the 2014-15 school year. “Being a GRF allows me to be their mentor and be a resource to them. My apartment is connected to the common room, so I can just leave my door propped open and be available to anyone hanging out there.

“I was told I was assigned to this building, which is separate from the rest of the Cook House buildings, because I’m a really warm person who can make people feel welcome as part of the broad community,” she added.

To that end, Fisher arranged a series of events for her residents throughout the school year, including field trips to the Cornell Synchrotron and “Moustache Night,” for which she made moustache-themed cookies and cupcakes. A biochemistry graduate student studying the molecular basis of Alzheimer’s disease, she drew on her science background to arrange field trips to host a “flavor-tripping” party, at which students ate a small berry that altered their sense of taste. “It’s actually a biochemical signaling process, which is what I study,” she notes.

But she says the best events have come from the students themselves. “One resident wanted to do a dessert-and-discussion series; another suggested we do a spa night during finals week,” she says. “I really like empowering them to feel like they can run events they want to do.”
Yunwei "June" Xia '18 paints a fence at the Ithaca Children's Garden as part of the 2014 Pre-Orientation Service Trips.
Champions of Community Engagement

SAS Strategic Plan Objective: Create an environment that fosters an awareness of responsibility for self and community, and a commitment to public service.

Cornell’s longstanding tradition of supporting public engagement dates back to its founding as New York’s land-grant university in 1865. The Public Service Center oversees 40 student-run programs and numerous other staff-sponsored initiatives for students to get involved locally, nationally and internationally. “Last year we involved more than 8,000 students,” says Leonardo Vargas-Mendez, the center’s executive director. “These days, students are coming to Cornell having done service in high school, and they’re expecting to find opportunities here to continue that service.”

Days of Caring

In October, approximately 1,200 students took part in the 23rd annual Into The Streets, providing more than 90 non-profit agencies with volunteer labor. The Public Service Center’s largest event mobilizes students to foster social change, starting in their local Ithaca community. Through the annual Cornell Cares Day, hundreds of students and alumni give back to their communities. This year, more than 700 volunteers engaged in service projects in 37 cities across the country and in Thailand.

“It’s a great way to connect students and alumni,” Vargas-Mendez says. “You may find entire families coming for the day.”

Engaged Cornell

The Engaged Cornell initiative was launched in 2014 with a transformational $50 million gift from the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust. The 10-year initiative will promote innovation in community-engaged and real-world learning, and make those practices the hallmark of the Cornell undergraduate experience.

Susan H. Murphy ’73, Ph.D. ’94, vice president for student and academic services, emphasized the reach of the initiative in providing students with opportunities to learn through engagement with communities – local and global. “From volunteer activities to intellectual engagement to the pursuit of careers that benefit others, students’ experiences and outcomes will be transformed,” she says.

Engaged Cornell aims to create a new model for higher education in which public engagement is deeply ingrained and fully institutionalized, both inside and outside of the classroom.

With its decades of experience providing community-engaged learning experiences for students and helping students develop effective leadership skills, Student and Academic Services is a key partner in Engaged Cornell. “The idea is that in the next 10 years we’ll have 20,000 students engaged in local communities, across the state, nationally and globally,” Vargas-Mendez says.

Robinson-Appel awards honor student service projects

In April, three student teams were named winners of Robinson-Appel Humanitarian Awards, which carry $1,500 prizes to further service projects that address community social needs.

Emma Scher ’17 and Jonathan Masci ’16 were selected for their work with the Cornell University Deaf Awareness Program’s silent dinner. The group provides students with
opportunities to participate in raising awareness of the issues facing the deaf community, integrate the deaf and hearing communities, and incorporate American Sign Language into the Cornell curriculum. Lindsey Prutsman ’18 won for the Alternative Breaks-style service trip for Upward Bound students. (Upward Bound is a free college preparatory program serving high school students from low-income families.) Graduate student Shama Iyer and Casey Jarvis ’15 won for their work with the YOURS Program, their project to help children living in mobile home parks near Ithaca develop a positive self-image and goals through extracurricular programs.

Facilitated by the Public Service Center, the Robinson-Appel award was established by Cornell alumni Gerald Robinson ’54, Margot Robinson ’55, Robert Appel ’53, and Helen Appel ’55 to recognize and honor students who have been involved in community service significantly.

Relishing Reciprocity

At their best, student volunteers and the communities in which they work benefit equally from service projects. “We’re also intentional about harvesting particular learning experiences for the students,” Vargas-Mendez says, “whether through intercultural learning when working in communities that are different from their own or learning about the challenges that communities are facing and the reasons why they face them. Students learn to work in teams, how to make decisions collectively, resolve conflicts and build consensus.”

Service throughout SAS

A sampling of the many ways the division serves communities outside of Cornell:

- Off-Campus Living sponsored the BEAR (Being Engaged and Responsible) Walk to promote community between students and residents in Collegetown. Students and staff, Ithaca officials, and Cornell and Ithaca city police officers went door-to-door distributing bags of pamphlets.

- Class Councils co-sponsored a blood drive competition with the American Red Cross to determine “Which Class Bleeds the Most Red.”

- The 12th Annual Dump and Run, a Cornell/community recycling program, recovered 30 tons of discarded items and raised $52,000 for Cops, Kids & Toys, Shelter Outreach Services, Loaves & Fishes, Finger Lakes ReUse, and Cornell’s student United Way fund. Non-perishable food items left by students were donated to local food pantries.

- Greeks contributed 28,339 hours of community service and raised $334,091 through philanthropic activities.

- The Big Red women’s ice hockey team raised more than $230,000 for the Tompkins County United Way, and participated in a mentoring program in partnership with the Tompkins Girls Hockey Association.

- The men’s lacrosse team hosted its annual fundraising event for the Dream Factory of Central New York, which grants wishes to critically and chronically ill children. The two organizations also partnered with the American Red Cross to co-sponsor their 10th annual blood drive.

- The men’s hockey team and GOPiNK, a non-profit fundraising organization for breast cancer research, held an online competition that yielded over $11,000 for the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes.

- Cornell Commitment students completed 119,350 hours of service in both the local and global communities, and embarked on service-oriented trips benefiting U.S. and international communities, including the Czech Republic, Honduras, Peru, and Belize.
Profile: **Rachit Parasrampuria ’16 & Natasha Malchak ’15**

Since 1999, the Public Service Center’s Alternative Breaks program has offered more than 2,000 students an opportunity to engage in meaningful public service projects during spring break. This year more than 90 students along with 27 board members participated in a dozen collaborative projects with community agencies, including many in the New York City area.

But there’s a twist. “We aren’t a traditional volunteer organization in the sense that we actually do a lot of preparation before we go on our trips,” says Rachit Parasrampuria, who served as trip coordinator after participating the previous two years.

Starting in November, students participate in a rigorous 12-week team building and training program that teaches a set of core principles including diversity and inclusion, risk management, reciprocity and direct service that cover the causes of the social issues addressed by the partnering agencies.

“We focus a lot on leadership development,” says Parasrampuria. “From what we’ve seen in past years, good leaders make for good teams to provide effective service.”

After participating in Alternative Breaks last year, board member Natasha Malchak served as program coordinator this year. “It was rewarding to give other students those same opportunities for a meaningful, impactful experience, and that meant the world to me, to be honest,” Malchak says.

“The main focus of our program is not just those spring break days,” adds Parasrampuria. “It’s on the whole experience — when you learn about the issue and then see what happens in the real world rather than just reading about it.”

Profile: **Alexa Bakker ’15 & Ariel Smilowitz ’15**

In January, Ariel Smilowitz (below, right) and Alexa Bakker (below, left) traveled 8,500 miles to engage in a public service project in Thailand. Their trip was the capstone of the course Global Citizenship and Sustainability, led by Shorna Allred, associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources.

The students took the course in the fall and then spent three weeks in Thailand working with Mahidol University students and community partners to conduct research to better understand experiences with flooding and how to build long-term resilience and adaptation. “We had to do a lot of learning before we could do any service,” Bakker notes. “It’s a combination you often don’t have.”

Adds Smilowitz: “I’ve also been a huge proponent of engaged learning throughout my college career, and this allowed me to take what I was learning in the classroom and apply it in a professional setting.”

The Cornell students first talked with their Thai counterparts and Mahidol professors to develop research questions, then broke into groups to interview village leaders, community members, women’s group leaders and farmers to learn how they dealt with flooding in the area.

The trip had its challenges, of course. “It was really hard to establish communication before we got to Thailand, so a lot of stuff got figured out last minute rather than during the fall semester,” Smilowitz says. “That was unexpected, but those challenges made it more rewarding when everything came together the way it did.”
Big Red Accolades

From the chill of the ice in Lynah Rink to the record high temperatures on the River Thames in England, Big Red student-athletes once again proved that exceptional students and high-level athletics can go hand in hand.

Cornell won national titles in wrestling, equestrian, women’s polo, and men’s lightweight rowing during the 2014-15 school year. Three more student-athletes finished as runners-up for titles in their sports. Three teams captured Ivy League titles, and others were ranked among the top handful in their respective sports nationwide.

The lightweight rowing team completed its second consecutive unbeaten season that resulted in a national title, the program’s fifth in the last nine years. It competed in the Henley Royal Regatta in July in Henley-on-Thames, England, and advanced to the semifinals of the Temple Challenge Cup at the world’s most famous competition. Wrestling continued its surge to the top of the national charts with an Ivy-record 13th straight conference crown, a ninth straight Eastern title, and a top-five finish at the NCAA championship. Sophomore Gabe Dean won a national title at 184 pounds and classmate Brian Realbuto placed second at 157 pounds. Men’s lacrosse captured its 12th Ivy title in the last 13 seasons, and women’s polo earned its 14th U.S. Polo Association national championship. Sophomore Shana Coffey claimed an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association national title in novice fences, and senior Georgiana de Rham placed fourth in the race for the Cacchione Cup as top collegiate rider, the best-ever finish for a Cornell equestrienne.

While spending thousands of hours contributing to the betterment of the community, athletic teams not only had 24 All-Americans and six Ivy League Players of the Year, but also seven Academic All-District selections, 30 Academic All-Ivy Leaguers and six teams honored by the NCAA for posting perfect Academic Progress Report scores, which measure each team member’s continuing eligibility, retention and progress toward graduation.

Women’s ice hockey player Brianne Jenner ‘15 earned a gold medal for Canada at the 2014 Winter Olympics and was named a finalist as NCAA Woman of the Year.

Women’s ice hockey player Brianne Jenner earned a spot as a finalist as NCAA Woman of the Year, which will be awarded in October 2015 and recognizes her academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership. Jenner was a two-time ECAC Hockey and Ivy League Player of the Year and an Olympic gold medalist for Canada at the 2014 Sochi Games. Men’s lacrosse player Connor Buczek became the fourth Cornellian to win the Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award, which recognizes excellence in focusing on the total student-athlete and the ability to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

The Big Red Institute celebrated its second anniversary, continuing to build comprehensive leadership and assist in character development. Led by Jen Baker, assistant director of athletics for administration, director of the Big Red Leadership Institute and a former Navy pilot and entrepreneur, hundreds of Cornell student-athletes already have had their personal experiences enriched through the program. The fundamental goal is to take great student-athletes and make them even better as they prepare to enter their post-Cornell careers.
Strength in Unity

In the fall we welcomed a new sorority to campus, Phi Mu, and three fraternity and sorority chapters returned this past year: Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Spring new member recruitment remained strong, with 1,376 bids extended across our 64 fraternities and sororities. Overall membership encompasses one-third of Cornell’s undergraduate student population.

The strength of Cornell’s Greek community is evident in its ability to join together for positive change around difficult issues. The annual Leaders Retreat in August, involving about 70 chapter presidents and Tri-Council executive board members, focused on working collaboratively to address campus-wide issues of diversity and inclusion.

The Tri-Council, the alliance of three self-governing councils: Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Council (PHC), and Multicultural Greek Letter Council (MGLC), gathered the community in March to discuss the racial incident at Oklahoma State University. Discussion centered on Cornell’s campus climate, racism, and ways in which student leaders can make the Cornell and Greek communities more inclusive. The students issued a joint statement against the perpetuation of racism and embracing the meaningful exchange of ideas across all cultures in our community.

“We are having these hard conversations about how to be inclusive,” says Andrea Kim ’16, president of the MGLC. “Even if we feel uncomfortable, we are still having these dialogues. At the end of the day, we are each other’s family.”

“By asking the hard questions, motivating and being motivated by our incredible peers, we work cohesively to truly propel change,” says Kendall Grant ’16, president of the PHC. “Our voices are heard more loudly when we align our values and work together to build new cultural norms.”

Connor Riser ’16, president of the IFC, agrees. “Although our councils are unique, we are all members of a community based on values. In this way we are able to tackle these problems best together by applying our values to our daily lives.”

The IFC spoke out against sexual assault with a video and passed unanimously a resolution requiring each fraternity to host approved in-house member programming on sexual assault awareness and alcohol safety prior to hosting registered social events in the fourth quarter.

IFC and Haven, the umbrella for student organizations supporting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) students, co-sponsored a panel to cover issues including the recruitment process, new member education, fraternity living and daily life as a member of the Greek community “geared from an LGBT perspective,” according to James Winebrake ’15, vice president of recruitment for IFC. “Our vision for the future of Cornell’s fraternities is a vision of inclusiveness and constant improvement” he says.

Service to the greater good continues to be a foundational value. More than 300 Greek students went to 10 different locations for Day of Demeter, an annual day of service. (Photo provided by the Office of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living)
A three-part model is at the core of Cornell Career Services’ (CCS) approach to preparing students for life in the working world.

“We help students learn to manage their careers over a lifetime, regardless of what career direction they want to pursue,” says executive director Rebecca Sparrow, MILR ‘86.

“Understand Yourself, ‘Explore Options,’ and ‘Take Action’: these are the fundamentals,” Sparrow says. “When we present this model to students, we talk about it as an approach they will use every time they change jobs.”

Career Services in Barnes Hall is open to all students (except those in the professional schools) and complements the work of colleagues in the colleges. “It’s important for students to have access to career advisers regardless of their college, because their career interests might not necessarily align with the expertise in their college’s office,” Sparrow says.

“In recent years we’ve expanded our work with graduate students,” Sparrow reports. “One adviser focuses half time on graduate students and half on international students and those interested in international work. We also serve some alumni – particularly when they’re applying to med school, and law and grad school.”

The center facilitates experiential learning opportunities. “It’s important that students spend time in the workplace shadowing alumni or friends of the university to understand what the world of work is like,” Sparrow says.

Just as important is helping students develop their networking skills. “Students can find it intimidating to network in person, so we try to create opportunities for them to have some successes like interacting with alumni at a homecoming event,” Sparrow says.

Sparrow finds sometimes that students who are most in need of career support can be reluctant to come into the office. “Perhaps they think they have to know what they want to do, to come talk to us,” she says. “But career confusion is normal and understandable. We really want to address that confusion and help students figure out a path.”

“Students are preparing for the life they’ll live after they graduate,” Sparrow adds. “Assisting with that preparation does not mean we’re becoming too vocational. We must talk about careers, because everyone is going to have one. We have to own that, and we have to be proud that Cornell helps our graduates launch their careers.”
Division of Student and Academic Services

Income By Source (in thousands)

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**Total resources available** $263,230

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**Total expenditures** $263,230

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**Total expenditures** $263,230

Note: FY15 includes The Cornell Store and Cornell Print Services

Find out more at sas.cornell.edu and scl.cornell.edu/who-we-are/fundraising-initiatives
Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We're an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

Executive editor: Diane Kubarek, senior director of communications, Student and Academic Services
Writing: Jim Catalano, Jeremy Hartigan, Diane Kubarek
Copy editing: Holly Hartigan, Diane Lebo Wallace
Design: Chad O'Shea and University Communications
Photography by Cornell University Photography, unless otherwise noted
Produced and printed by Cornell Print Services on recycled paper

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