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Spring 2020 Newsletter



From our President --

Classmates, welcome to our second electronic newsletter. We want to keep you informed and connected as we move into the new decade and toward our 60th (diamond) reunion. Remember to save the date, June 9-12, 2022.

We will continue to use email for many communications, so please make sure that your email address is up to date. Contact [Chuck Bunting](#) for information and to make appropriate updates.

Class Dues notices went out on-line in late January. Paying your Class Dues is essential for maintaining the Class infrastructure. Our dues support specific Class initiatives and are separate from gifts to the university. Paying Class Dues also gives you exclusive access to a reduced rate on a subscription to the award-winning Cornell Alumni Magazine. It is important to pay your [Class Dues](#).

When you pay your dues, please consider adding a donation to our [Class Gift Fund](#). As you know, the CGF has provided many memorable gifts to Cornell. The Class of 1962 Baseball Scoreboard stands proudly over Hoy Field and will do so for the next fifteen years. We have continued to support the key Class legacy gift, The Class of 1962 Fund for Photography at the Johnson Museum of Art; contributions through 2019 total \$59,450.

It is time to talk about the final disposition of our Class treasury. Cornell has asked us to develop a disposition plan for the overall Class treasury with a signed Letter of Intent in place prior to our 70th Reunion. The intent of the Class Council is to have a disposition plan defined by our 60th Reunion and submitted for an approval vote at that time. The focus of current Council discussions on the disposition is the Class of 1962 Photography Fund at the Johnson Museum of Art.

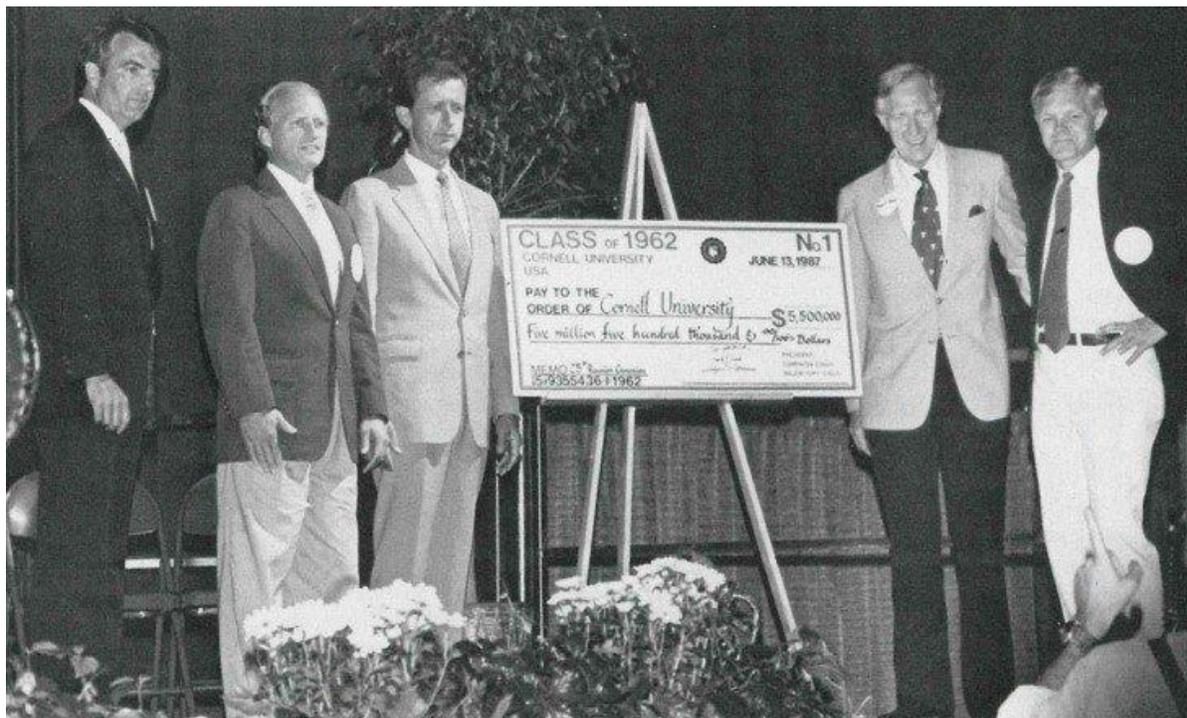
Please advise of any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Good Health and Happiness in 2020.

[Neil Schilke](#), President

Honorary Classmate Frank Rhodes Passes Away at 93

As this newsletter was being prepared, we learned that President Emeritus Frank H.T. Rhodes had passed away on February 3 in Bonita Springs, Florida. He was 93. Frank Rhodes didn't arrive at Cornell until 15 years after we departed as undergrads, but he was a very engaged president for 18 years of our development as an alumni class, and classmates had many good times with him, both during his presidency through 1995 and via some of the more than two dozen Cornell Adult University trips he joined through 2010.



Frank Rhodes is shown accepting our 25-year reunion campaign proceeds of \$5.5 million from the class team of Frank Quirk, George Slocum, Neil Schilke and Mike Duesing.

During his entire Cornell life, Frank Rhodes was the heart, soul, and voice extraordinaire of the University. Frank had an impact on many of us and provided us with lasting memories of his unique and special talents and personality. Some of those memories are shared below in words and pictures:

“I remember Frank Rhodes as one of the most elegant men I have ever met.” - *Evelyn Eskin*

“His comments were as special as his lectures (on a CAU trip), all with the addition of his erudite speech! Frank was one-of-a-kind! He knew so many of us by our first names, even my Dartmouth husband Pete.” - *Ruth Zimmerman Bleyler*

“Frank and Rosa came to our farm. It was our pleasure to show them around; they were fascinated by one of the sheep, a white sheep with large black spots. We named him ‘Frankie’ and every time we saw Frank and Rosa, Frank would ask how Frankie was doing. Frank and Rosa were a wonderful model couple for all of us.” - *Nancy Williams Clark*

“What I most remember about Frank was what an extraordinary public speaker he was. He would step up to the lectern in front of a huge crowd and speak on any number of subjects without a note in sight. Time after time, I witnessed him capturing his audience with wit, insights and erudition, never less than fascinating. He was mesmerizing.” - *Judy Prenske Rich*

“The Cornell Fund used to hold a breakfast meeting (on Trustee-Council Weekend) at which each reunion class would announce its goal for the next year. One year, I announced that our class had set a \$20 million goal, based on the fact that we had just secured rights to Frank’s forthcoming book on public speaking! – *Neil Schilke*

On a CAU cruise of the Aegean Sea in 2008, my wife Ro and I were part of a group that followed Frank to the top of the Nea Kamina Volcano near Santorini to hear his lecture on the geology of the region. At the final dinner, I said that he was the only professor for whom people would climb a volcano to hear a lecture.” – *Schilke*



During a 2008 CAU trip in and around the Aegean, Frank posed with some '62 folks. From left to right: Neil Schilke, Rhodes, Ro Schilke, Betsy Hart and Frank Quirk. They're standing on a hilltop in Santorini, with adjacent islands in the background.

"I had a memorable conversation with him after his lecture (on the Aegean trip) about how the earth broke into its current forms and place. I asked him as a scientist who has studied (and taught about) the formation and changes in the earth whether he believed in God. He said he did. He said there were just so many things that he didn't understand, there had to be some higher being." –
Fred Hart



During the same 2008 CAU trip in the Aegean Sea, Frank Rhodes was prevented by now-forgotten circumstances from presenting a scheduled on-ship lecture. Not to be easily denied, he went to the ship's bridge and used its PA system to educate and entertain. Note, as usual, the absence of any speaking notes.

"In 1980, my department colleagues and I organized and conducted a colloquium at Princeton to honor Engineering Dean Emeritus Solomon Cady Hollister for his world-class lifetime accomplishments as an engineer, designer, educator and public servant. Frank was one of the keynote speakers. He gave a remarkably dazzling speech, filled with wonderful personal details and friendly recollections. I remember the speech, but what also sticks with me, proudly for Cornell, is how our fellow ivy colleagues from Princeton raved about Frank and the impact and skill of his presentation." - *John Abel, Professor Emeritus*

My wife and our classmate, Lynne Snyder Abel '62, was Associate Dean for Education in the Arts college for 25 years. She achieved a reputation for effective interactions across the university with faculty, other deans and the administration in Day Hall. When Lynne died in 2006, the only person from the Day Hall administration who wrote me a message of condolence was Frank, and it was handwritten and personal. I retain it and have just re-read it." - *Abel*

"My wife Maddy '65 and I were in New York City shopping at Saks many years before there were cell phones with cameras. We spotted Frank and Rosa

Rhodes shopping in the same department. Maddy said, let's get a photo with them. We asked and Frank graciously said sure. I had them standing with Maddy when a saleswoman came over and said we could not take a photo in the store. When she left, Frank said, let's go outside and take the photo and we all went out and took the photo. He was never one to respect silly rules when it came to Cornelians." – *Phil Handler*

"In 2007, I was invited to the Cornell Club of Sarasota-Manatee's 50th Anniversary party. I was chatting with a lovely older couple. I told them my name was Mike---they said they were 'Frank and Rosa.' For many years they were members of our club. And when Frank was invited to speak at one of our luncheons the place was packed---because he was the very best extempore speaker I've ever heard. He always made 'The Hill' come alive." – *Mike Eisgrau*

"In the fall of 1996 our youngest son, Mark, was with us on Cape Cod preparing to leave from Boston for a Fulbright fellowship to Germany. He accompanied us to a Cornell function where we introduced him to Frank. As you know Frank met his beloved Rosa while he was on a Fulbright in the United States and the importance of this international exchange of scholars never diminished for him. He and Mark had a lively and lengthy conversation about Mark's studies and plans, so typical of Frank's complete focus on young scholars. Some years later, in the garden department of a Home Depot in Naples, Florida, Frank and Rosa and I bumped into one another over a pot of thyme. I had been with the Rhodes at large functions, but always at a distance since our conversation on Cape Cod. I was amazed that he remembered my name and meeting our son. After the 'how are you?,' we discussed the relative sun requirements of various herbs for their balcony as I grappled with my disbelief at such a remarkable memory and Frank and Rosa's modesty. Truly one of a kind and an enormous loss for Cornell and humanity." – *Beth Newell Spicka*

"Without question, Frank was one of a mere handful of research university leaders in the second half of the 20th Century that worked to define, support and enlarge the role of American higher-ed research institutions. Cornell was obviously a huge beneficiary of his leadership. He wrote a small book, *The Creation of the Future* in which he captures his thinking about the role of research institutions and the importance of the American Model of peer-reviewed research and competitive higher education. I have offered the book to several friends who are in leadership at colleges and universities other than Cornell, and all report back on how much they valued the thoughts contained therein." – *Steve Ashley, Trustee Emeritus*

For me, one of the defining characteristics of Frank Rhodes was his genuine interest in learning more about the person with whom he was speaking. He made you feel as though you were the most important person in the room and the one whom he had really come to see even though multiple hundreds were gathered about. This was genuine and his communications always had feeling." – *Ashley*

Even in retirement, Frank had tremendous influence at Cornell. He worked with, and was a source of advice and counsel to, five Board Chairs – Austin Kiplinger, Steve Weiss, Harold Tanner, Pete Meinig – and more recently, Bob Harrison. He was that "go to" person when perspective knowledge and wisdom

were required to think through the issues of the day. The same, obviously, applied to the Presidents that succeeded Frank. This is something that is very unusual today as the tenure of University Presidents has become shorter and shorter, and upon stepping down – they frequently move on to other opportunities that remove them from the campus. For Frank, Cornell was not only his professional home for many years but also his academic home. He continued to write books into his 90s – I am told that the writing was done in longhand on long pages of yellow foolscap.” – Ashley



Frank was an honorary member of our class. At our 25th reunion, he did his usual eloquent job of recognizing the Class of 1962 for its accomplishments and for its support of Cornell. He emphasized that our class was really unique because we graduated at the junction of the past with the start of the digital revolution. He actually labeled us "THE" class. We named him an honorary member and presented him with an official Class of 1962 jacket. He's wearing the jacket in the image above, which shows Frank presenting a photo to George Slocum, Neil Schilke and Frank Quirk.

And so we bid farewell to our Cornell President, our friend and our "classmate."

Here's a link to the detailed death notice outlining his family and career.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?n=frank-rhodes&pid=195423526>

Classmate Marc Gerber: Young (Old?) Man with a Horn

You probably know that old question: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice." Well Marc Gerber, our very able Class Treasurer since 2012, finally made it there in 1989. For besides being an accomplished civil engineer and home builder, Marc is a whiz on the trumpet. In fact down in Naples, Florida where Marc lives, he plays with no less than six bands---and does so about eight times a week.

Oh yes---the Carnegie Hall story is a Cornell story. It seems that in 1989 the university rented Carnegie to honor music professor Maurice Stith with a concert by the Symphonic Band. Alumni were invited to join the band onstage. Of course Marc brought his trumpet along, stood behind the 1st trumpet player, and hit a "not very high" note. As Marc tells it: "The look on the first trumpet player's face indicated he thought Methuselah hit that note". Marc was 48.

That's just one vignette in a life of hard work and success that began---where else?---in Brooklyn in 1941. Marc's family moved to Long Island in 1947. It was from there that he went to Cornell. Marc remembers that, from a very early age, his maternal grandfather, a builder of public works projects, had pushed him to become a civil engineer. Though he might have had his doubts at first, as he learned more about the field he knew CE was the right fit for him---as was Cornell, with a great engineering school and a great marching band.



You may remember Cortland State College, 13 miles north of Ithaca. Marc knew the road well--It led to his girlfriend Jan---whom he married "about 20 minutes" after he graduated Cornell. They had two daughters. Becoming a builder of homes was not easy. After working for Turner Construction Marc struck out on his own. But it took seven years of struggle before his fledgling business took off. He started out with one lot in Scarsdale, New York. And things got much better from there. For 39 years the family home base was Mount Kisco, New York, where Marc played in a 17-piece swing band for 17 years. In 2009 they moved to Florida.

But what about that young (old?) man with a horn? After doing "not so well" on the piano, and distorting his front teeth trying to emulate Benny Goodman on the clarinet, his dentist father told him to take up the trumpet so his teeth would fall back in line. That did the trick---for his teeth and his lifelong hobby. Marc has played in high school marching and symphonic bands, made the Cornell marching band (a scary audition), and played in the pep, symphonic and Dixieland bands on "The Hill"---all the while trying to get that civil engineering diploma.

Marc may be an accomplished trumpeter---but he is also, as treasurer, a great asset to the Class of '62. And for the past seven years he's kept our class finances on track---providing up-to-date reports and good stewardship of our funds which, all these many years later, are quite substantial and have been put to good use.

For Marc Gerber, hard work, business success and music have melded into the good life as he, and we, approach our 60th Reunion. Says he: "I am living a dream in my retirement that was beyond my wildest expectations".

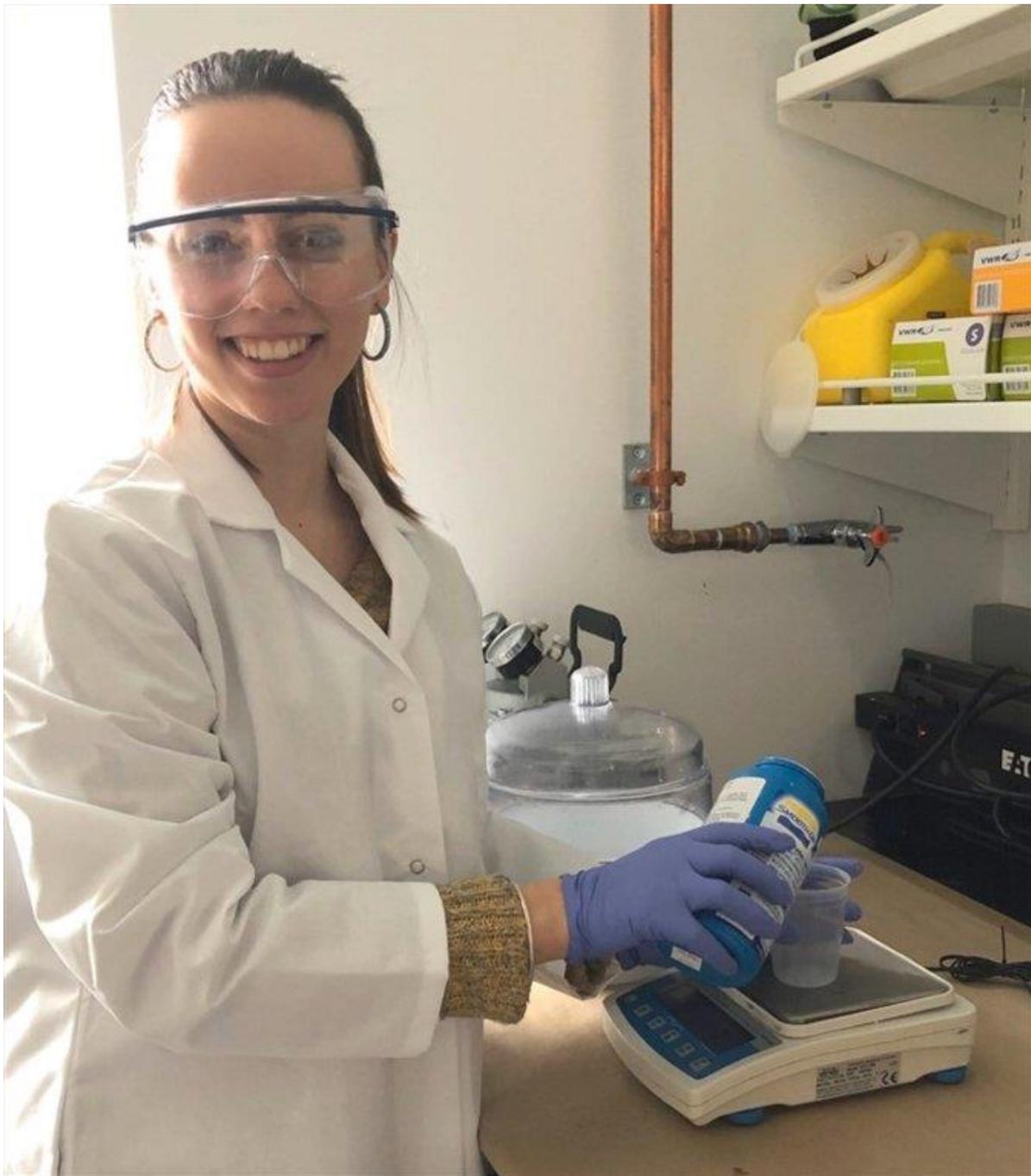
Anja Samardzija Receives a Third Year of our Rhodes Fellowship

Anja Samardzija, a junior engineer focusing on data science, has been selected for a third year of our Rhodes Tradition Fellowship. After three terms of basic studies, a year ago she joined Prof. Rob Shepherd's organic robotics lab, in which 36 researchers from undergrads to post-docs are working to develop through organic chemistry soft materials suitable for use in robots. Anja spent summer 2019 in Ithaca to get deeply into the lab's work. Many of the lab's opportunities are at tiny scale and relate to medical applications. It's fascinating stuff, and more info is available via the lab website: <https://orl.mae.cornell.edu/index.html>.

Anja is Serbian by birth and a US citizen as well. She first came to the US as her father earned a PhD at Rutgers, and she elected to stay in New Jersey when her immediate family returned to Serbia during her high-school years. She remained to seek a US higher education. Cornell was her "dream school" and she enrolled in August 2017. After a freshman year on North Campus and a sophomore year on West Campus, Anja is living on Linden Avenue in Collegetown, and planning to remain there as a senior.

Anja plans to use her lab experience as a foundation for graduate study in digital signal processing, which addresses the steps by which information of any sort can be transformed into useful data. As she puts it "Most of my interest is working in the intersection of robotics, image processing and machine learning." (Side note: It's amazing how the boundaries between the legacy engineering fields have become more porous as technology has advanced.)

Anja's thank-you letter to the class (via this link [Anja's Thank You Letter](#)) outlines more of her activities and expresses her thanks to our class for the fellowship and its \$4,000 stipend.



Anja is preparing a silicone solution for use in an experiment that integrates fungi and robotics. She says “The goal of this project is to utilize the power of previously unexplored natural resources for technological advancements.” Further detail awaits the publication of the planned paper.

The Class Gift Fund: A Focus on Photography

The Class Gift Fund (CGF) has been underwriting small but exceptional projects since its creation in 1967. Comprised of contributions solicited as a separate check-off when paying Class dues, the CGF has provided about \$145,000 to date for the Hoy Field Baseball Scoreboard, Class of 1962 Photography Fund at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, a College of Arts and Sciences Lecture Series, Honor with Books, a grant to the Lab of Ornithology, and the Frank and Rosa Rhodes Class of 1962 Tradition Fellowships. (Additional specified gifts from classmates have significantly enhanced the Scoreboard and Tradition Fellowships projects.)

Among these special CGF projects, the Class of 1962 Photography Fund (Photo Fund) at the Johnson Art Museum stands out as a class gift project that will not only endure, but has already secured our legacy. With a modest gift from the CGF of \$500, the Photo Fund was created in 1977 as a vehicle for purchasing fine-art images for a class photography collection at the Museum. Those council members probably never dreamed of how distinguished our collection would eventually become as a result of an initial acquisition of three notable photographs. Since then, the breath and repute of our collection has been remarkable. Currently comprised of 28 outstanding historic and contemporary photographs by distinguished and acclaimed photographers, including Edward Steichen, Lotte Jacobi, Andreas Feininger, Bruce Davidson, and Gordon Parks. (See: emuseum.cornell.edu Search the Collections, Keyword Search: Class of 1962 Photography.)

Our photo collection is used throughout the University as a teaching tool for students and public audiences, is exhibited at other museums and schools, and has served as a catalyst for new photography initiatives at the Museum, including an endowed chair, Curator of Photography. Moreover, it is the only class-supported photography collection at the Museum making it unique among alumni projects at that institution. In recognition of its importance, the Museum published a brochure in 2015 highlighting our collection and its benefit to the museum. (See: cornellclassof62.org, Archives: Johnson Museum Brochure.) A Handbook of the Collections, a 352-page overview of the Johnson Museum's collections published in 2018, includes a photo by Frederick Sommer purchased by our Photo Fund.

With a total investment of almost \$60,000, the monetary value of the collection has grown exponentially. A few years ago, Swann Auction Galleries, an international auction house known for its sales of acclaimed photographs, advertised the sale of a collotype by 19th C photographer Eadweard Muybridge in the *New Yorker Magazine*. Estimated value: \$30,000-45,000! A collotype by Eadweard Muybridge was one of those three photographs the Fund purchased in 1978!

New images are carefully and thoughtfully selected and discussed with an eye towards what will enhance our collection and the Museum's needs as a whole. Going forward, all new purchases will be in honor of our upcoming reunions. At our 55th Reunion, the featured speakers Stephanie Wiles, former Johnson Museum Director, and Nancy Green, the senior curator at the Museum who has been instrumental in helping us to build our collection, presented two newly purchased images by Albert Renger-Patzch and Minor White, among others, and discussed the value and importance of our collection to the university. Photos by acclaimed British photographer John Davies and Hungarian avant-garde photographer Ada Fodor have already been added to our collection in honor of our 60th. They are shown below.



John Davies. "Wardsend Cemetery, Hillsborough, Sheffield." 1981. Gelatin silver print

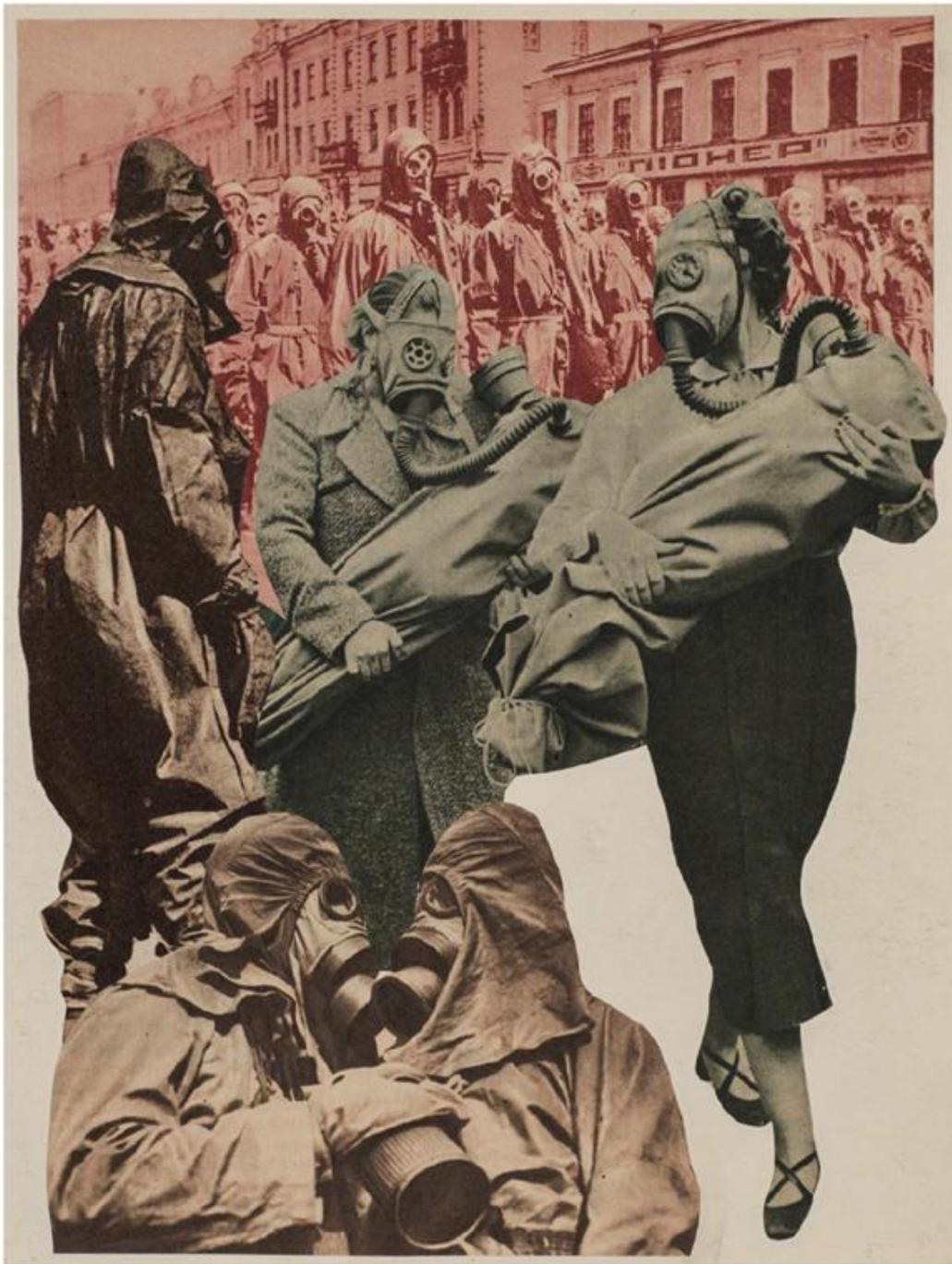


Foto Ada (Elemérmé Marsovsky/Ada Ackerman). "Untitled." c. early 1930s-1940s. Unique vintage halftone collage.

And Still More About Giving.....

In addition to our wonderful CGF projects, our Class has outdone itself in annual giving, as well. Incredibly, the Class's lifetime giving to the university is \$208,627,494. For the year ending June, 2019, we raised \$7,146,655!! And, while we are patting ourselves on the back, let's give a shout-out to classmates who recently gave two extraordinary major gifts.

The Samuel C. Fleming Molecular Engineering Laboratory



Cornell Engineering

A suite of state-of-the-art molecular engineering laboratories is being constructed inside Olin Hall, thanks to a \$10 million gift from Sam '62 and Nancy Fleming. The gift will establish the Samuel C Fleming Molecular Engineering Lab, with 7,300 square feet of new laboratory space on the second and third floors of Olin Hall's north wing. The space will be used for research on drug design, drug delivery, biomedical diagnostics and the discovery of new materials." Sam, who died last May, earned a '62 B.Ch.E. and an MBA from Harvard in 1967. He served as a Cornell trustee, a life overseer of Weill Cornell Medicine, and a presidential councilor. The Flemings have also funded Fleming Lecture Hall and new graduate fellowships in chemical and biomolecular engineering.

The Mui Ho Fine Arts Library in Rand Hall



Jason Koski

The new Fine Arts Library is the result of a \$6 million gift from Mui Ho ('62 BS, Ag & Life Sciences; '66 BArchitcture). She has had an impressive career with her own architectural firm in Berkeley, CA and as a professor in the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley.

According to the *Cornell Chronicle*, "Rand Hall has been transformed to house the Mui Ho Fine Arts Library, a state-of-the-art facility on its top two floors with massed stacks of books as its centerpiece, digital resources, and voluminous reading and study space. Along with 8,000 square feet of shop space for the College of Architecture, Art and Planning occupying the first floor, the 107-year-old industrial building has been entirely rehabilitated."

Class Council

President Neil Schilke	2022 Reunion Chair Frank Quirk	Class Council John Abel
Immediate Past President Ruth Zimmerman Bleyler	2022 Reunion Co-Chairs Nancy Williams Clark	Stephen Ashley
Vice President/Historian Judith Prenske Rich	Don Juran	Cathy Van Buren Bomberger
Membership Chair Nancy Williams Clark	Annual Fund Ruth Hotzapfel Fortkamp	Charlotte Jones Collister
Treasurer Marc Gerber	Newsletter Mike Eisgrau	Mike Duesing
Secretary Alan Flaherty	Website Community Manager Chuck Bunting	Evelyn R. Eskin
		Phil Handler
		Fred Hart
		Myra Maloney Hart
		Jonathan Hinebauch
		Katie Simmons Kaufman

Class Correspondent Jan McClayton Crites		Richard Levine John Lowrie Byron McCalmon Nancy Schlegel Meinig John Neuman Stephen Ploscowe Hal Sieling Richard Sommer Beth Newell Spicka Alex Vollmer Bob Wood
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Cornell Class of 1962 Website

Anja's Thank You Letter

Academic Year 2019-2020

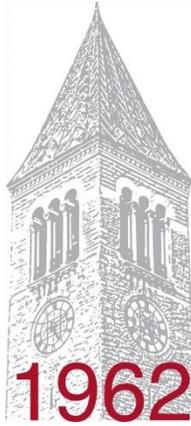
Dear Class of 1962,

My name is Anja Samardzija and I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Frank and Rosa Rhodes - Class of 1962 Cornell Tradition Fellowship for the third time. I am a junior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering and minoring in Robotics with the intention of going to graduate school after completing my undergraduate education. Most of my interest is in working in the intersection of robotics, image processing, and machine learning. I am from a small beach town in New Jersey where I have lived since junior year of high school. My senior year of high school, my family decided to move back to my home country Serbia. As only a senior in high school, I decided to stay in New Jersey and live all alone in order to pursue a higher education in the USA. I decided to attend college in America because the research opportunities are far greater than the ones available in Europe. My sacrifices paid off when I was admitted to my dream school - Cornell Engineering. I have absolutely loved my time at Cornell so far. I have met friends for life and opened my mind to new ideas and opportunities. Cornell has served as an extremely enlightening and motivating environment for me and I am forever grateful for people such as you that allow me to continue my education here. In return, I try to give to the university's community by being involved in various activities. This will be my third semester serving as the co-president of the Cornell Tradition Student Advisory Committee. My duties in this role include coordinating campus and community service events, holding weekly meetings with the committee, as well as serving as a sounding board member for the program's office staff. I love serving through this role as it constantly keeps me connected with Cornell Tradition and allows me to have an impact on how the program grows. In addition to holding a campus leadership position and taking 20 academic credits, I work over 12 hours a week. Since January, I have been working as a research assistant in the Mechanical Engineering lab - Organic Robotics Lab where I am working on a research project in the intersection of biology and robotics. Working in this lab has been an exceptionally interesting and academically eye-opening experience for me. In addition to being a lab assistant, I also work as a Course Assistant for Calculus I and II. My responsibilities include holding weekly office hours in which I help students with their math problems as well as grade their homework.

Please feel free to contact me by email: as2756@cornell.edu .

Once again, thank you very much for your fellowship. I am truly honored and grateful to be chosen as the recipient of your award.

Sincerely,
Anja Samardzija



[Manage](#) your e-mail preferences from your volunteer organization.

Class of 1962
130 E. Seneca Street, Suite 400
Ithaca, New York 14850
<http://alumni.cornell.edu>