Dr. Laurie Glimcher named Weill Cornell dean

NEW YORK — Dr. Laurie Glimcher, one of the nation’s leading physician-scientists and researchers, has been named Cornell’s provost for medical affairs and the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean at Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan effective Jan. 1, 2012, Cornell President David Skorton announced Sept. 7.

Skorton said that Glimcher is the ideal choice to lead Weill Cornell at a time of unprecedented growth as the medical school expands its biomedical research enterprise in New York City through the construction of a new research building that will double its existing research space.

Glimcher will succeed Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., who has served as dean since 1997 and will become co-chairman of the board of overseers for the college and vice president of Cornell.

Glimcher is the Irene Heinz Given Professor of Immunology at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she directs the Division of Biological Sciences program, and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, where she headed one of the top immunology programs in the world.

Her pioneering research laboratory at Harvard is known for its many discoveries, ranging from the T-bet transcription factor, which regulates a variety of immune functions, to the Schnurri-3 adapter protein that controls adult bone mass. And her clinical expertise has helped position her as a leader in translational medicine, taking path-breaking discoveries from concept to clinic, often in partnership with the private sector.

Glimcher’s service with the biopharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she is the longest-standing member of the corporate board of directors and of its audit committee, has afforded her extensive experience in management oversight, corporate governance, corporate finance, accountability, leadership and the practical aspects of running a business and bringing therapeutics to the marketplace. She also serves on the board of directors of the Waters Corp. and served in the same capacity at NDCHealth Corp.

Glimcher received her B.A., magna cum laude, in 1972 from Harvard University and her M.D., cum laude, in 1976 from Harvard Medical School.

The full announcement is at cornell.edu/statements/2011/glimcher-new-wcmc-dean.cfm.

As dean, Dr. Laurie Glimcher will lead Weill Cornell’s expansion of medical research.

Debate to tackle impact of Sept. 11 attacks

Was the United States’ response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, appropriate? Where do we stand today? And what is 9/11’s impact on world politics?

These questions will be discussed at “9/11 @ 10: What Have We Learned?” as the 2011 Lund Critical Debate, Monday, Sept. 12, at 4:30 p.m., in Statler Hall Auditorium.

Nicolas Van De Walle, professor of government and former Einaudi Center director, will moderate panelists Peter Beinart, associate professor of journalism and political science at the City University of New York; Jonathan Kirshner, Cornell professor of government and director of the Repp Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies; and Stephen P. Rosen, the Beton Michael Kaneb Professor of National Security and Military Affairs at Harvard University.

 Admission is free and open to the public.

Organized by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, the annual Lund Critical Debate Series is part of the Einaudi Center’s Foreign Policy Initiative.

Stephanie Owens to direct Cornell Council for the Arts

Stephanie Owens, a visiting assistant professor of art in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP), has been named director of the Cornell Council for the Arts (CCA) for a three-year term effective July 1, 2011, Provost Kent Fuchs has announced.

“Stephanie Owens fits the need and the time perfectly,” said AAP Dean Kent Kleinman, who chaired the CCA search committee. “She has the vision, energy, collegiality, creativity and broad conception of the arts required to lead the CCA in exciting and new directions.”

Owens will oversee CCA initiatives including a grant program to fund projects by Cornell artists, and a large-scale collaborative annual event or exhibition commencing in spring 2012, a significant addition to the CCA’s mission, intended to bring national and international attention to the arts at Cornell.

Owens said the annual event model fosters “aesthetic research and scholarship [and] getting Cornell’s vision of the arts into the world.”

Owens came to Cornell in 2008 and teaches visual culture and digital media. She will have an exhibition in October in Habell Gallery, “Crowd Sourced Condo,” and is curating a related events series, “SELFn (the networked SELF),” as a two-week public project.

The CCA has an annual budget of $225,000 supported by the Office of the Provost, and will announce details of its 2011-12 small grants program in the next few days.

— Daniel Aloi
**New team established to handle Title IX concerns**

A team of Cornell administrators has been established to oversee the university’s efforts to address faculty, staff and student concerns related to sexual harassment, sexual assault and other actions that fall within the university’s obligations under Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination based on gender in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

As Cornell’s new Title IX coordinator, Lynette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president for inclusion and workforce diversity, will oversee the university’s policies and procedures related to Title IX law developments; ensure communication of those procedures to students, faculty and staff; coordinate the creation of educational materials and training for the campus community; and monitor all other aspects of the university’s Title IX compliance.

**Tickets on sale for Employee Celebration**

Tickets are on sale for the fall Employee Celebration for staff, faculty, retirees and their families to be held Oct. 1. Highlights include the Big Red football game against Wagner College, beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the CU Community Dinner, faculty, retirees and their families to be held Oct. 1.

**Track and Field**

After advancing to the finals of the 1,500-meter race at the IAAF World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Cornell alumna Morgan Uceny ’07 put herself in terrific position for a medal or even better before being tripped by another athlete with fewer than 600 meters remaining. Uceny was knocked to the track and effectively out of the race but managed to pick herself up and finish 10th in 4:19.71. Uceny’s season continue as the Diamond League series, which she currently leads, concludes later this month.

**Schedule**

Check scores and learn more about upcoming sports events at www.cornellbigred.com.
Mary Jacobus returns as M.H. Abrams visiting professor

Professor Emerita Mary Jacobus has been named the M.H. Abrams Distinguished Visiting Professor for 2011-12.

Jacobus is teaching an upper-level undergraduate course this fall, Fiction, Faction and War: Enlightenment to 9/11. In the spring, she will offer a graduate seminar focusing on psychoanalytic, phenomenological and philosophical approaches to writing about visual art.

She also will present a public lecture (topic not yet announced) Nov. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall.

Jacobus taught at Cornell from 1980 until 2000, holding the John Wendell Anderson Chair of English and Women's Studies from 1989 to 2000. In 2000, she returned to the United Kingdom as the Grace 2 Professor of English at the University of Cambridge, where she is also a Churchill College professorial fellow. Jacobus also has been director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities since 2006.

She has written widely on literature, feminism, psychoanalysis and visual culture, and her current work is on the artist Cy Twombly. Her work is literary and interdisciplinary. She has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Art History Research Centre Foundation.

The M.H. Abrams Distinguished Visiting Professorship was established with a gift from the late Stephen H. Weiss ‘57, former chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees, in honor of Abrams, the renowned professor emeritus of English, author of “The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition” and founding editor of “The Norton Anthology of English Literature.”

CALS International Programs is on the ground in Bangladesh

Cornell collaborations in Bangladesh are helping the South Asian republic combat climate change and develop a strong, self-sufficient agricultural sector, according to the country’s prime minister.

Sheikh Hasina commended Cornell’s support and expressed a desire for long-term, fruitful engagement in enhancing the sustainable income of resource-poor farmers in the region, during a meeting with representatives from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).

Ronnie Coffman, director of CALS International Programs, led a delegation to Dhaka Aug. 17 to meet with Hasina and other high-level government officials, including Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Forests and Environment Hasan Mahmud and Ambassador M. Ziauddin.

Chowdhury had visited Cornell in June to encourage continued collaborations to advance horticulture development in southern regions of Bangladesh prone to stress factors triggered by climate change, particularly drought and saline tolerance.

Cornell’s involvement in the region goes back more than a decade.

With support from funding agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the government of Bangladesh, Cornell’s International Programs has been intensively engaged with the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) for the last 12 years.

Much of the focus has been in the application of biotechnology to improve capacity and engage in crop improvement. BARI also took the initiative to mitigate the risk of Ug99 in their wheat lines with support from the Cornell-based Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat project, by training Bangladesh scientists and testing Bangladesh wheat varieties in Njoro, Kenya.

“Bangladesh, one of the world’s most populous countries, faces numerous challenges related to population density and food insecurity, but there is ample reason for hope,” Coffman said.

The agriculture sector of the economy, which contributes 20 percent of the GDP and employs 50 percent of the people in Bangladesh, has been expanding at 4 percent annually, outstripping population growth, which is at 1.4 percent. The country has also achieved near self-sufficiency in the production of its dominant food staple, rice.

Cornell has worked closely with BARI scientists on such initiatives as Bt brinjal (eggplant) and late blight resistant potato and will continue to work with BARI to enhance access to stress-tolerant fruits and vegetables, Coffman said.

The partnership will also provide opportunities for students from Bangladesh to pursue their exposure at Cornell as part of their education in Bangladesh partner institutions, he added.

— Linda McCandless, CALS International Programs

AARP once again names Cornell a top employer

Cornell is one of the top places to work for people over age 50, placing second among 50 employers, according to the rankings released by AARP Sept. 7. Scripps Health received top ranking.

Included on the top 50 list every year that the award has been given since 2005, Cornell received AARP’s highest ranking in 2008 and 2009, the only employer in the organization’s history to be recognized twice in its top spot.

“Cornell’s historical commitment to diversity includes robust programs for wellness, networking, benefits and work and life programs that enhance the lives of our mature workers and keep our active retirees connected with the life of the university,” said Lynette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president for workforce diversity and inclusion. “I am very pleased that AARP has recognized us once again for our commitment to older workers and retirees.”

Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources and safety services, and Chappell-Williams will accept the award at a Sept. 13 AARP event in Chicago.

— Nancy Doolittle

Expert on mystical traditions and aesthetics to speak Sept. 13

Niklaus Largier, internationally renowned expert on mystical traditions in German literature and thought, explores the invention of modern aesthetics, the understanding of sensation and cognition, and the intersection of the “real” and the “possible” in a lecture titled “A Sense of Possibility: Robert Musil, Mysticism, and the Invention of Aesthetic Experience.”

His talk will be held Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m. at Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall as part of the College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Lecture series. A reception at A.D. White House will follow the lecture. Both events are free and open to the public.

Largier, author of 70 articles and five books, is professor of German and comparative literature at the University of California-Berkeley. He is internationally recognized for his research on the history of medieval and early modern German literature with an emphasis on the relations among literature, philosophy and theology.

The Arts and Sciences Humanities Lectures are presented with support from the Office of the President and the College of Arts and Sciences.
Altschuler marks 20 energetic years as dean, but teaching, advising come first

“See those three guys?” said Glenn Altschuler, dean of the School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions (SCE), pointing to photographs of former advisees. “Taking the time to have some small impact on undergraduates is a lot more important, in my view, than sitting in a meeting. It’s more important than anything I’ve written or will write. It’s the reason I got involved in academia.”

Altschuler, who is celebrating 20 years as dean, accepted the job on the condition that he maintain his teaching and advising load. “And I’ve stuck with that.”

It’s unusual for a Cornell dean to stay two decades on the job. But, as Provost Kent Fuchs notes, Altschuler is “a visionary” who also brings to the table a sense of humor, a gift for precise language, and a valuable institutional memory. “Glenn’s experience helps us shape the university’s future based on that understanding of the past,” he says.

Altschuler is also a man of protean energies. He’s the Thomas and Dorothy Litwin Professor of American Studies, a faculty fellow at Hans Bethe House, and vice president for university relations. His reviews of books appear regularly in the popular media. Cornell has recognized his inspiring teaching with several awards.

Students recognize his contributions, too. “You have instilled a sense of confidence in me that has transformed my life,” said Pat Burns ’09, at the 2008 dedication of the Appel Commons terrace named in Altschuler’s honor.

While Altschuler’s commitment to teaching and advising hasn’t changed since he became dean, SCE has.

It was among the first of its peers to offer courses for rising high school juniors and distance learning courses. The school invented courses that include internships for undergraduates who want work experience. New initiatives for professionals include a post-baccalaureate program in health studies. “We’ve been very nimble. Twenty years ago, a lot of this stuff didn’t exist,” says Altschuler.

He’s modest in attributing his longevity as dean to superb colleagues. “I bring new meaning to the word ‘figurehead’,” Altschuler says. He delegates widely, doesn’t keep extensive records and admits to being “ruthlessly disciplined” about his top priority: students.

“Long after everybody forgets that I was dean, I hope somebody will remember that I had a little something to do with helping at a critical moment,” he says.

On this particular day, he spends a few extra minutes talking to a visitor, but not much more. Outside his office, a student is waiting.

— Susan Kelley

Four libraries to make ‘orphan works’ accessible to their schools’ community

Libraries at Cornell, Duke, Emory and Johns Hopkins universities jointly announced Aug. 24 that they would begin making the full text of thousands of “orphan works” in their library collections digitally accessible at their own institutions.

Orphan works are out-of-print books that are still subject to copyright but whose copyright holders cannot be identified or located.

With the announcement, the four institutions formally join the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Florida in the collaborative Orphan Works Project, which aims to identify orphan works that have been scanned and archived in the HathiTrust Digital Library. HathiTrust is a partnership of more than 50 major research institutions working to share, archive and preserve collections of digitized books and journals.

Currently, more than 9 million digitized volumes are held by the HathiTrust. It is unknown exactly how many of those are orphans, but HathiTrust Executive Director John Wilkin has estimated that it could be as many as half. Of those, most are unlikely to have any surviving person or entity who can claim them.

“We strongly believe in supporting the fair use of orphan works material,” said Anne Kenney, Cornell’s Carl A. Kroch University Librarian. “It continues our tradition of pushing hard to open up scholarly resources and helping to provide the broadest access possible to them.”

Only books identified as orphans and held in print format by the individual institutions will be accessible through the HathiTrust website, and they will only be accessible to members of their respective communities. Just as most academic libraries only allow authorized patrons to check out books from their print collections, online access will be restricted to users who can authenticate themselves with an ID or password. However, if a university library is open to the public, visitors will have access through library computers.

— Gwen Glazer, Cornell Library

Week of Sept. 9-16

Sept. 9, 1870 An official of Cortland County writes a letter of support for Jennie Spencer, who entered Cornell that fall as the university’s first female student. Spencer had passed a state exam that entitled her to admission, and the letter testified to her “irreproachable character.” But Cornell had neither a dormitory nor a dining facility for women, and after a semester of trudging to and from campus several times a day, Spencer left Cornell.

Sept. 10, 1966 The three-time Stanley Cup winner Joe Nieuwendyk ’88 is born. He chose to leave Cornell after three years without a degree to join the National Hockey League. He played 21 seasons in the NHL and is considered one of the greatest face-off players in hockey history. Nieuwendyk’s number (25) was retired in Lynah Rink in 2010. He is now general manager of the NHL’s Dallas Stars and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2011.

Sept. 14, 1972 Ujamaa Residential College opens. Named for the Swahili for “family- hood,” Ujamaa was an experiment in cooperative living that focused on the concepts of self-reliance, hard work and cooperative economics. Plans included a film series, guest scholars and jazz musicians, a “big brother/big sister” tutorial program, karate class and two courses on African heritage: the African-American experience and the history and politics of racism.

CU in the City

Eli Broad Lecture

The inaugural Eli Broad Lecture, featuring architect Richard Meier (B.Arch. ’56) and artist Frank Stella, will be live streamed Sept. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (The event is sold out.)

Moderated by Kent Kleinman, the Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, the two leaders in art and design will address the profound transformation and deep interrelationship of their respective disciplines.

Access the live streaming at www.facebook.com/cornellalumniassociation.

Doctor on health care

Lawrence Casalino, M.D., Ph.D., the Livingston Farrand Associate Professor and chief of the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research at Weill Cornell Medical College, spent six weeks last year at the Nuffield Trust in London to help form policy recommendations for the British National Health Service. The mission of the Nuffield Trust is to promote independent analysis and informed debate on UK health care policy.
**FOCUS ON global cornell**

**Students build innovative, sustainable school in South African community**

Over the summer, a team of 29 students led the construction of a 6,000-square-foot early childhood development center in Cosmo City, a new mixed-housing development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD) — formerly the Cornell University Solar Decathlon team — orchestrated the outreach project, Schoolhouse South Africa, from research to design to construction. The result is the first such facility in Cosmo City, a community of 12,500 dwellings.

With classrooms, indoor and outdoor play areas, and interactive spaces for group learning, creative play and social development, the center will serve 80 students a year and double as a teacher training facility. It has been designated by the executive mayor of Johannesburg as a Center of Excellence and is the forerunner for several schools to follow.

The community is “very excited” and “very proud,” said project director Barry Beagan ’11, who studied civil and environmental engineering at Cornell.

“When we walk around the city, mothers will come up to ask how they can enroll their children or how they can work in the school to teach, to cook or to help,” he said.

Schoolhouse South Africa is aligned with a national South African initiative to improve early childhood education. Project partners include Education Africa, a nonprofit organization working to reduce poverty through education; Play with a Purpose, an early childhood education program; Basil Read Developments; and the city of Johannesburg.

CUSD, a student-led initiative promoting projects that have long-term effects and incorporate an interdisciplinary understanding of sustainability, collaborated with a second-year architecture studio to design the building for zero environmental impact. No electricity is needed for heating and cooling the solar-passive building, and high-performance windows and glazing provide natural ventilation and insulation. An earthbag wall system uses sand — taken directly from the excavation of the building’s foundation — as insulation and thermal mass.

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the school was held July 9, and Parks Tau, executive mayor of Johannesburg, attended a ceremony at the school Aug. 10.

The schoolhouse project began during the spring 2010 semester. During the 2010-11 academic year, students surveyed the community’s needs and cataloged existing and potential sustainable construction practices in South Africa. They then created a comprehensive atlas of their research to inform the center’s design. The atlas is available in the Mann, Carpenter and Fine Arts libraries on campus.

The CUSD student team led the construction effort, hiring local laborers from Cosmo City. “[The workers] have learned new skills and even leadership as we work together as a team alongside the students,” Beagan said. “Their experience can also translate to future employment prospects.”

Benefits for the CUSD team were many, Beagan said.

“Apart from learning how to work in a professional environment with an extremely tight schedule,” he said, “we learned construction management skills, carpentry, organizing suppliers, managing sponsors, organizing events such as the groundbreaking, marketing and other skills.

Also, CUSD participants have a new sense of responsibility for society knowing that their skills and education can directly contribute to development,” Beagan said. “[Our lives] have no doubt been changed with this experience.”

— Daniel Aloi

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**Grad student team designs garden that cleans toxic waste in China**

Five landscape architecture graduate students spent the 2010-11 academic year designing a garden with plants capable of cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

The garden design was one of more than 100 selected for the 2011 International Horticultural Exposition in Xi’an, China, which is expected to attract an estimated 12 million visitors between April 28 and Oct. 22.

Unfortunately, construction constraints prevented expo organizers from planting the Cornell team’s garden in time.

That didn’t stop the students from continuing with plans to travel to China from May 9 to June 1 to engage in a cultural and academic exchange they called “invaluable,” and in the future, the team plans to apply its design concepts to other real-world postindustrial sites.

In designing the garden for the expo, students Brett Schneiderman, Emily Bauer, Ran Bi, Yalin Lin and Hanzi Yang did extensive research on phytoremediation, studying plants that draw in, store and in some cases convert toxic materials into benign compounds. They designed a garden that included more than 50 plant species, with six separate plots each demonstrating plants that can neutralize a specific environmental waste endemic to China. For example, sunflowers and cabbage plants can remediate nickel, cadmium, lead, zinc and silver waste from smelting; rice, willows and a variety of grasses remediate mining waste; and ferns, grasses and black elder trees absorb lead and arsenic from fertilizers and lead arsenate from pesticides.

“Phytoremediation has a lot of potential to shape how we approach landscape architecture in the urban environment and industrialized cities,” Bauer said. “This is a growing field without a long history of real-world applications. A lot of the research we were using was based on studies done just in the last five years.”

Although the garden did not make it to construction, the students visited 20 of the most famous gardens in China, identified plant species, studied architecture, visited five universities and discussed differences in landscape architecture between the United States and China with Chinese landscape architecture students. Bauer also blogged about the trip.

— Krishna Ramanujan

Edited by Krishna Ramanujan KSR32@cornell.edu

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**spotlight: EURO TOUR**

Seven New York state grade school and high school teachers visited the Nazi concentration camps in Auschwitz, Checkpoint Charlie — the crossing point between East and West Berlin during the Cold War — and marveled at the architecture of Prague as part of an educational tour of Eastern Europe, thanks to Cornell’s Institute for European Studies and funding from the European Union Grant Commission.

The July 24-Aug. 2 tour was part of the institute’s ongoing “Getting to Know the New Europe” community outreach project, which was designed to improve understanding of the politics, social diversity and culture of such East Central European countries as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, and to improve K-12 instruction about Europe by promoting new course material aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and social studies, history and geography curriculum requirements.
People are biased against creative ideas despite claiming to value them, studies find

The next time your great idea at work elicits silence or eye rolls, you might just pity those co-workers. Fresh research indicates they don’t even know what a creative idea looks like, and that creativity, hailed as a positive change agent, actually makes people squirm.

“How is it that people say they want creativity but in reality often reject it?” said Jack Goncalo, ILR School assistant professor of organizational behavior and co-author of research to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Psychological Science. The paper reports on two 2010 experiments at the University of Pennsylvania involving more than 200 people.

The studies’ findings include:

• Creative ideas are by definition novel, and novelty can trigger feelings of uncertainty that make most people uncomfortable.
• People dismiss creative ideas in favor of ideas that are purely practical – tried and true.
• Objective evidence shoring up the validity of a creative proposal does not motivate people to accept it.

Anti-creativity bias is so subtle that people are unaware of it, which can interfere with their ability to recognize a creative idea.

For example, subjects had a negative reaction to a running shoe equipped with nano-technology that adjusted fabric thickness to cool the foot and reduce blisters.

To uncover bias against creativity, the researchers used a subtle technique to measure unconscious bias – the kind to which people may not want to admit, such as racism. Results revealed that while people explicitly claimed to desire creative ideas, they actually associated creative ideas with negative words such as “vomit,” “poison” and “agony.”

Goncalo said this bias caused subjects to reject ideas for new products that were novel and high quality.

“Our findings imply a deep irony,” wrote the authors.

Uncertainty drives the search for and generation of creative ideas, but “uncertainty also makes us less able to recognize creativity, perhaps when we need it most,” the researchers wrote. “Revealing the existence and nature of a bias against creativity can help explain why people might reject creative ideas and stifle scientific advancements, even in the face of strong intentions to the contrary. … The field of creativity may need to shift its current focus from identifying how to generate more creative ideas to identify how to help innovative institutions recognize and accept creativity.”

— Mary Catt, ILR School

Chatbots sound enough like humans to attract 2 million hits on YouTube

An online chat between two robots set up by Cornell students is entertaining the nation.

“It was just an afternoon hack,” said Hod Lipson, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering. “It went viral in 24 hours and took us completely by surprise.”

Lipson asked Ph.D. students Igor Labutov and Jason Yosinski to set up the conversation as a demo for his class on artificial intelligence. They chose a Web-based chatbot (a computer program designed to simulate human conversation) called Cleverbot, developed by British artificial intelligence specialist Rollo Carpenter, draws on a vast database of phrases from all the conversations it has had in the past. That may explain why the male avatar says at one point “I am a unicorn.” Apparently some human once said that.

“What makes this interesting is how people interpret what they see,” said Lipson. Some, for instance, find “sexual tension” between the two characters. One viewer said the conversation was not like real human speech, but another countered that it was just like marriage.

Although this is not a typical subject for research in Lipson’s Creative Machines Laboratory, the team is considering further exploration. Possibilities include conversations between three or more robots, or multiple robots and humans. Since Cleverbot learns from the conversations it has, what would happen if two robots continued to converse over a long period of time?

— Bill Steele

Day of Caring

The United Way of Tompkins County (UWTC) will hold its Annual Stephen E. Garner Day of Caring Food and Personal Care Items Drive, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Stewart Park’s main pavilion, Ithaca. A noon program will mark the UWTC 90th anniversary and give thanks to the community for its support.

Cornell and other local colleges also will conduct a food and school supplies drive in advance of the Day of Caring. Cornell donation boxes will be across campus Sept. 12. All donations of nonperishable food, personal care items and school supplies will be distributed throughout Tompkins County. Last year the local community donated more than 6.5 tons of needed items.

Racing team goes international

The Cornell Formula SAE team raced away from its first transatlantic competition with a fourth-place finish in acceleration. The student engineering team, which designs and builds race cars, competed against nearly 80 other teams at Formula Student Germany Aug. 2-7 – its first race on foreign soil in its 24-year history. The event was held at Hockenheimring Baden-Württemberg.

Equipped with their latest car, ARG11, the students finished 11th in design, fourth in acceleration, seventh in autocross and 25th overall.

Earlier this season, Cornell Racing took a first-place trophy in acceleration at FSAE Michigan. They also placed ninth in design, 10th in skid pad and second in three-view drawing. In Michigan they placed 14th overall out of 100 teams.

James D. Hazzard, director emeritus of alumni affairs at Cornell, died Aug. 11 in Ithaca; he was 84.

Hazzard grew up in Lansdale, Pa., and graduated from Cornell in 1950 as a government major.

After 33 years in business, he joined Cornell in 1985 as director of alumni affairs, a position he held for 10 years. He was credited with strengthening the alumni base and raising money for the university. From 1999 to 2003, he worked part time with what was then called Planned Giving in Alumni Affairs and Development. In 1996, the Cornell Board of Trustees named Hazzard director emeritus of alumni affairs.

As an alumnus, Hazzard was active in numerous groups.

A memorial service will be held in Sage Chapel Sunday, Oct. 2, at 1 p.m., followed by a reception in Schoellkopf Memorial Hall.
Streamlining program to host update sessions

The Administrative Streamlining Program (ASP) is hosting a series of informal brown bag lunches to update the campus community on progress in the various initiatives.

“We hope that people get a better sense of the impact each initiative is making on the university’s administrative processes, and how changes to central services will better serve the university going forward.”

ASP consists of 10 cost-cutting initiatives that make centralized services across campus more efficient. “To date, more than $40 million of identified costs have been cut from the operating budget, primarily through the facilities, information technology, spans and layers, and procurement initiatives,” according to Elmira Mangum, vice president for planning and budget.

The following brown bag lunch sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m.:

• Procurement: Sept. 12, Physical Sciences Building, Baker Portico.
• Facilities: Sept. 28, Friends Hall, Hall of Fame Room.
• Information technology: Oct. 6, 401 Physical Sciences Building.
• Human resources and spans and layers: Oct. 14, Physical Sciences Building.
• University communications: Oct. 26, Mann Library, conference room 102.
• Finance: Nov. 4, Physical Sciences Building, Baker Portico.
• Student and Academic Services: Nov. 16, Willard Straight Hall, Memorial Room.

— Susan Kelley

News from the Assemblies

An update from the Office of the Assemblies will be featured in the weekly Cornell Chronicle, including brief reports from the Student Assembly (SA); Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA); Employee Assembly (EA); and University Assembly (UA). For more information, visit www.assembly.cornell.edu.

Notices:

• All assemblies seek community volunteers for campus governance committees. Interested students and staff can apply online at https://assembly.cornell.edu/staffing. Faculty should contact deanoffaculty@cornell.edu to volunteer. Community members can learn more about the functions and membership of each committee at http://assembly.cornell.edu/committees/home.
• Facilities: Sept. 28, Friends Hall, Bache Auditorium. On the agenda is the annual approval of bylaws and internal budget. Brenda Wickes, assistant dean for graduate student life, will speak, and there will be an opportunity for master’s students in an engineering program to run for the final open voting seat.

Next week’s meetings:

• SA: Sept. 15, 4:45 p.m., Willard Straight Hall, Memorial Room.
• GPSA: Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m., Malott Hall, Bache Auditorium.

Valley speak

Almost 100 alumni crowded into Zimride HQ in San Francisco to attend “Startup Stories: The Good, Bad & Ugly,” Aug. 10, hosted by Cornell Silicon Valley and the Faculty of Computing and Information Science (CIS). CIS Dean Dan Huttenlocher also filled the crowd in on what’s going on in CIS.

Score!

About a month ago, a new electronic scoreboard was installed on Schoellkopf Field. Funded by gifts from friends and former athletes – including Art Wolcott ’49, Dick Loyd ’50, Mike Troy ’81, Rich Booth ’82, Jay Carter ’71, Andy Phillips ’84, Peter Baccile ’84, Brian Oliver ’78, Marty Hanaka ’71 and Doug Henderson ’80 – the board is 38 feet high by 34 feet wide with video displays to show graphics and replays, and it takes three people to operate it. Its 20-year-old, technologically obsolete predecessor, for which no spare parts were available, failed at an NCAA championship event. The football, sprint football and men’s and women’s lacrosse teams play on the field.

Around Campus

Ho healthy is this?

The first farmers’ market of the season Sept. 1 brought produce from the Dilmun Hill Student Organic Farm, Cornell Orchards and off-campus vendors to Ho Plaza. The markets continue Thursdays through Oct. 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Community Matters

Planks for prisoners

To benefit Prisoner Express, a project of the Durland Alternatives Library at Cornell, come to a yoga event, “108 Sun Salutations: A Fall Equinox Experience,” Sept. 18 at 9:30 a.m., Fine Spirit Studio, 201 Dey St., above Hickey’s Music.

Arrive by 9:15 a.m. and bring water, a towel and a mat (mats are also available to loan). No yoga experience necessary.

The event will feature live music by the band One Love. Prisoner Express promotes inmate rehabilitation through art, journal writing, poetry and book projects.

Field Trip

Valley speak

Almost 100 alumni crowded into Zimride HQ in San Francisco to attend “Startup Stories: The Good, Bad & Ugly,” Aug. 10, hosted by Cornell Silicon Valley and the Faculty of Computing and Information Science (CIS). CIS Dean Dan Huttenlocher also filled the crowd in on what’s going on in CIS.

Go Big Red

Score!

About a month ago, a new electronic scoreboard was installed on Schoellkopf Field. Funded by gifts from friends and former athletes – including Art Wolcott ’49, Dick Loyd ’50, Mike Troy ’81, Rich Booth ’82, Jay Carter ’71, Andy Phillips ’84, Peter Baccile ’84, Brian Oliver ’78, Marty Hanaka ’71 and Doug Henderson ’80 – the board is 38 feet high by 34 feet wide with video displays to show graphics and replays, and it takes three people to operate it. Its 20-year-old, technologically obsolete predecessor, for which no spare parts were available, failed at an NCAA championship event. The football, sprint football and men’s and women’s lacrosse teams play on the field.

Around Campus

Ho healthy is this?

The first farmers’ market of the season Sept. 1 brought produce from the Dilmun Hill Student Organic Farm, Cornell Orchards and off-campus vendors to Ho Plaza. The markets continue Thursdays through Oct. 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Be Essential

Have a tip to share on something essential, interesting, hidden, strange or otherwise worth knowing about at Cornell? Send it to cunews@cornell.edu and include “Essential” in the subject line.
1. **Hip-hop documentary**
Cornell Cinema is premiering a new documentary by actor-turned-director Michael Rapaport, “Beats, Rhymes and Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest,” about one of the most influential and groundbreaking musical groups in hip-hop, Sept. 10-12, in conjunction with Cornell Library’s Hip-Hop Collection. Other documentary premieres this month include “Conan O’Brien Can’t Stop,” Sept. 9, 14 and 16; and “Magic Trip,” Sept. 23-24, 26 and 29, with original footage of Ken Kesey’s Merry Pranksters on their 1964 cross-country journey from California to the New York World’s Fair in a painted school bus. Information: cinema.cornell.edu.

2. **Remembering 9/11**
President David Skorton will speak at an event Sept. 11, 8:30-9:30 a.m., in front of the Ithaca Central Fire Station on Green Street, in remembrance of firefighters and police officers who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001, and in appreciation of those who protect and serve today. The commemoration is organized by the Ithaca Fire Department with Cornell, Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College. Presidents and a student from each of the three schools have been invited to speak, along with fire and police personnel, elected officials, and friends and family members of 9/11 victims. In case of rain, the event will be held inside the fire station. Skorton also will attend a campus Candlelight Vigil, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. on Ho Plaza, with music by the Glee Club and Chorus and Cornell Chimesmasters.

3. **Kim and Reggie Harris**
Singing and storytelling duo Kim and Reggie Harris return to WVBR’s “Bound for Glory” Sept. 11, 8-11 p.m. in Anabel Taylor Hall Café. Admission is free to the show, broadcast live on WVBR 93.5 FM. Upcoming shows: area bluegrass band The Diamondback Rattlers, Sept. 18; Christine Lavin and Don White, Sept. 25; and Aoife Clancy, Oct. 2. Information: wvbr.com/bfg.

4. **Outdoor Chekhov**
The Department of Theatre, Film and Dance will stage Anton Chekhov’s “The Cherry Orchard” at several outdoor locations on campus, Sept. 15-25. Audience members are invited to bring blankets to the free performances, Sept. 15-16 at 5:30 p.m. by Balch Hall; Sept. 17 and 24 at 2 p.m. next to the Big Red Barn; Sept. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m. on the A.D. White House back lawn; and Sept. 22-23 at 5:30 p.m. on the Arts Quad by Olin Library. Admission is free. The play is directed by associate professor of acting and directing Beth Milles, with student and professional actors and performances by the Cornell Klezmer Ensemble. Information: 254-2787 or www.theatrefilmdance.cornell.edu.

5. **Jon Stewart tix on sale**
“The Daily Show” host Jon Stewart will perform two shows during First-Year Parents’ Weekend, Oct. 28 and 29 in Barton Hall. Student tickets ($25 reserved seating, $23 general admission) go on sale Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 9 a.m. at CornellConcerts.com. Six-ticket limit for new students; four-ticket limit for all other students – only two tickets can be purchased at the student rate. Public sales begin Sept. 14 at 9 a.m., at $38 reserved and $36 general admission, with a four-ticket limit per person.

6. **How public gardens grow**
Donald Rakow, director of Cornell Plantations and of the graduate program in public garden leadership, will talk about “Public Garden Management: Why We Need Public Gardens More Than Ever,” Sept. 15, 4 p.m., 160 Mann Library, followed by a reception and book signing. Rakow will describe essential qualities of public gardens and ways that they contribute to the quality of life, sustainability, conservation and biodiversity. Information: mannlib.cornell.edu.

7. **Homecoming kickoff**
Big Red football legend Ed Marinaro ’72 will speak at a reception Friday, Sept. 16, the night before Cornell’s 2011 Homecoming Game against Bucknell University. The reception is 7:30-9 p.m. on Tanner Terrace, Friends Hall. Marinaro will recall his Cornell football career, and head football coach Kent Austin will share his outlook for the game and the upcoming season. $10 per person, advance registration required. Information: 607-254-7147, francine.darling@cornell.edu. The Homecoming Game is Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. on Schoellkopf Field; admission is free. Homecoming Weekend also features student and alumni tailgates and a Homecoming Fan Festival, Sept. 17, 2 p.m., in the Lynah Rink parking lot. Events: www.alumni.cornell.edu/homecoming/activities.cfm.