

## PROGRAM FOR ANDREW D. WHITE PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE (ADW PAL) ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

### *Selection Committee Activities and Professor-at-Large Campus Visits*

#### **PART 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the major duties of the Program Chair is to oversee the Selection Committee Meetings and the annual Call for Nominations initiative. The 2015-2016 academic year welcomed Professor David Feldshuh (Performing & Media Arts) as the new Program Chairperson. Professor Feldshuh served as a Member of the Selection Committee for six years. He succeeds Professor Rob Raguso who served as the Program Chair for the previous five years.

The A.D. White Professors-at-Large Selection Committee met three times—on September 16, 2015, November 13, 2015 and February 23, 2016.

*The 2015-2016 Selection Committee included:*

- **\*Joseph Burns**— Dean of Faculty, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Astronomy
- **Cornelia Farnum** (*Emerita*)—Biomedical Sciences-anatomy & zoology
- **Maria Fernandez**—History of Art and Visual Studies
- **\*David Feldshuh**—*Performing and Media Arts; Program Chair*
- **\*Kent Hubbell**—Dean of Students, Architecture
- **\*Barbara Knuth**—Dean of Graduate School, Vice Provost
- **Rebecca Nelson**—Plant Pathology and Plant Microbe Biology
- **Steven Pond**—*Music*
- **Anneliese Riles**—*Law*
- **David Sherwyn**—*Hotel School*
- **Richard Swedberg**—*Sociology*

*\*(ex officio)*

#### **THE A.D. WHITE PROFESSOR-AT-LARGE SELECTION COMMITTEE: STRUCTURE**

The Selection Committee is comprised of 13 Members. Four Members are *ex officio*, and nine are voting members. All but the *ex officio* members serve a three-year term—the Dean of Students seat will remain open until a new Dean of Students is chosen.

This academic year (2015-2016) two voting member seats remained vacant. The Nominations and Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate will fill these vacancies in 2016-2017.

#### **THE A.D. WHITE PROFESSOR-AT-LARGE SELECTION COMMITTEE: PROCESS**

The A.D. White Professors-at-Large Selection Committee oversees the annual *Call for Nominations* competition. Selection Committee Members encourage nominations from throughout the University. The Committee meets to evaluate each nomination in a two-part process. An initial *letter of nomination* speaks to the candidate's area of expertise and stature.

If the Committee believes the candidate has strong potential as a A.D. White Professor-at-Large, nominators are asked to construct a *complete proposal* that describes how the candidate's visit to Cornell would serve the Cornell campus and community.

The initial Call for Nominations is sent out each fall semester. Nominations are accepted from both associate and full professors. The number of new Professors-at-Large selected each year is determined by the availability of open professorships with the objective of balancing the number of AD White Professors in the arts, life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences and humanities. The AD White Professors-at-Large Program is funded to support up to twenty A.D. White Professor-at-Large professorships on its academic roster at any one time.

This year the Selection Committee developed a *new assessment checklist* to guide nomination letters in phase-two (full proposal) of the process. This checklist requests specific information and details to assure that every AD White Professor-at-Large visit will benefit the maximum number of faculty and students at Cornell.

In concert with Selection Committee Members, Professor Feldshuh also instituted a *Welcome-to-Campus Lunch* with each PAL visitor. This lunch/meeting allows Selection Committee members to meet the candidate they have chosen, and allows the PAL the opportunity to meet representatives of Cornell from a diversity of disciplines.

Last year's arrival of its new President, Elizabeth Garrett, placed PAL in a spotlight as she took a pivotal interest in initiating courtesy meetings with each PAL who visits campus. (In fact, her first PAL contact was a breakfast meeting with Albie Sachs at the Cornell Club in September '15.) Interim President Hunter Rawlings III plans to continue the practice of personally greeting each visiting PAL when they visit campus.

The Committee reviewed four proposals, and two were forwarded to the President and the Board of Trustees. At their May meeting, the BOT confirmed the election of the following candidates for six-year terms:

**Andrew Dobson**—Professor of Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University; Nominated by André Dhondt, Lab of Ornithology

**Margaret Martonosi**—Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Princeton University; Nominated by José Martínez, Electrical Engineering

## **PART II**

### **AD WHITE PROFESSOR-AT-LARGE VISITS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Professors-at-Large Program hosted three campus visits in 2015-2016. Originally five were scheduled, but two ADW PAL had to decline unexpectedly in advance of their scheduled visit. Each Professor-at-Large completed a weeklong campus residency that included a range of classes, meetings, seminars, symposium, public lectures, conferences and other engagements. In addition, graduate and undergraduate departmental lunches were scheduled in conjunction with each campus visit to increase PAL engagement with students.

Following is a list of visits and some of their highlights.

**September 7-11, 2015—Albie Sachs**—lawyer and former judge for the Constitutional Court of South Africa (Social Science); Faculty host: Professor Muna Ndulo, Law School

- Guest Speaker: First-year Constitutional Law class
- Presented the Law School public lecture: *Reason, Passion, Passion and the Law: The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law*
- Video Screening/*Touring the Constitutional Court of South Africa*--Human Rights Law Class
- Film Screening: *Albie Sachs and the New South Africa*—with filmmaker Abby Ginzberg
- Presented the public lecture *Nelson Mandela: Memories of Working with Him over Half a Century*

**April 10-16, 2016**—Theda Skocpol, Professor of Government, Harvard University (Social Science); Faculty hosts: Professor Suzanne Mettler (government) and assistant professor, Laura Tach (policy analysis and management)

- A formal discussion with Cornell Public Voices Fellows
- Public Lecture: *The Koch Effect: The Impact of Cadre-Led Network on American Politics and Public Policy*
- ILR School Luncheon—*A Discussion about Civil Society*
- Class Presentations in conjunction with the courses Social Movements in American Politics and The Politics of Public Policy in the US
- Keynote address for the Workshop/Conference *Economic Inequality and American Politics: New Directions in Research* that was sponsored by the Department of Government,

**April 18-21, 2016**—Nima Arkani-Hamed—Professor of Particle Physics, School of Natural Sciences, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, New Jersey (Physical Science); Faculty hosts: Professor Yuval Grossman and Csaba Czaki, Department of Physics

- Physics Colloquium-*The Future of Collider Physics: On Earth and in the Sky*
- Lunch Talk with Astronomy-*Cosmological Collider Physics*
- Particle Physics Seminar—*The Uniqueness of String Theory*
- Bethe House Ansatz—*Conversation: Physics without Borders*
- Public Lecture: *The Morality of Fundamental Physics*
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Respectfully Submitted: Professor David Feldshuh, Program Chair  
 Prepared by: Penelope Nichols-Dietrich, Program Administrator  
 Attachments: Staff and Academic Roster 2015-2016; 5-Year Distribution of Professors-at-Large by Discipline, Selection Committee Roster 2015-2016; Distribution of the 2015-2016 Selection Committee; Selection Committee Meeting Minutes