



As a humanities scholar with several decades of teaching at Cornell, I raise questions about the culture and history of the United States. My published work, including books on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, has taken my attention across disciplines; such interdisciplinary attention lies behind my administrative work as Chair of the History of Art Department and Director of FGSS. In addition, I am currently the Director of Undergraduate Studies for American Studies. I served for two terms in the Faculty Senate and two terms on the board of the Society of the Humanities. I've worked with university wide programs involving the Herbert F. Johnson Art Museum and the Council for the Arts. The dedication that my career shows to interdisciplinary work in the humanities includes ongoing curiosity about the ways that students studying law, biology, computer science, engineering, and labor relations can learn from the most exciting scholarly work in history, art, and literature. These students show up in my classes and the ongoing project of the 21st century university is to keep such conversations alive.

After more than thirty years at Cornell, I draw on a deep sense of dedication to both students and colleagues in running for a faculty position on the Board of Trustees. I have been able to collaborate and serve as a mentor through my participation as the Dean and House Professor at Flora Rose House on west campus and through chairing the History of Art Department, serving as Director for FGSS, and currently working as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for American Studies. I feel fortunate to have been able to work with vibrant interdisciplinary programs across the university. During my time at Cornell, many changes in the intellectual programs as well as the physical campus have taken place. Among the commitments that I bring to the table are an activist investment in diversity, of students, faculty, and programs, and a commitment to social and environmental justice. I am also attentive to the challenges of proactively managing the evolving relationships between the campus in Ithaca and the various locations either planned or already existing in New York City and elsewhere, challenges that create new opportunities both for growth in New York State and for rethinking the position of the university globally.