

**Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large (ADWPAL)  
Cornell University  
Annual Report 2017-2018**

Selection Committee Activities and Professors-at-Large Campus Visits

**Part I**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In anticipation of taking a scheduled sabbatical, on-going ADW PAL Program Chair Prof. David Feldshuh (PMA) solicited the assistance of Prof. Leslie Adelson (German Studies), a current member of the ADW PAL Selection Committee, to assume the role of Interim Program Chair for one year, during his absence.*

This year, Professor Adelson made a smooth transition in her capacity, overseeing the annual Call for Nomination 2018 initiative and presiding over three Selection Committee meetings to review, evaluate and select new pre- and full proposal nominations for Professors-at-Large professorships. This annual competition allows for the replacement of out-going Professor-at-Large faculty who have completed their six-year term. The Program Chair plays the key role in initiating this endeavor. She was also involved with communications and attending meetings with all faculty hosts scheduled for academic year visits in 2018-2019.

The Selection Committee meetings were held on September 25 and November 30, 2017 and February 26, 2018.

The membership of the Selection Committee for this past year is as follows:

Prof. Gerard Aching-Department of Romance Studies  
Prof. Avery August-Microbiology and Immunology; Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs  
\*Vijay Pendakur-Dean of Students  
\*Barbara Knuth-Dean of the Graduate School; Vice-Provost  
\*Prof. Leslie Adelson-Interim Program Chair; Chair-German Studies  
Prof. *Emerita* Cornelia Farnum-Biomedical Sciences, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine  
Prof. Maria Fernandez, History of Art and Visual Studies  
Prof. Suzanne Mettler, Government  
Prof. Rebecca Nelson, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology  
Prof. Steven Pond, Music  
Prof. Michael Schuler, Biomedical Engineering  
Prof. Sandip Tiwari, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
\*Charles Van Loan-Dean of University Faculty  
\*David Feldshuh-Program Chair (sabbatical '17-'18) *Performing and Media Arts*

**A.D. WHITE PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE SELECTION COMMITTEE: STRUCTURE**

The A.D. White Professors-at-Large Selection Committee is composed of 13 members, of which four individuals hold the title of *ex officio* including: Program Chair, Dean of Students, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Dean of Faculty. The membership of the Committee is overseen by the Faculty Senate Nominations and Elections Committee, who select and approve faculty members to hold three-year terms (two-term limit—6 years) on the ADW PAL Selection Committee. In 2017-2018 there was full membership with no outstanding vacancies which has

been the case over several years prior. The Nominations and Elections Committee works to make certain that representation on the committee is reflective of wide range of Colleges and academic departments (arts, humanities, life sciences, social sciences, physical sciences—alone and in various combinations) across the entire campus.

Professor Steven Pond (music) and Prof. Suzanne Mettler (government) positions on the Selection Committee expire on June 30, 2018. Both of these faculty members have contributed greatly to the activities of the Committee and are appreciated for their efforts over their tenure. These positions will seat new members Prof. Cindy Hazan (Human Development) and Prof. Susanne Bruyere (industrial and labor relations) for three-year terms effective July 1, 2018.

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

The ADW PAL Selection Committee is charged with the selection of new Professors-at-Large by focusing on the annual Call for Nominations initiative, which is intended to recruit and replenish the professorial roster. The Program faculty roster may have up to 20 Professors-at-Large at any one time and its annual numbers vary according to the number of outgoing PAL to newly elected PAL. The process of attracting and encouraging Cornell faculty to nominate Professors-at-Large involves a two-phased approach. It is essential to generate new Professor-at-Large appointments each year to fortify the Program's academic presence on campus through a robust roster of specialists promising unique educational experiences.

Initially, the Selection Committee meets in September to commence the yearly Call for Nominations initiative, welcome new members, and also engage in reviewing outstanding and new business. The second meeting of the year takes place in November after the first deadline for preproposal nominations to review and recommend candidates to move forward to the full proposal stage. This critical stage allows for productive exchange between potential faculty hosts and Committee Members to elucidate on any aspects of a proposal that seem unclear. In late February or early March, the Committee meets to make final selections after the corresponding final deadline. The dossiers for recommended new Selections are then forwarded to the Office of the President for review. Once approved, they are subsequently forwarded to the Board of Trustees for review and approval at the May meeting of the Board.

Program Committee members utilize a review tool for ascertaining whether proposals reach the standard for a Professor-at-Large professorship. Each year, the tool is improved upon. This helps determine whether established criteria are successfully outlined in each proposal as demonstrated through a robust list of activities over a six-year period benefitting Cornell's students. The review tool also allows faculty hosts who have submitted a preproposal time to improve and enhance outstanding elements that may be unclear or lacking mention. Full proposals most likely to be considered for selection will:

- Explain how a candidate's accomplishments and activities will benefit the Cornell community
- Describe how a candidate's expertise will capture the interest of a wide range of faculty and students in various departments and colleges at Cornell, and the surrounding community
- Reference candidates' ability to sustain over the course of their six-year professorship the rigorous demands inherent in a brief but busy visit to campus
- Assess the candidate's enthusiasm for and readiness to engage with diverse academic and community constituencies that may add unexpected time requests to an already busy schedule

The following preproposal nominations were submitted in November, 2017:

**-Martín Caparrós** (Argentinian Journalist and Writer)

Nominated by: Prof. Edmundo Paz-Soldán-Department of Romance Studies

**-Prof. Idit Keidar** (Computer Scientist-Technion-Israel Institute of Technology)

Nominated by Research Prof. Robbert van Renesse-Department of Computer Science

**-Prof. Steven Levitsky** (Department of Government/Latin American Studies-Harvard University)

Nominated by Prof. Kenneth Roberts and Thomas Pepinsky-Department of Government

**-Keri Putnam** (Executive Director, Sundance Institute)

Nominated by Prof. Mukti Khaire-SC Johnson School of Management, Cornell Tech; Prof. Sabine Haenni-Department of Performing and Media Arts

**-Prof. Stephen Quake** (Department of Biomedical Engineering-Stanford University)

Nominated by Asst. Prof. Iwijn De Vlaminck and Prof. Marjolein van der Muelen-Department of Biomedical Engineering

Of the five that were submitted, those for Levitsky, Putnam and Quake were selected to move forward to the full proposal stage. Prof. Adelson met individually with Prof. Paz-Soldán after the meeting to discuss the Martin Caparrós nomination in more detail-- exploring ways to strengthen this proposal and garner campus support over the next year should Prof. Paz-Soldán decide to pursue a full nomination.

The full proposal nominations for **Prof. Steven Levitsky, Ms. Keri Putnam and Dr. Stephen Quake** were selected by the Committee and approved to move forward to the President and Board of Trustees for consideration. These three candidates were formally elected at the May 26, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting. They formally begin the professorial terms on July 1, 2018, and hold them through June 30, 2024.

## **PART II**

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

The Program hosted six formal campus visits during the 2017-2018 academic year. Visits are scheduled well in advance to allow for the development of the final campus visit schedule (which goes through a range of iterations) and making the necessary arrangements to secure venues for engagements and events, publicity tasks, etc. The planning meetings with faculty host(s) take place at least six months prior to a visit to ensure enough time to craft a schedule including interactions with nomination stakeholders—whose letters of support often include promising program initiatives expected to be included in a formal campus visit.

Below is a list of Professor-at-Large visits including highlights in 2017-2018.

#### **Albie Sachs**

Campus Visit: September 3-10, 2017 (final visit)

- Berger International Lecture—Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo: The most remarkable Legal partnership I have ever worked with
- Guest Speaker—Law 6561 International Human Rights
- Guest Speaker—International Human Rights Clinic/ Prisoner’s Rights, Death Penalty and Right to Self-Determination
- Conversation—Student Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild  
--Included screening of the film Soft Vengeance and a 30-min Q & A
- Guest Speaker—Law and Social Change

**Duncan Watts**

Campus Visit: September 6-8, 2017

- Guest Speaker—Prof. Macy (faculty host) Lab Meeting 2.0
- Guest Speaker—Six Pretty Good Books: Explorations in Social Science Class

**Nima Arkani-Hamed**

Campus Visit: September 25-28, 2017 (final visit)

- Presentation/Informal Seminar—Scattering Amplitudes in the Real World I
- Public Lecture—Three Cheers for ‘Shut up and Calculate!’ In Fundamental Physics
- Presentation/Information Seminar—Scattering Amplitudes in the Real World II
- Lunch Talk “Time without Time—Department of Astronomy
- Informal Seminar—Spacetime, Quantum Mechanics and Positive Geometry I
- Presentation/Weekly ANSATZ—What Lies Beyond the Horizon?
- Informal Seminar—Spacetime, Quantum Mechanics and Positive Geometry II
- Question and Answer Session---Ask Anything about Anything

**Margaret Martonosi**

Campus Visit: October 9-14, 2017 (first visit)

- Lecture—Science, Policy and Service: Some Thoughts on the way forward
- Invitational Lunch with STEM faculty (including President Pollack)
- Technical Talk Presentation--End of Moore’s Law: Challenges and Opportunities; Computer Architecture Perspectives

**Andrew Dobson**

Campus Visit: October 15-21, 2017 (first visit)

- Guest Speaker--BIO 3610 Advanced Ecology
- Seminar: What have birds told me about old emerging pathogens?
- Guest Speaker—Disease Ecology Journal Club
- Public Lecture—Elephants, Ivory, and the Wildlife Trade

**Wynton Marsalis**

Campus Visit: March 22-29, 2018 (first visit)

- Guest Speaker: Black Spirituality, Religion and Protest (American Studies 2112)
- Guest Speaker: Africa and the Diaspora (Africana Studies and Research Center 2351)
- Guest Speaker: Ithaca High School Master Class/Performance and Critique
- Guest Speaker: Master Class Jazz Band
- Guest Speaker: Jazz Theory and Improvisation (Music 311)
- Coaching Session: Beverly J. Martin School/featuring middle school jazz band players (Community Event)
- Master Class with Cornell Syncopators
- Guest Speaker: US in the World (American Studies 3140)
- Guest Speaker: Introduction to Western Music Theory (Music 1105)
- Guest Speaker: Classical Music since 1750 (Music 1202)
- Daily Rehearsals with Jazz Band Winds/Orchestra
- Performance with Cornell Wind Symphony, Jazz Band and Symphony Orchestra on the newly revised *Blues Symphony/Including Solo Concert with Winds & Jazz*

The following formal campus visits are scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic year. They are:

**Duncan Watts** (final visit-domestic)  
Week of Sept. 9, 2018

**John Rickford** (first visit-domestic)  
Week of Sept. 16-22, 2018

**David Hillis** (final visit-domestic)  
Week of Sept. 23-29, 2018

**Xu Bing** (first visit-international)  
Week of Sept. 25-Oct. 2

**Brinda Somaya** (first visit-international)  
October 21-27, 2018

**Margaret Martonosi** (second visit-domestic)  
January 22-26, 2019

*(Continued)*

**Laurie Marker** (final visit-international)  
April 8-12, 2019

Respectfully Submitted:      Prof. Leslie A. Adelson (German Studies)  
Interim Program Chair  
Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large

Prepared by:

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