CLASS OF ’79

Distinguished Classmates

BORN TO REUNION

CORNELL 1979
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
JUNE 10-13, 2004
During the past 25 years, many classmates, as you might expect, have become quite prolific. We have become architects, artists, CEOs, clergy, coaches, designers, doctors, editors, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, entertainers, farmers, financiers, hoteliers, judges, lawyers, nutritionists, public servants, restaurateurs, scientists, and vets amongst other occupations and vocations. We have made lasting contributions and received important honors.

Recognizing this, class officers borrowed a page from the recent book, The 100 Most Notable Cornellians, by Cornell professors Glenn Altschuler, Isaac Kramnick and Laurence Moore. In last fall’s class newsletter, through emails to our class listserv, and on our website, we solicited nominations from classmates on who you felt were “Distinguished Classmates”. Distinguished means that the person has made a meaningful, recognizable, and lasting contribution to their profession, community, business, or constituency.

We received many nominations. We carefully reviewed these nominations and performed additional research into the backgrounds and accomplishments of many other classmates. At this time, we are not able to recognize all those classmates who were identified. In the end, we feel that we have compiled a representative list and will honor an initial group of 25 distinguished classmates. Based on the nominations and research, it is clear we have only scratched the surface of distinguished members of the Class of 1979. I expect we will recognize additional distinguished classmates at future class reunions.

The initial 25 classmates span seven broad fields: arts & entertainment, education, medicine / healthcare, government / military / public service, entrepreneurs, product businesses, and service businesses. This booklet contains a short biographical sketch and picture of each of the classmates.

Many of the honorees have agreed to be part of a “Classmates Forum” on Friday June 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Ives 305. We hope that all classmates and their families will attend this forum. A few of the honorees will share with us short reflections on their accomplishments and the role which Cornell played in their careers. The speakers are from a cross-section of the various fields of career endeavor and are representative of Cornell’s undergraduate colleges.

Jeffrey Berg, President
During the past 25 years, many classmates, as you might expect, have become quite prolific. We have become architects, artists, CEOs, clergy, coaches, designers, doctors, editors, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, entertainers, farmers, financiers, hoteliers, judges, lawyers, nutritionists, public servants, restaurateurs, scientists, and vets amongst other occupations and avocations. We have made lasting contributions and received important honors.

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Jeffrey Berg, President
Dr. Joshua B. Bederson
Professor & Vice Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY

Dr. Robert M. Briber
Professor & Chairman
Department of Materials Science
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Ms. Lisa Bronson
Deputy Under Secretary for
Technology Security Policy and
Counterproliferation
US Department of Defense
Washington, DC

Ms. Angeles L. Echols
Founder and CEO
Educating Young Minds
Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Martin J. Fisher
Co-Founder & Tech Dir, ApproTEC
President, ApproTEC-International
San Francisco, CA

Mr. Jeffrey C. Hawkins
Chief Technology Officer, palmOne
Executive Director, Redwood
Neuroscience Institute
Mountain View, CA

Mr. James M. Hofher
Head Football Coach
University of Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Mr. Lon J. Hoyt
Music Director and Conductor
Hairspray
Upper Montclair, NJ

Ms. Heidi E. Hutter
Chief Executive Officer
Black Diamond Group
New York, NY

Dr. H. Fisk Johnson
Chairman
S.C. Johnson & Son
Racine, WI

Dr. Peter S. Kim
President
Merck Research Laboratories
West Point, PA

Mr. Todd J. Krasnow
Co-Founder, Staples
Co-Founder & Chairman, Zoots
Founder, Orchid Partners
Needham, MA

Mr. Douglas J. Leone
General Partner
Sequoia Capital
Menlo Park, CA

Mr. William J. Lipinski
President and CEO
First Pioneer Farm Credit
Enfield, CT

Mr. David S. Litman
Co-Founder, Hotels.com
President, Wildflower Investments
Dallas, TX

Mr. Andrew J. Nathanson
Managing Partner
Oak Hill Capital Partners
New York, NY

Mr. Keith T. Olbermann
News Anchor
MSNBC
New York, NY

Ms. Vicki A. O’Meara
Executive Vice President
Ryder System
Miami, FL

Mr. Timothy M. Ring
Chairman and CEO
C.R. Bard
Murray Hill, NJ

Hon. Stephen C. Robinson
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
White Plains, NY

Dr. Philip J. Romero
Dean, Lundquist College of Business
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR

Mr. Marc R. Schapiro
President
Bel-Rea Institute
Denver, CO

Mr. Ted Teng
President and COO
Wyndham International
Dallas, TX

Mr. Matthew L. Witte
Chairman, IndX Software
Founder, Marwit Capital
Newport Beach, CA

Mr. Teddy Zee
President, Film Division
Overbrook Entertainment
Beverly Hills, CA
Rob is Chairman of the Materials Science and Engineering Department in the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland. The School has approximately 2900 undergraduates, 1500 graduate students and 200 faculty. The annual research expenditures are about $80 million per year.

Rob grew up in Niskayuna, New York. Rob went to Cornell to study engineering, starting out in chemical engineering and switching to materials science in his sophomore year. After graduating from Cornell, he went on to pursue a Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts. Upon graduating from UMass in 1984, he moved to the Washington, DC area and started a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS). Two years later, the fellowship was converted to a permanent job as a staff scientist at NBS which was renamed shortly thereafter the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Rob stayed at NIST until 1992 when he became an assistant professor at the University of Maryland.

Rob received tenure at Maryland in 1997 and in 2003 became a full Professor and Chair of the Materials Science and Engineering Department. In addition to his work at the University, he currently serves as an editor for the Journal of Polymer Science and President of the Neutron Scattering Society of America. As a university professor he splits his time between teaching and working on research with graduate students. Currently he is working on research projects on the structure of dielectric materials that may be used in future computer chips, understanding flammability polymer nanocomposites and following size and shape changes of self-splicing RNA molecules. Rob has published over 50 technical peer reviewed journal articles and served on numerous review committees for scientific facilities. He is currently helping to organize the 2nd American Conference on Neutron Scattering to be held in College Park, MD June 6-10, 2004.

Rob lives with his wife Veronica Irrera and son Colin (age 9) in Bethesda, MD.

Joshua is Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He was born in New York City (coincidentally at Mount Sinai Hospital) and grew up in Westchester County (Larchmont).

During grade school, Josh was both a gymnast and sculptor. In gymnastics, he competed in all six events and was captain of his high school team. At Cornell, he was Ivy League All-Around Champion in each of the three years he competed. Josh attended medical school at UCSF where he began neuroscience research in cerebral ischemia. He took time off from medical school to study sculpture in NYU’s masters program. During that time, he published two papers on stroke and also remarkably had a solo sculpture show.

He returned to San Francisco to finish med school and stayed on for his residency. During his internship, he met and married Isabelle Germano. She subsequently matched in Neurosurgery at UCSF then accompanied him to Zurich where she completed the last two years of her residency at Montefiore. She is now Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai. They have two daughters, Lucia 10 and Maria 6.

After residency, Josh spent six months in Zurich and Slovenia. After that, he went to Phoenix for a cerebrovascular surgery fellowship. He worked as an attending physician at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx for one year before going to Mount Sinai in 1992 as the Director of the Cerebrovascular Surgery program. In 2001, he became Professor of Neurosurgery and Vice Chairman of the department. In 2002, he became Director of the Neurosurgery Residency Program.

At Mount Sinai, Josh established the first basic science lab in the department, developing models of stroke and subarachnoid hemorrhage. Initially supported by the department, he later received several grants. In 2002, he became the first neurosurgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital to ever receive a NIH R01 as principle investigator. Currently, he is Secretary of the Cerebrovascular Section of the AANS/CNS.
Angeles is Founder and CEO of Educating Young Minds in Los Angeles, CA. She knows what it is like to start out life with challenges. Born and raised in rural Tennessee, she grew up with two sisters and a determined single mother who instilled in each of them the value of discipline, faith, and education. Much of her childhood was spent growing up in the projects, on welfare, and in an environment where higher education was not an option many young people could hope to attain. Angeles did not let this limit her horizons.

She applied to 20 colleges and was accepted into 19. She choose to attend Cornell University.

While at Cornell, Angeles discovered a love for the arts. She was awarded $5,000 from Willard Straight Hall to produce the musical “An Evening of Soul”. She directed the gospel choirs on campus and off. When she was not studying or performing, she was tutoring students locally. She was always torn between her love for the arts and her love of teaching. After much prayer and soul-searching, the path was chosen for her. She would become an advocate for children; she would become an educator.

After moving to LA, Angeles eventually was offered a teaching position at a small private school, Trinity Lutheran. Given the success of her class, teachers and parents eagerly sought her assistance. Very quickly she discovered the tremendous demand and need in her community, especially among people of color, for supplemental educational and counseling services. Soon her apartment was filled every day with children, with every part of the apartment in use as an educational facility. The need for a stand alone facility became clear. Thus Angeles founded Educating Young Minds Tutorial Program.

Educating Young Minds’ aim is to reach at-risk children and their families, channeling their energies toward achieving excellence. This is accomplished by linking high expectations with academic improvement through proven teaching and learning strategies and activities. Educating Young Minds provides a student/teacher ratio of 5:1 to better accommodate students (grades K-12) with different abilities and backgrounds. Angeles and her staff are determined to support, nurture, and guide as many inner-city students as possible.
Jeff is Chief Technology Officer of palmOne and Executive Director of the Redwood Neuroscience Institute.

Jeff brings over 20 years of technical expertise to his role as palmOne's Chief Technology Officer. Jeff founded Palm Computing in 1992 and co-founded Handspring with Donna Dubinsky and Ed Colligan in July of 1998. He led the development of many handheld computing products including the PalmPilot, PalmV, Visor, and Treo smart phones. He also was the architect of key technologies such as Graffiti handwriting recognition software and one-touch synchronization known as HotSync. He is often credited as being the father of the handheld computing industry.

His interest in mobile computing dates back to the 1980s, when as vice president of research at GRiD Systems Corporation, he served as principal architect and designer for several innovative mobile computers such as the GRiDPad and GRiD Convertible. Prior to that, he held key technical positions with Intel Corporation.

In addition to his role at palmOne, Hawkins is also the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit Redwood Neuroscience Institute (RNI), a scientific research institute located in Menlo Park, CA. Established in August 2002, RNI’s mission is to study and promote biologically accurate mathematical models of cortical memory and cognition. In essence, the institute is working on theories of how the human brain works. He is currently working on a book about intelligence with New York Times Science writer Sandra Blakeslee.

Jeff was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2003. He holds nine patents for various handheld devices and features. He is also a member of the scientific board of directors at Cold Spring Harbor Labs, one of the world’s leading biological research laboratories.

He graduated from Cornell in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. In 2000, Jeff was named Cornell's Entrepreneur of the Year. He is married to Janet Strauss '78. They live in California with their two daughters.

Martin’s work with ApproTEC has been recognized internationally. Notable awards and accolades include:

- CNN International featured ApproTEC as a model for poverty solutions as part of the series “Global Challenges”, April 2004
- Newsweek Citation for “Inventions that Will Change the World”, June 2003
- TIME Magazine “2003 European Hero” Award Winner, April 2003
- Schwab Foundation “Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2003” Award
- Beacon Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Social Enterprise, 2003
- San Jose Tech Museum Award for Technologies Benefiting Humanity, 2002

In 2001 Martin returned to the US where he is raising major funds for ApproTEC’s expansion in Africa and beyond. Prior to founding ApproTEC, Martin was a Fulbright Scholar in Kenya in 1985-86, where he studied the connection between technology and development. He later joined ActionAid-Kenya, a British non-profit, where he established a large rural water program and co-established and ran the Appropriate Technology Unit.

Martin was born in London, England and grew up in Ithaca where his father was a physics professor at Cornell. Martin received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell in 1979, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford in 1980 and a PhD from Stanford in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1985.

In Kenya during 1991, Martin co-founded ApproTEC and developed a model for economic development that has lifted hundreds of thousands of people in East Africa from poverty - forever. ApproTEC is a non-profit social enterprise that develops and promotes low cost capital equipment that is purchased by poor entrepreneurs in Africa who use it to start highly profitable businesses. To date, over 36,000 new micro-enterprises have been started in East Africa using ApproTEC equipment and 800 more are being started each month. Together the revenue from these new businesses is equal to over 0.5% of Kenya’s GDP, and 0.2% of Tanzania’s GDP.
Lon is Music Director and Conductor of the hit Broadway show *Hairspray*. He graduated from Cornell University in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. He promptly moved into show business.

After playing piano for auditions for twenty years, he landed the position of music director/conductor for *Hairspray*. In May 2003, *Hairspray* won the Tony Award for Best Musical, as well as seven others. Much to his mother's chagrin, there is no Tony category for best music director. He is also the music supervisor for *Hairspray*’s national touring company and the Toronto *Hairspray* production.

Other Broadway shows in which Lon has been music director and conductor include *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Street Corner Symphony*, and *Footloose*. Off-Broadway, he has been the conductor in *Forever Plaid*, *Song of Singapore*, *A Backer’s Audition*, *Hit the Lights*, and *The Diva is Dismissed*. Regional theater credits include *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Blackbirds of Broadway*, *Calamity Jane*, *42nd Street*, and *Anything Goes*.

Lon has played for singers in numerous Manhattan nightclubs and cabarets from Santa Monica to Monte Carlo. He has also performed at US Naval bases in Europe and on-board the battleship USS Theodore Roosevelt.

As an actor, Lon has appeared in lead roles on Broadway in *Tommy*, *Baby*, *Leader of the Pack*, *Starlight Express*, and *RockNRoll! The First 5000 Years*. He can be heard playing piano for Whoopi Goldberg in the film and on the soundtrack of *Boys on the Side*.

He is married to Lisa Barsanti Hoyt ’79 and has two children: Lisbeth (17) and Loren (14). He still finds his degree in animal science useful for working with actors on Broadway.

Jim is entering his fourth season as the Head Football Coach at the University of Buffalo. He is a 25-year veteran of Division I football, including 11 seasons as a head coach. During his career, he has coached in five bowl games. Hofher has seen four of his Buffalo players sign NFL contracts.

Before coming to Buffalo, Jim was the quarterbacks coach at Syracuse during the 2000 season. From 1987-88, he had also been with the Orange as running backs and special teams coach. Prior to rejoining the SU staff, Hofher spent two seasons as the passing coordinator at the University of North Carolina.

Hofher was head coach at Cornell from 1990-97 and left the Big Red with a career record of 44–36, including a 33–23 record in Ivy League games. His 33 league victories are the most of any Cornell head coach in history. During his tenure, the Big Red played for two league titles, winning one. In addition, he had two players selected in the NFL draft and two NFL free agents.

Hofher was the quarterbacks coach at Tennessee in 1989 when the Volunteers won the Cotton Bowl and were SEC tri-champions. Prior to his stint at UT, he served three seasons as running backs coach at Wake Forest from 1983-86 prior to his first appointment at Syracuse. Hofher’s first full-time collegiate coaching experience was at Miami (OH) where he served as the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach from 1981–82. He was a graduate assistant at Wake Forest in 1979-80, where he coached the tight ends.

A three-year letter winner at Cornell, Hofher was the starting quarterback and led the team in passing yardage from 1976–78. A 1979 graduate of the College of Human Ecology, Hofher graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Consumer Economics and Public Policy. Jim and his wife Cathy have three daughters: Tara (19), Shannon (17) and Molly (13).
DR. H. FISK JOHNSON

Fisk was appointed Chairman of S. C. Johnson & Son in October 2000, becoming the fifth generation family leader of the 118-year old Racine, WI-based company. Fisk joined SC Johnson in March 1987, as a Marketing Associate in U.S. Consumer Products – Home Care. Later in 1987, he was appointed Managing Director – Corporate New Products and Technologies. In 1990, Dr. Johnson was appointed President and GM – Canadian Johnson. He was appointed VP – Home Care Business, North American Consumer Products, with responsibility for new products, floor care, furniture care and bathroom care in 1992. In 1997, he was appointed President – Americas, India, Asia-Pacific. Dr. Johnson was appointed Vice Chairman in 1999, with responsibility for International Operations, Law Department and Worldwide Communications.

Since 2002, he has been a member of the President’s Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiation (ACTPN). He is a member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development; a Director of Conservation International (CI); serves on the Executive Board of CI’s Center for Environmental Leadership in Business; Trustee Emeritus of Cornell; and serves on the Visiting Committee of the Department of Physical Sciences at University of Chicago. Previously, he served as a Director of Energizer Holdings and Johnson Outdoors as well as a Trustee of Chi Psi National Educational Trust.

Dr. Johnson holds the following Cornell degrees: B.A. in Chemistry and Physics; MENG in Physics; MBA in Marketing and Finance; M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Physics. Fisk spends a great deal of time in the air as a pilot and enjoys scuba diving, racquet sports and skiing. He and his wife, Susan, have one daughter.

HEIDI E. HUTTER

Heidi is CEO of the Black Diamond Group. She has twenty-five years of experience in the property-casualty insurance industry.

She began her career in 1979 with Swiss Reinsurance Company in New York where she specialized in the new field of finite reinsurance. From 1993 – 1995, she was in charge of the Equitas project at Lloyd’s of London that created Equitas as the largest run-off reinsurer in the world. In 1996, she returned to Swiss Re as CEO for the US and Canadian operations and as a member of the Executive Board of Swiss Re in Zurich, Switzerland.

Ms. Hutter left Swiss Re at the end of 1999 and took a year off to travel and spend time on other pursuits. During that time, she took up dancing where she met her husband, Mark Kotowski, and was married in 2003.

In 2001, Heidi and her business partners formed a new merchant banking firm, The Black Diamond Group, to specialize in insurance restructurings. They acquired Talbot Underwriting Ltd. from Alleghany Corp. in 2001 and have since structured many other transactions.

Ms. Hutter graduated from Cornell University with a degree in mathematics. She is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, the International Actuarial Association and the Swiss Academy of Actuaries. She is a Director of Aspen Insurance Holdings (NYSE: AHL), Aquila, Inc. (NYSE: ILA) and Talbot Holdings Ltd. She is a member of the Board of Overseers of the School of Risk Management at St. John’s University.

Heidi and Mark reside on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.
Todd was part of the original management team of Staples where he helped open the world's first office superstore. During his career at Staples, Todd was EVP Sales and Marketing. Under his sales leadership, Staples grew from zero to over $78 in annual revenue. Todd also started Staples’ catalog business, which he ran as a $500M operation. In addition, he launched the company’s international ventures, managing Staples’ operations in several countries. Todd identified the opportunity for, and negotiated the naming rights for, the Staples Center in Los Angeles. He has won a gold “Clio” award for best retail advertising in the US.

In 1998, Todd left Staples and founded Zoots, now the country’s largest dry cleaning chain with 56 stores in 10 states. Todd was CEO of Zoots for five years. Zoots is credited with introducing a number of innovative concepts to the dry cleaning industry, including 24 hour-a-day accessibility and dry cleaning on-line. Many of the company’s stores also offer drive-thru service. Recently, the company has expanded into other sales channels, including pick-up and delivery, and office and hotel contract dry cleaning. Todd is Chairman of the $50M company today.

In 2003, Todd started Orchid Partners with four other entrepreneurs. Orchid Partners is a venture capital firm focusing on early stage, New England based, technology, software, communications, and consumer product companies.

After graduating from Cornell with an AB in chemistry, Todd worked as a chemist for General Foods. He holds patents on new food processing methods for his work there. Todd then went on to earn an MBA from Harvard.

Todd is a member of Cornell’s Arts and Sciences Alumni Council and the Harvard Business School Entrepreneurship Center Advisory Board. In addition, he sits on several corporate boards. Todd and his wife, Debbie, live in Massachusetts with their three children, Rachel (16), Charlie (14) and Eric (11).
Bill is President and CEO of First Pioneer Farm Credit. First Pioneer (headquartered in Enfield, CT) is an Agricultural Credit Association (ACA) serving Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New Hampshire (six eastern counties) and New York (44 counties that are east of Syracuse). He assumed this position in June of 1994.

First Pioneer has loans outstanding in excess of $1.8 billion to over 9,400 farmers, agri-business firms, and rural residence customers. It is also a leading provider of financial services, including record keeping, tax preparation, business and estate consulting, appraisal, crop insurance and credit life insurance.

Bill began his career at Farm Credit in 1979. He served in various capacities including loan officer, branch manager and regional supervisor. He then joined the Springfield Bank for Cooperatives, where he served the credit needs of large Northeast cooperatives. In 1988, Bill left Farm Credit to run a family owned construction company in the Albany, NY area. He then joined the Farm Credit Banks of Springfield as a Vice President working with district ACAs.

He is Chairman of Financial Partners, Inc., a service and technology provider operating on behalf of Farm Credit institutions in the Northeast, California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, and Montana. In addition, he is a past director of Farm Credit Leasing, a national leasing company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He is a past director of LEAD New York, a member of the Cornell Agriculture and Life Sciences Advisory Council and is former chairman of the Farm Credit System President’s Planning Committee. In 2000, he was selected as an Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Bill grew up on a farm located north of Albany, NY. He is a graduate of Cornell with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Bill, his wife Alicia and their four children reside in Hampden, Massachusetts.

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Andrew is a Managing Partner at Oak Hill Capital Partners in New York City. Oak Hill Capital Partners and related partnerships manage approximately $10B of capital across multiple asset classes. Oak Hill Capital Partners is a $1.68 private equity fund that invests in operating companies through leveraged buyouts, growth capital, build-ups, recapitalizations and restructurings. Andrew has responsibility for originating, structuring and managing investments for the basic industries, consumer products, retail and distribution sectors.

Prior to joining Oak Hill in March 2000, Andrew enjoyed a 16 year career in investment banking. After receiving his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984, Mr. Nathanson joined Drexel Burnham Lambert. At Drexel, he spent five years working on leveraged buyout financing and raising corporate growth capital at a time when Drexel was leading the development of high yield debt capital markets and becoming the Wall Street leader in leverage finance.

Mr. Nathanson then joined Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette in 1989 as a founding member of their leveraged transactions group. During the next decade, DLJ became the perennial capital markets leader in raising high yield debt for corporate growth capital and leveraged transactions. As a Managing Director at DLJ, Mr. Nathanson served in various roles, including Co-Head of Leveraged Finance, Co-Head of the Credit Commitment Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee of Investment Banking.

Mr. Nathanson earned a B.S. degree from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University. He worked for three years at Procter & Gamble in sales management before pursuing his MBA.

He is married to Elyse Tepper Nathanson ‘80 and has three children: Brian, Alison and Kevin, ages 14, 12 and 9 respectively. Mr. Nathanson spends his free time as an enthusiastic fan of his children’s team sports as well as playing golf and snow skiing.

David is a serial entrepreneur; he has spent the last 20 years founding, building and growing companies.

In 1991 he started Hotel Reservations Network, now Hotels.com, with Cornell law school buddy Bob Diener. Together, and with the help of their executives and employees, they developed and grew the largest specialized provider of lodging in the world. From a $1,200 initial investment, they grew the company to be one of the Internet’s primary sources of discount accommodations and an industry innovator and leader. Their innovations include the hotel merchant model, now in use by almost all online travel companies, the travel affiliate model and the technology and design that have become industry standards. They took the company public in February 2000 and performed among the top 1% of public companies from 2000-2003, increasing the company’s value more than 450% during a time when NASDAQ fell over 60%. In June 2003, they sold the remaining public portion of the company back to InterActiveCorp (IAC) in a transaction that valued the company at over $5.5 billion. Dave was instrumental in the company’s success. As CEO for 12 years, he oversaw the company’s domestic and international growth, personnel, strategic direction, product development, technology and call center operations.

Prior to co-founding Hotels.com, Dave worked for the Dallas law firm of Johnson and Swanson. Wanting to fulfill his entrepreneurial spirit, he left law practice and opened a discount airline business in 1984. With a $1,000 investment, he and his partner, Bob Diener, created one of the largest, most profitable airfare wholesalers in the country. They sold the company in 1990.

Dave now runs Wildflower Investments, a conservative investment company. He is deeply involved in nature conservation projects and is chairing a major project for the Audubon Society in North Texas. Dave lectures to universities and business groups on how to be a “conservative entrepreneur”. He lives in Dallas with his wife and three children.

He and his partner Bob are always looking for the next great business.
VICKI A. O’MEARA

Vicki serves as Executive VP and General Counsel of Ryder System, Inc. Ryder is a leading transportation and supply chain management solutions company headquartered in Miami. Vicki leads the safety, security and environmental departments, the government relations function, and serves on the Company’s Leadership Team.

Ms. O’Meara joined Ryder in 1997 from the law firm of Jones Day Reavis & Pogue, where she was a partner and chair of the firm’s worldwide Environmental, Health and Safety practice. Ms. O’Meara has also served in a variety of federal government positions including Assistant Attorney General, heading the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Assistant to the General Counsel in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. Ms. O’Meara was a White House Fellow, and in that capacity, served as Special Assistant to the White House Counsel and as Deputy Executive Secretary to the Cabinet Domestic Policy Council.

Ms. O’Meara is a Director of Laidlaw, Inc. She has also served in the following capacities: Adjunct Professor of the Union Institute in Cincinnati, OH; Faculty Member, Army Logistics Management Institute, Ft. Lee, VA; and Faculty, National ALI-ABA programs.

Vicki received a BA in political science from Cornell, where she graduated cum laude and was selected as Outstanding Senior of her class; a law degree from Northwestern University Law School, where she was Executive Editor of the Law Review and a member of the National Moot Court team; and a MA in environmental science and resource policy from George Washington University.

She has been a member of the Board of Northwestern Corporate Counsel, the Cornell President’s Council for Women, and currently serves as a director on the following Community organization boards: Defenders of Property Rights, Florida Council on Economic Education, and Zoological Society of South Florida.

KEITH T. OLBERMAN

Keith is currently host of “Countdown with Keith Olbermann”, a news program, dedicated to all of the day’s top stories, telecast weeknights, 8-9 p.m. ET. He was recently named NBC Sports’ primary cable host of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, where he will anchor weekday coverage of the Olympics on MSNBC, weekend coverage on CNBC, and act as contributor for NBC’s primetime coverage of the Olympics.

Prior to joining MSNBC, Olbermann provided twice-daily commentary, “Speaking of Sports,” for ABC Radio Network. Previously, he was a regular contributor on CNN.

Olbermann began his NBC career in 1997, when he was anchor for NBC Sports, hosting the World Series and Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game, and contributing to pre-game coverage of the Super Bowl. During that time he was also host of two primetime news programs on MSNBC, “The Big Show,” and “White House In Crisis.”

Olbermann may be best known for anchoring ESPN’s “Sportscenter” from 1992 to 1997, when his inimitable style made the blend of pop culture and sports, a hallmark of the modern television sports reporter. While at ESPN, Olbermann helped launch ESPN2 and ESPN Radio network, and wrote the critically acclaimed book The Big Show about his experiences working on “Sportscenter.”

Olbermann is the recipient of numerous distinguished awards in radio and television broadcasting, including the 1995 Cable Ace Award for Best Sportscaster, 11 Golden Mike Awards for excellence in television and radio, and four Sports Emmy Awards. Olbermann also received an Edward R. Murrow Award for his coverage of the events of 9/11.

In addition to his extensive broadcasting experience, Olbermann has written for dozens of publications, including The New York Times, USA Today, Newsweek, Time, Sports Illustrated and Playboy. His first book, The Major League Coaches, was published when he was 14. Keith received a B.S. degree in communications arts from Cornell. He lives in New York City.
In September 2003, the US Senate unanimously confirmed President Bush's nomination of Stephen as a US District Judge for the Southern District of New York. Stephen is responsible for presiding over both criminal and civil matters arising in Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Putnam and Dutchess counties.

Stephen is a graduate of Cornell Law School (J.D. 1984) and Cornell University (B.A. in Government). After law school he joined Alexander & Green, a corporate law firm in New York City. In 1987, Stephen began the first of four stints of government service as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. While there, Stephen prosecuted narcotics cases, securities frauds, and white collar matters.

In 1991, Stephen joined Kroll Associates, an international private investigations firm, as Associate General Counsel and later Managing Director. At Kroll, Stephen managed domestic and international investigations including Iraqi war crimes for the government of Kuwait, and financial dealings of former Brazilian President Collor for the Brazilian Congress.

In 1993, Judge Louis Freeh, the Director of the FBI, asked Stephen to join as Principal Deputy General Counsel. During his two years at the FBI, Stephen developed policy initiatives including the revision of hiring and promotions practices for special agents and counterintelligence policies, and contributed his legal expertise to the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombing investigations. In 1995, Stephen left the FBI to join Aetna as Council and later as Chief Compliance Officer at Aetna U.S. Healthcare.

In April 1998, the US Senate unanimously confirmed President Clinton's nomination of Stephen as United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. As United States Attorney he supervised 50 attorneys in 3 offices.

Stephen currently serves on the Cornell University Council and formerly served on the Executive Committee of the Cornell Law School Alumni Association. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of Fordham Law School's Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics.
Marc is President of the Bel-Rea Institute in Denver, the largest veterinary technician training school in the world. Bel-Rea has over 700 national and international students with job opportunities for graduates in many animal related industries throughout the world.

Marc initially worked in management consulting for a local Colorado-based firm, McCabe and Associates. This job sent him out to many local companies including a veterinary hospital and its affiliated veterinary technician school. Marc developed a good relationship with the two owners of these companies and this led to a job as both hospital and school director. The school, Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology, had only 30 students at the time and the hospital, Alameda East Veterinary Hospital, was a small 24 hour veterinary hospital with four veterinarians. After one year as Director, Marc became a partner in the school and both businesses grew consistently over the next 14 years.

In 1996, Alameda East Veterinary Hospital was approached by a new cable television channel Animal Planet, regarding the filming of a new reality TV series, Emergency Vets. Marc quickly realized the potential of marketing Bel-Rea on cable TV. He had three low budget commercials produced and filmed. The new TV series, Emergency Vets, and the Bel-Rea commercials were both huge successes. Animal Planet is owned by Discovery Communications.

Discovery invested heavily in promoting this new station, expanding Animal Planet’s penetration in the cable TV market. Both of Marc’s businesses exploded with growth. After four years of expansion, the partners decided to go different directions. Marc continues to be partners with Dr. Nolan Rucker, DVM, retaining ownership of Bel-Rea Institute. The third partner, Dr. Robert Taylor, maintained ownership of the vet hospital.

Marc received his BS degree in Agricultural Economics from Cornell and a MBA in Marketing and Finance at the University of Denver. He, his wife Patricia Laxer-Schapiro ’77, and sons Eric (age 18) and Craig (age 15) live in Golden, Colorado.
**TED TENG**

Ted is President and Chief Operating Officer of Wyndham International with responsibility for overseeing all aspects of management of the company’s branded and non-branded assets. With more than $1.5B in annual revenue, Wyndham’s portfolio includes more than 190 properties with more than 50,000 guest rooms. These assets include Wyndham’s core brands -- Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Wyndham Luxury Resorts and Summerfield Suites by Wyndham — as well as the non-Wyndham branded assets of Performance Hospitality Management and Wyndham’s Asset Management Division. Additionally, he oversees a variety of corporate functions including sales & marketing, human resources, IT, and procurement. Ted joined Wyndham in May of 2000 as COO. In October of 2000, he assumed the additional title of President.

Mr. Teng has more than 25 years of international experience in hotel operations, finance and development in North America and Asia Pacific. Prior to joining Wyndham, he served as President, Asia Pacific, for Starwood Hotels & Resorts where he oversaw the integration of that company’s branded hotel operations in the region, and the operating and financial performance of over 70 hotels and resorts in 17 countries.

Ted was also the former President of Asia-Pacific for Westin Hotels, where he managed the growth of the brand from 14 to 24 properties and was credited with substantially increasing gross operating profit margins. During his fourteen years with ITT Sheraton, he served in a variety of senior and strategic capacities.

Mr. Teng graduated from the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell as a COSEP student and holds an M.B.A. from the University of Hawaii. Born in Shanghai, China, he grew up in Hong Kong and emigrated to the U.S. at age 13. He became an U.S. citizen at age 18. Ted is married to Jane L. Wong-Teng (Cornell ’77 HumEc) and they have three children; Christopher 21; Jonathan 19 (Cornell ’07 Hotel); and Janelle 14.

**MATTHEW L. WITTE**

Following graduation from the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, Matt began his career as an architect working in the San Francisco office of Wudtke Watson Davis & Engstrom. His tenure as a practicing architect was brief, lasting one year, but his love for “designing and building things” has remained the driving force in each of his three subsequent “careers”.

In 1980, he began a 14 year career in real estate development, first as Development Manager with Grosvenor International, and later, as a General Partner in the Related Companies, a New York based investment and development firm. During that time, Matt developed a number of large scale commercial and residential projects in California.

In 1994, Matt decided to start a new career “building companies” instead of office and apartment towers. He formed Marwit Capital LLC, a private equity fund based in Newport Beach, CA. Over the next 8 years, his firm invested in 33 businesses ranging from enterprise software to healthcare, and from basic manufacturing and services to entertainment. In 2000, Marwit invested in a startup called IndX Software, which pioneered the emerging space of Real-time Enterprise Performance Management. In 2002, Matt took a sabbatical from ‘doing deals’ and became Chairman/CEO of IndX. Late last year, IndX was acquired by Siemens AG. Matt currently serves on the IndX Board and on the Boards of Paciolan and Marina Medical.

Matt, his wife Lizanne (Ithaca College ’79), and their three children (ages 16, 14, 11) live in Laguna Beach, CA. In 1997, the Witte family endowed a Distinguished Speakers Lecture Series which is held four times a year in conjunction with the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation. Matt has been an active member of the Urban Land Institute, a member of the Board of Governors of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies, President of the Western Region of SBIC’s, Founder and Chair of the Yerba Buena Alliance and a member of the Wellness Community.
Teddy is President of the Films Division of Overbrook Entertainment, a Beverly Hills-based partnership of Will Smith and James Lassiter created to acquire, develop, and produce motion pictures. Recent films include *The Last First Kiss*, *Saving Face*, and *Jelly Beans*. Upcoming projects include *Uptown Saturday Night* and *Lakeview Terrace*.

Prior to joining Overbrook, Teddy was President of Davis Entertainment from 1997 to 2001. While at Davis, he coordinated an exclusive first-look deal with Twentieth Century Fox and was the Executive Producer on *Life or Something Like It*. Other films produced at Davis during his time there included *Dr. Doolittle 2*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, and *Heartbreakers*.

Teddy has also been EVP of Production for Columbia Pictures. During his seven years he identified, acquired, developed, packaged, and maintained creative, fiscal, and administrative control over motion pictures from inception through release. Projects included *Charlie’s Angels*, *Replacement Killers*, *Anaconda*, *Fools Rush In*, *Devil’s Own*, *Cable Guy*, *First Knight*, *My Girl*, *Mo Money*, *Hero*, and *Stephen King’s Sleepwalkers*.

Teddy began his career with NBC where he was a Management Associate in Employee Relations, Manager and then Director of Compensation, and Project Manager of the Teletext test market in the LA area. He also held positions at Touche Ross as a Management Consultant and at Paramount Pictures as Director of Creative Affairs, VP of Production, and Sr. VP of Production.

Teddy graduated from the School of Industrial & Labor Relations at Cornell. He also earned a MBA from Harvard in 1984.

He is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences and has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Asian American Policy Review at Harvard’s JFK School of Government. He has also served on the board of the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment and on the board of Treepeople (coordinates the planting of millions of trees in inner-city LA).

Teddy, his wife Elizabeth, and their two teenage daughters live in California.