ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017
PROGRAM FOR A.D. WHITE PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE (ADWPAL)
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SELECTION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE CAMPUS VISITS

PART I

INTRODUCTION

During the 2016-1017 academic year Program Chair Prof. David Feldshuh, directed the annual activities of the ADW Professors-at-Large Selection Committee, including oversight of the annual Call for Nominations initiative, chairing three Selection Committee meetings to review pre- and full proposals and working to enhance protocols geared to improving the hosting of formal Professor-at-Large campus visits.

The three Selection Committee meetings were held on: September 21, 2106, November 30, 2016, and February 23, 2017 respectively. David welcomed new committee members Prof. Leslie Adelson (German Studies), Prof. Charles Brittain (Classics/Philosophy), and Sandip Tiwari (Electrical and Computer Engineering), each of whom serve three-year terms and Prof. Charles Van Loan (Computer Science; Dean of Faculty) serving as ex officio in his current role.

The 2016-2017 full Selection Committee includes the following:

*Prof. Charles van Loan
Prof. Leslie Adelson (German Studies)
Prof. Charles Brittain (Classics/Philosophy)
Prof. Emerita Cornelia Farnum (Vet School)
*Prof. David Feldshuh, Program Chairperson (ex officio) (Performing and Media Arts)
Assoc. Prof. Maria Fernandez (History of Art)
*Dean of Students--vacant
*Prof. Barbara Knuth (Vice-Provost; Dean of Grad. School)
Prof. Suzanne Mettler
Prof. Rebecca Nelson
Assoc. Prof. Steven Pond
Prof. Sandip Tiwari

*(ex officio)
A.D. WHITE PROFESSORS-AT-LARGE SELECTION COMMITTEE: STRUCTURE

This year, there were several vacancies on the Selection Committee. The Committee is required to be a 13-member committee including the chairperson. The Dean of Students was unable to attend as he was newly installed in that position, so the Committee was left with two seats open. We anticipate a full Selection Committee in 2017-2018. Selection Committee assignments are overseen by the Nominations and Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate, which both select and approve ADW PAL Selection Committee Members.

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

Each fall the Selection Committee meets for the first time to introduce new members, review any old business, examine the previous year’s Call for Nominations initiative—evaluating its degree of success and determining strategies to solicit an array of new nominations, and cover any new or recent business. Although there are no nominations to review at the first meeting in September, this gathering serves also as means for consensus building and reflection amongst the Members in developing shared criteria to be used to review and select new Professors-at-Large.

The efforts in soliciting annual submissions to replenish the Professor-at-Large professorial roster focuses on the five categories of academic disciplines and the balanced distribution Professor-at-Large within those classifications. Some years, due to a large number of vacancies in a particular discipline, the annual Call for Nominations includes a special request in the formal print announcement for candidates that represent a particular discipline. This is distributed via Cornell Bulk Mail to all university faculty and through paid advertisements. The Selection Committee requested that this year’s announcement be shortened with a link to the Program website as a means to attract more faculty to consider fronting a nomination. Clearly, the preparation of a nomination is complex and time-consuming and the members felt a shorter announcement would be less overwhelming for potential faculty members.

This year’s preproposal meeting, the Committee employed a review tool that allowed for careful examination of details necessary to determine both the viability of the candidate’s nomination and the feasible degrees of campus-wide/community interests to be sustained by a candidate over the duration of six years. This tool was used in reviewing each nomination and revealed areas of nominations needing extra details and strategies—allowing for the sharing of those results with the nominators in advance of the full proposal stage as a means to strengthen and improve their candidate’s chances of securing a professorship. Because the annual Call for Nominations is a competition, those unwilling or unable to provide Committee Members with necessary information, are not invited to proceed.
In the last several years, Committee Members have requested two faculty hosts to be engaged in the six-year commitment to compensate for possible absences by the primary host. It also offers hosts the opportunity to share duties and interactions during visits. The Committee recognizes the amount of work that goes into a nomination is reflective of the commitment of the faculty host and the campus stakeholders who support the effort as well.

Pre-proposal submissions this year include submitted by the November deadline and nominators were invited to proceed to the full proposal stage. However, the Putnam nomination was tabled until the 2017-2018 academic year as the faculty host was new to Cornell and it was felt that the Program should extend support to her to assist in developing a full proposal to be submitted in February 2018. Committee Members collectively shared the sentiment and subsequently, requested an increase

- **Tania Brugera** (Arts)
  (Nominator: Benjamin Piekut/Department of Music)
  - Activist/artist from Cuba

- **John Rickford** (Social Science)
  (Nominator(s): Prof. Abby Cohn/Linguistics and Prof. Kevin Gaines/History and Africana Studies)
  - Linguist/Scholar/Stanford University

- **Brinda Somaya** (Arts)
  (Nominator(s): Mary Woods/Architecture and Luben Dimcheff)
  - Architect from Mumbai India

- **Keri Putnam** (Arts)
  (Nominator(s): Mukti Khaire/Johnson School/Tech Campus NYC and Sabine Haenni/PMA, Austin Bunn/PMA, Beth Milles/PMA)
  - Executive Director/Sundance Institute

The faculty host for the Tania Brugera nomination decided against proceeding to the full proposal stage after considering the salary to be offered unsatisfactory. This was unexpected and because of this, the Committee Members considered whether raising the current daily salary from $800. to $1000.-$1200. per day. Subsequently, the PAL administrator initiated a survey of other universities comparing their pay for visiting professor programs similar to PAL, which revealed Cornell would do well to increase the salary to $1000. per day to be on par with other institutions, but at this point, have yet to hear news about an increase.

The Committee selected two full proposal nominations—those for Brinda Somaya and Prof. John Rickford, to be forwarded on to the President and Board of Trustees for consideration. The Board of Trustees formally elected these candidates at the May 27,
2017 Board Meeting. Prof. Rickford and Ms. Somaya will formally begin their six-year professorships effective July 1, 2017.

**PART II**

**A.D. WHITE PROFESSOR-AT-LARGE VISITS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Program hosted six formal campus visits this year (the average). The March 2016 visit by musician Wynton Marsalis, was rescheduled for March 2018. In an effort to recognize and welcome Professors-at-Large visiting campus, the Program continued to arrange courtesy meetings with the President and the PAL faculty host(s), and lunch meetings with available members of the ADW PAL Selection Committee. These interactions have proved insightful and helpful to all involved.

The visit schedules are developed after meeting with each faculty host to ascertain priorities for each visit based on both the PALs readiness and faculty hosts goals as outlined in nominations. Each planning visit over the six-year professorial term taking place prior to a new visit involves engaging stakeholders and departments identified in the nomination by their written letters of support. The Program and faculty hosts strive to engage these people in various programming efforts throughout the course of a PALs tenure.

Generally, each visit includes a public lecture or several seminars to allow for community engagement. Many visits include special meetings or lunches with the PAL to allow for greater one-to-one interaction. In preparing visit schedules, attention to the pace of a visit is important as well—often first-time visits to campus under this professorship can be overwhelmed by expectation—so it’s important to moderate the level of planned activity.

The listing of visits and highlights follow:

**2017-2018 FORMAL CAMPUS VISITS**

- **DUNCAN WATTS**
  
  *Campus Visit: September 13-14, 2016*

  - **Guest Speaker:** Lecture Presentation in conjunction with Six Pretty Good Books: Explorations in Social Science
  - **Research meetings** with faculty and graduate students
• DAVID HILLIS  
  **Campus Visit: October 7-18, 2016**

  - **EvoGroup Discussions:** Applications of Phylogenetic methods for Grad Students and Post-Docs  
  - “**Conversation**” at Keeton House for undergraduate students  
  - **Formal Meetings** (numerous) research-based discussion with faculty and graduate student groups  
  - **Public Lecture**—“How a Salamander Saved a City” (included pre-lecture reception)  
  - **SNEEB-meeting/Reception** (Departments of Systematics and Ecology, Entomology, Neurobiology and Behavior

• BRUNO LATOUR  
  **Campus Visit: October 22-Nov. 1, 2016 (first visit)**

  - **Conversation** at Keeton House for undergraduates—“Climate: Make it Work!”  
  - **Class Presentation**—Introduction to the Graduate Study of History  
  - **Public Lecture**—“Is Geo-Logy the New Umbrella for All Sciences?”  
  - **Conference Presenter**—“Where has STS Traveled? Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science”

• DAVID STEVENSON  
  **Campus Visit: November 13-19, 2016 (first visit)**

  - **Public Lecture**—“In Defense of Crazy Ideas”  
  - **Class Presentation**—Geodynamics  
  - **Astronomy Colloquium Presentation**—“Jupiter!”  
  - **Lunches** with Graduate and Undergraduate students

• LAURIE MARKER  
  **Campus Visit: March 26-March 30, 2017**

  - **Public Lecture**—“The Amazing Race…To Save the Cheetah”  
  - **Class Presentation:** Finance and Sustainability—Johnson School of Management  
  - **Dinner Presentation**—“The Race for Survival: The Story of the Fastest Big Cat” for ZAWS and VIDA students at the Vet School  
  - **Weekly Ecology House Faculty Fellows Dinner** with Ecology House Students

• ANDREW REVKIN  
  **Campus Visit: April 26-May 1, 2017**

  - **Topical Lunch Presentation**—Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future—“The Scientists’ Role and Science Communication in a Time of Fake News”  
  - **Class Presentation**—Writing for Communication (COMM 2310)  
  - **Meeting** with Students about Risk and Environment Communications  
  - **Seminar Presentation/Climate Change Seminar**—Atkinson Center—“Communicating Climate Change”  
  - **Conversation** at Alice Cook House
Respectfully submitted:

Prof. David Feldshuh (Theatre)
Program Chair
Program for Andrew D. White Professors-at-Large

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Attachments:

- Distribution of the 2016-2017 Selection Committee by Discipline
- List of ADW Professors-at-Large and Their Faculty Sponsors - 2016-2022
- Selection Committee Meeting Minutes - September 21, 2106, November 30, 2016, and February 23, 2017
- Staff and Academic Roster 2016-2017