

CORNELL UNIVERSITY — THE GLOBAL DIMENSION

Foreword

From a small hilltop in Ithaca in 1865, Cornell has reached into many corners of the world for some 14 decades to share its knowledge and skills across national boundaries. And for many years the world has come to East Hill as illustrated by the appearance of students from more than 120 countries enrolled at the University. Cornell became global before the word globalization became popular.

In these pages, we have tried to capture some of the history of Cornell's steps toward becoming what some have called a *transnational university*. The challenge to capture in print that extensive and far-reaching history was taken up by the Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti (CAPE). Its members recognized the importance of involving in the story many of those who experienced those adventurous years that laid the foundation for this global university.

Dr. David J. Skorton, Cornell's 12th president, testified in July 2007 before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science & Technology about Cornell's role as a global university.

Today Cornell's international programs involve all of our colleges and professional schools and nearly every program on campus. Most visibly – and perhaps of greatest interest to the Committee – we opened a branch campus of our medical school in Doha, Qatar in 2001. We offer a joint degree program in Singapore (hotel/hospitality) and dual degree programs in China (Asian studies/political science) and India (agriculture). We operate our own study abroad programs in France, Rome, Tanzania, Nepal, Berlin and Tokyo. About 500 Cornell students each year enroll in a Cornell study abroad program or at an international university, with assistance from Cornell Abroad, for a semester or a year....

Our approach to globalization is essentially one of building capacity – we believe that as part of our mission we have a responsibility to carry out research on issue where new knowledge could make a difference, to extend ourselves to institutions of higher learning in other parts of the world, and to ensure access to our own system of higher education here at home....Today we have well over 150 agreements in more than 50 countries that run the gamut of arts and sciences, engineering, the professions, agriculture, and labor relations.

Those who read this history in eCommons@Cornell at <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11117> have easy access to a variety of supporting audio visual resources through links provided in the text. These resources range from a short video showing the Weill Cornell Medical School in Qatar to oral histories and documents by some of the persons who helped make this a global university.

This is a work in progress. Additional dimensions are to be added via the WWW as they become available. It also, inevitably, will be forever incomplete, as is any history, because we cannot capture all the details and stories about the many internationally-related projects that Cornell people have engaged in over the years. However, we at CAPE salute all those — recognized here or not — who have contributed to this extraordinary history and those who are continuing this legacy.

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