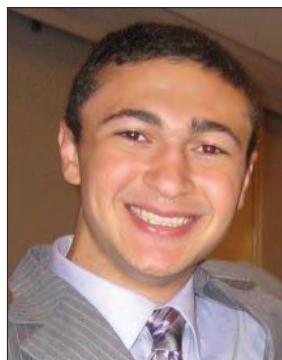


The Cornell Daily Sun

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SALEM '10



WILLIAMS '10

COURTESY OF SALEM AND WILLIAMS

Students Choose Salem-Williams

By SUN STAFF

The Student Assembly announced on Friday that its leaders for the coming year will be President Rammy Salem '10 and Executive Vice President Olamide Williams '10. In its first direct election of executive officers, the S.A. saw a record number of voters, amounting to over 4,300. Seven slates campaigned for the President/EVP position in one of the most competitive elections in recent history.

"In this race, people actually turned out to vote," Williams said. "We want to have that same desire from students carry over into next semester. The Student Assembly is supposed to be the governing body between students and administration."

Williams said that he and Salem would first speak to outgoing S.A. President Ryan Lavin '09 and Executive Vice President Chris Basil '10 to see what the current leaders are doing and what can be improved. Williams added that he hopes to continue the legacy of Lavin and Basil, while seeking to get students more involved in the process.

"It was an extremely competitive election with record voter turnout at over 35 percent of the undergraduate student body involved in voting," said S.A. Director of Elections Mike McDermott. "I think that the direct election and level of campus wide coverage helped to elevate the importance of this election, and that voters educated themselves about the issues and the candidates' experience."

The Salem-Williams slate received 884 votes. Basil and Nikki Junewicz '10 came in second with 790 votes while Andrew Brokman '11 and Andy Gindy '11 were third with 645 votes.

See **ELECTIONS** page 4

C.U. Incurs Debt, Cuts Spending

Trustees decide to sell bonds, reduce endowment spending

By MICHAEL STRATFORD
Sun City Editor

Cornell's Board of Trustees unanimously agreed Friday to allow the University incur up to \$500 million dollars in debt and significantly scale back its spending from the endowment.

The move comes as the University faces a more than \$200 million budget shortfall for its Ithaca campus and a \$13 million deficit for the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Cornell's endowment has also shrunk by 27 percent over the past several months.

An 'Unusual Maneuver'

The Trustees authorized the University to sell up to \$500 million in taxable bonds to provide working capital and institutional liquidity.

While the University has other lines of credit and regularly sells tax-exempt debt to finance construction,

the sale of these taxable bonds will be an "unusual maneuver" for Cornell, President David Skorton said at a press conference Friday.

"We're trying to be prudent in how much additional debt we take on by selling these bonds," he said. "We want to find a sweet spot: on the one hand, having the additional funds that [we need] ... but on the other hand not selling more than we need."

Peter Meinig '61, chair of the Board of Trustees, said that over the next few weeks, the University will be working with bond advisors and the bonds will be sold publicly "within the next few months."

Meinig said the sale of bonds is "very intelligent" and "attractive" given the strength of Cornell's credit rating and the fact that interest rates are low.

Skorton added that he thinks potential buyers will see Cornell's bond offering as "a relatively secure invest-

See **FINANCES** page 4

Cornell Celebrates Int'l Women's Day

By LUCY LI
Sun Staff Writer

"These are faces that have never seen peace, yet [these women] carry on with an incredible sense of humor, and a will to live life the best they can," said Rosemary Stasek '85 as she presented photos of women she worked with in Afghanistan.

Stasek, keynote speaker at the Recognition Reception for Outstanding Work for the Advancement of Women, founded "a little help" — a successful organization aimed at small-scale, grass-root activism that assist Afghan women.

The reception, held yesterday on International Women's Day, recognized women in the Cornell community who made

exceptional contributions to gender equality.

Among the honorees are Julie Cantor '09, the director of the Vagina Monologues; Angie Hsu '10, vital organizer in the International Women's Day committee; Prof. Helena Viramontes, English, and 21 others.

"Right now is a time to celebrate being a woman [in America], especially with Obama in office," said Anushree Ray '09, who was honored for building schools in rural India. "Internationally, however, there's a lot that needs to be done. There is a lot of talk, but not enough action to steer us forward."

See **WOMEN** page 7



PAT FARNACH / SUN CONTRIBUTOR

Speak out | Rosemary Stasek delivered the keynote address Int'l Women's Day Saturday.

Pundits Argue Over Validity of CALS Degrees

By EVAN PREMINGER
Sun Contributor

In the arena of American political discourse, almost every area of life, ranging from religious convictions to familial relations, is subject to attack and satire. This past week, those attacks have hit Cornell particularly hard, as Ann Coulter '84, right-wing political pundit, mocked the College

of Agriculture and Life Sciences on her website.

In a blog post last Wednesday, Coulter, who attended the College of Arts and Sciences, questioned the educational background of Keith Olbermann '79, one of her left-wing counterparts, who attended the agriculture college.

"Keith didn't go to the Ivy League Cornell; he went to the Old MacDonald

Cornell," Coulter stated on her blog, AnnCoulter.com. "Olbermann's incessant lying about having an 'Ivy League education' when he went to the non-Ivy League ag school at Cornell would be like a graduate of the Yale locksmithing school boasting about being a 'Yale man.'"

Coulter went on to assert that the

See **DEBATE** page 4



COULTER '84

COURTESY OF ANNCOULTER.ORG



OLBERMANN '79

COURTESY OF MSNBC-TV



NEWS: Personal Struggles

Award-winning Native American writer Sherman Alexie presents an overview of his development as a writer.

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OPINION: Gender Equality

President David Skorton shares his perspective on Cornell's mission to achieve gender equality.

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ARTS: The Sound of Strings

The iO String Quartet performs Ravel, Beethoven and others at Barnes Hall.

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WEATHER:



HIGH: 43°
LOW: 28°