

The Cornell Daily Sun

Vol. 128, No. 86

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012 ■ ITHACA, NEW YORK

16 Pages – Free

In Biggest Campaign Yet, C.U. Raises \$3.8 Billion

By **AKANE OTANI**
Sun Senior Writer

Despite a financial crisis that caused philanthropy to plummet nationwide, the University raised 80 percent, or \$3.83 billion, of its “Cornell Now” fundraising campaign goal as of Feb. 3, putting it ahead of track to reach its target of \$4.75 billion by 2015.

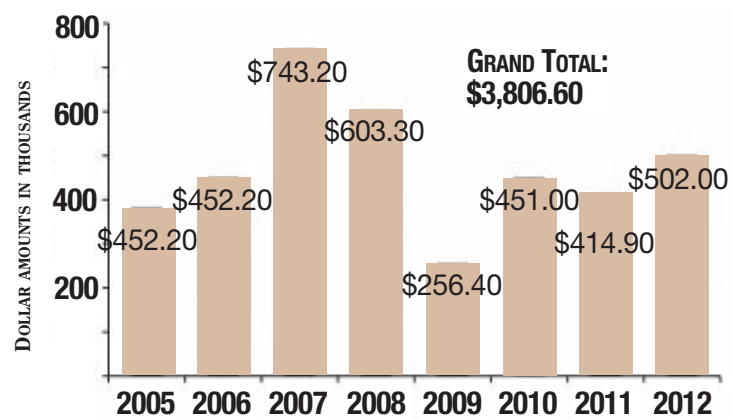
The campaign, originally launched in 2006 as “Far Above ... The Campaign for Cornell,” is the most ambitious fundraising effort in the University’s history, according to Richard Banks ’72, associate vice president for alumni affairs and development. Donations to “Cornell Now” are meant to support the University’s most pressing initiatives, which include capital projects, faculty renewal and financial aid, Banks said.

Banks credited the capital campaign’s success to an “incredibly supportive alumni body.” While gifts to Cornell dropped sharply between 2008 and 2009, the University has seen its donations grow to new heights in recent years.

In 2011, an outpouring of donations catapulted the Cornell Annual

See **FUNDRAISING** page 5

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS 2006-12



DANI NEUHARTH-KEUSCH / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At Ithaca Falls | A man fly fishes in the waters of Fall Creek below Ithaca Falls on Thursday. Nathaniel Rand '12 died in a swimming accident at the gorge site in July.

City Rejects Memorial for Rand '12

Parents say plaque could help prevent gorge tragedies

By **JEFF STEIN**
Sun City Editor

At the end of last year, the City of Ithaca’s Parks Commission unanimously rejected a proposal to install a memorial plaque near Ithaca Falls for Nathaniel Rand '12, a student who died in a swimming accident at the gorge site in July. Jacob and Maggie Rand, Nate’s parents, said the two foot-by-two foot sign was intended to both commemorate their son’s life and prevent future would-be swimmers from entering the gorge’s deadly currents.

Yet city officials were worried that the memorial would prove problematic for several primarily legis-

tical reasons, said the chair of the commission Prof. Dan Krall M.A. '84, landscape architecture, in an interview this week.

Krall said that, “as sympathetic as we were to the family,” the commission’s members feared that the sign would saddle the city with long-term maintenance costs. He added that, since police presence in the area is minimal, the commission believed the sign would not remain long before being stolen or defaced.

City officials also believed approving the Rand memorial could set an undesirable precedent, mak-

See **MEMORIAL** page 5

Local Attorney Begins Race to Replace Rep. Hinchey

By **DAN TEMEL**
Sun Staff Writer

Ithaca attorney Leslie Danks Burke announced her candidacy Wednesday for the congressional seat in New York State’s 22nd District, which is currently held by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.). Hinchey, who has served in Congress for 18 years, said in January that he would not seek reelection.

Tompkins County Legislator Nathan

Shinagawa '05, M.A. '09 (D-4th District) has also emerged as a prospective candidate for the 22nd District congressional seat. Shinagawa has not declared his candidacy, but said Thursday that he is “strongly considering running.”

Danks Burke, who is also chair of the Town of Ithaca Democrats, said she has raised more than \$100,000 since launching her campaign, according to a press release posted on her website. In her statement, Danks Burke decried hydraulic fractur-

ing — a method of extracting natural gas by injecting water and chemicals at into the ground that has become increasingly controversial in Tompkins County and throughout the nation.

“We have built systems to protect our health, environment and way of life, yet we face the prospect of energy corporations extracting our natural resources for their gain with questionable long-term benefits for New York,” Danks Burke said in the press release. “Looking at it from a long term perspective, we need to determine what the benefits [of hydrofracking] will be and if they will actually solve our problems.”

Danks Burke also called for education reform, saying currently, technical schools and community colleges are not integrated into a “cohesive whole.”

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick '09 encouraged Shinagawa, who was Myrick’s mayoral campaign chair and is also a recent Cornell alumnus, to enter the race. Myrick said Shinagawa would be a strong candidate for congressional office.

“I do hope Nathan is strongly considering a run right now,” Myrick said. “Nathan is a fighter and he will really champion the causes we care about here in Tompkins County.”

Common Council member Eddie Rooker '09 (D-4th Ward) also spoke in support of Shinagawa.

“From my point of view, I hope he runs. He has been around for awhile, is extremely respected in the Ithaca Democratic Party and has done a lot for me personally,” Rooker said. “He is an extremely confident and capable person.”

Shinagawa said on Thursday that he believes

See **CONGRESS** page 5

Cup of joe?



VICTORIA GAO / SUN SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Students mingle during Coffee Hour in Willard Straight Hall’s Browsing Library Thursday afternoon, taking a break from classes to make new connections and meet new friends.

News

Trail Runners

Cornell students help redesign Ithaca’s Six Mile Creek walk.

| Page 3

News

Good Samaritans

The Interfraternity Council and Student Assembly team up to promote medical amnesty.

| Page 3

Opinion

Campus Connections

Nikhita Parandekar grad discusses the benefits of proximity between vet schools and med schools.

| Page 7

Arts

Hidden Gems

The Sun reviews obscure shorts nominated for the Oscar this year.

| Page 11

Sports

The Final Showdown

Men’s hockey will battle Brown and Yale for the Ivy title this weekend.

| Page 16

Weather

Mostly Sunny
HIGH: 38 **LOW:** 22