

The start of our 2019-2020 season finds both Cornell University and the Cornell Club of Sarasota-Manatee in excellent shape.

Cornell continues its ranking as one of the world's premier universities with UK-based *Times Higher Education* recently ranking us #20 globally. Cornell Tech in New York continues to expand, and we are dazzled by the success of the Cornell women's hockey team who won the regular season Eastern Conference and made the NCAA final four. Our CCSM membership is at an all time record high and we are financially very sound.

During 2018-2019 we continued to be well supported for our luncheon program with two speakers from the Hill, University Librarian Gerald Beasley, and Professor of Nutrition and Psychology David Levitsky. Local speakers were Stanford Professor Emerita Terry Root on climate change, Sr. Vice President Veronica Brady from Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Dr. Larry Thompson, President of Ringling College of Art + Design and Jennifer Rominiecki, President and CEO of Selby Botanical Gardens.

Our special events committee kicked off the season in October with an innovative "Celebrate Cornell" program at the Sarasota Yacht Club, attracting almost 90 participants for the Sunday afternoon event. We followed with tours of the Historic Sarasota Bayfront cultural district led by Sarasota Architectural Foundation Board Chair Christopher Wilson, the Roskamp Institute, the Siesta Key Rum Distillery, and Myakka State Park.

Very significantly, our January Cornell Cares Day event saw 35 of us turn out for a remarkable volunteer effort to sort and pack over two tons of meals for needy local families. It was CCSM at our best!

Cornell remains a popular choice for local students. A total of 52 applied and nine students were offered admittance giving us a 17.3% acceptance rate, considerably above the average. Four of these students will enter this fall. The CCSM Scholarship, managed by the university and awarded to students only from our area, remains well funded and, thanks to your generosity, three students are currently receiving support from the fund.

The 2019-2020 season will launch on Sunday, October 20, at the Sarasota Yacht Club with all alumni, parents of current students and families invited.

[And don't forget – it's not too soon to renew your membership for the upcoming year or if you are not a member, please join our club. The modest annual fees of \\$30 for a single person or \\$40 for a couple are used to meet administrative costs. Recent graduates \(2015-2019\) and parents of current students are free.](#)

Jim Gosart '76, President