## 2007 JFK Award winner: **Sorbrique Grant**

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" Eleanor Roosevelt's powerful statement is the personal motto of our 2007 JFK Award winner, Sorbrique "Sorby" Grant who graduated in May with a double major in Government and American Studies. This young Jamaican-American



woman, who says she was "raised" through her work at the Cornell Public Service Center, dreams of a life spent advocating for urban communities.

Sorby hopes she can soon play an influential part in forming public policy in this country. She has planned a two-step path to arrive at that goal. Since graduation she has been living in New York City and working with Teach for America helping people to learn English as a second language trying to make "a meaningful contribution to the conversations surrounding the policies and practices that affect urban youth." Immediately after her two-year stint at Teach for America, Sorby will enroll in the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. It is there that our JFK Award money will be put to good use in helping to defray the high cost of tuition. Sorby plans to combine the "high quality education" she received at Cornell with her her hands-on experience teaching ESL and to add to that powerful background everything that she learns at Goldman about how to analyze the needs and problems in local urban communities. Armed with this knowledge and skill, she will be ready to effect substantive and sustainable change through writing public policy to protect the populations that are normally the target of discrimination.

"As a first-generation American who has experienced the unequal distribution of wealth, political unrest, extensive violence, and strife of a developing nation," writes Sorby, "I have always striven to fight injustice and inequality."

She has already made a substantial contribution to Cornell and the Ithaca community through an extensive array of volunteer and nonprofit projects. The Cornell Public Service Center was Sorby's deepest involvement: as the Student Manager for three years, she has helped numerous students to become involved in all sorts of community programs. Sorby oversaw the 40-person New York City division of the Alternative Breaks program, led trips to multiracial organizations on and off campus, and developed training 8-week curricula for Sylvia's Place, a New York shelter for homeless

Susan Murphy, VP of Student Academic Services calls Sorby "one of the most distinguished student leaders on campus" because of an "empathy and insight that are well beyond her years and a willingness to immerse herself in challenging settings, allowing others to trust her and permitting herself to grow." One of the most challenging positions of responsibility in which Sorby immersed herself is On-Site Volunteer Services, a studentrun non-profit that provides Cornell students with diverse opportunities in community development. Being chosen one of ten senior Cornell Tradition Fellows enabled Sorby to contribute significant financial support to this worthy cause.

Continually active in fighting prejudice in the form of racism, homophobia, and sexism on campus and in the community, Sorby has been a leader in Empathy Assistance Referral Services, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) groups such as Haven, Sylvia's Place, and AIDS awareness programs. She has also worked with Cornell Urban Scholar's Program (CUSP) at Cornell. Last year Sorby won the Steven Fellows Award for her dedication to providing a higher quality of life for people with disabilities in Tompkins County. This human rights award recognized her for work in raising the level of awareness of people with disabilities in the community.

Sorby also served as Coordinator and Operations Manager for Into the Streets, a nonprofit which organizes 30 agencies with local businesses and over 500 volunteers for Cornell's largest day of service. Over her spring breaks, Sorby traveled to North Carolina as a trip team leader, building houses for the disadvantaged under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity.

It's a privilege for the Class of '64 to help Sorbrique Grant achieve her mission "to work toward inclusiveness, recognize that difference does not mean disorder, and reach out to those marginalized within the policy processes."

THANKS TO THE JFK AWARD COMMITTEE Joan Melville, Tom Helfrich, Cynthia Wolloch, Betty Drummond, Janet Spencer King, Matt Sonfield, and Nancy and Steve Einhorn for generously giving of their time.

> Photographs by University Photography and Class of 1964 Classmates

**JUNE 4 - 7, 2009** 

#### Let's do it!

Just email your thoughts or phone the Reunion chairs. Or use the news form to mail in ideas you have. See Officers list for contact info.

### Start planning your trip to Ithaca, June 4-7, 2009

This year reunion news will be coming to you via your mailbox (the real one). Expect to see the first one in October, with scheduling info. In March 2009 you are sent your registration packet. Final notice is May of 2009.

# What would bring YOU 45th Reunion?



**45th Reunion** JUNE 4-7, 2009



**Hammer** 

# **'64 INNOVATORS & LEADERS**

H. Michael Newman '64, has directed the design around the globe. His story is fascinating. Thanks to

with an underground party, hosted by our '64 techies of course.

Please tell us about '64 Leaders and Innovators you know and would like to applaud: contact website editor Bruce Wagner (bdw5@

## BACnet by H. Michael Newman, '64

in Cornell's buildings, a big problem emerged the equipment from different suppliers couldn't communicate. I set about to change this and in 1995 an American National Standard called "BACnet" networking") was the result. BACnet has now gained world-wide acceptance and is an ISO standard. At Cornell there are now about 2000 BACnet devices to further BACnet's acceptance and use. There are now eight "BACnet Interest Groups" around the world and BACnet systems on all of the continents. For further info on the use of BACnet at Cornell,

http://www.bacnet.org/Bibliography/BACnet-today-07/Newman\_2007.pdf

# What's new at our CLASS WEBSITE from Bruce

What's new at our class website? Read all about about Bob and photos from the reception, browse over to Bob Goldfarb, our latest classmate to receive the Frank H. T. Rhodes Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Bob and other awardees were honored at a reception in Email Directory. If you're not listed, or if your email Ithaca on October 12, 2007. Bob joins our class "hall address has changed, just click on the link in the box of fame" with former Rhodes awardees Nancy Taylor at the top to send an update. As our 45th Reunion Butler, Marcia Goldschlager Epstein, Emmett W. (Mac) nears (June, 2009), look to our website for the latest MacCorkle III and Carol Britton MacCorkle. For more details.

classof64.alumni.cornell.edu.

While you're at the site, take a look at our Class



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#### Webmaster

Bruce Wagner (732) 671-2010 bdw5@cornell.edu Spring 2008

# **Cornell Class of 1964 Membership 2008**

Dear Classmates:

For class officers Cornell activities roll along on a five-year cycle. It all has to do with proximity to reunions past and future. Year One finds us busy wrapping up the previous reunion details. Years Two and Three we don't exactly coast. But the in-between years are pleasantly quiet. Now at Year Four, amazingly- our **45***th Reunion* is just one year away. This is the time when busyness takes over once again with all the preparations for

another memorable weekend for the class of '64.

Your co-chairs for our 2009 reunion are Stan Morgenstein and Arnie and Mary Cantor Hammer. (sm124@cornell.edu and Hammercu64@aol.com.) For

Stan this is the second time around, as he and I were co-chairs of our 30th reunion in 1994. Reunions, though, take many heads and hands to make them a success. This means that Stan, Arnie and Mary will be looking for volunteers to take on specific duties in both the planning and execution of the reunion. We are hoping that classmates from all over the country will volunteer communication is so easy, today it no longer much matters where people actually are. If you would like to help us create the best



Don Allen and Janet Spencer King

reunion yet, please get in touch with Stan or the Hammers. Let them know your ideas and if there is something in particular that interests you and/or how much time you can put toward the event.

On other news fronts, I am happy to report that we had an outstanding roster of graduating seniors apply this year for the Class of '64 JFK award. As you know, the award is based on **public service** as evidenced in past activities and in plans and hopes for future work. The number of applicants this year and their impressive achievements and interests reaffirmed for us that public service is alive and well. It also demonstrated that the Class of '64 JFK Award continues to be one of prestige and honor among Cornell students. You can read all about this year's winner in our newsletter article by **Joan Melville**, who has for many years been doing a wonderful job chairing the JFK Award Selection process with her committee members Steve and Nancy Einhorn, Tom Helfrich, Janet Spencer King, Betty Drummond Murphy, Matt Sonfeld, and Cindy Wolloch.

Our monthly class column in Cornell Alumni Magazine, written by Bev Lamont likes to be filled with your juicy news about important life changes, new addresses etc. This is of interest to all of us. Please let Bev know what you have done, are doing and plan to do. Bev, too, made a recent change – she retired from her job at the Chicago Tribune and her new email is blamont64@comcast.net.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2008!

Janet Spencer King President, Class of 1964

YOUR PREFERRED **EMAIL ADDRESS** 

Let's stay connected. On the back of the enclosed class dues card fill in your preferred email address. Or email Linda Meltzer lcm12@cornell.edu

# Announcing . . . CORNELL CLASS DUES PAYER REWARDS PROGRAM

Pay your class dues, and now get these benefits of the new Rewards Program. Plus your subscription to Cornell Alumni Magazine as usual. See details on the Rewards website alumni.cornell.edu/classes

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### **Treasurer's Report** by Linda Cohen Meltzer

Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm, interest and support in 2007 - Another Year when '64 had a good number of duespayers -484! Still aiming for 500!

Don't miss this year's chance to stay connected to Cornell and your classmates. Simply complete and return the enclosed dues card along with your payment. If you wish, you can pay your class dues on line through our class website

#### http://classof64.alumni.cornell.edu

Easier still, sign up for automatic renewal. How about news for our class column. Email Bev Lamont, blamont64@comcast.net And again, your preferred Email address

> Linda Cohen Meltzer 732-212-1470 lcm12@cornell.edu



Marcia Epstein, Arnie Hammer, Lenore Weitzman, Carolyn Neuman

Linda Meltzer and Don Allen