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### editor's letter

### Dear CBS,

Sometimes I think about Pyrrhus of Epirus. Although he defeated the Roman army at the Battle of Asculum, he lost so many soldiers that he ultimately lost the war. After the battle, he famously lamented, "Another such victory like this, and we are undone." Thus, according to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, a Pyrrhic victory is "a success that brings such significant harm to the victor that it differs little from defeat." Often I think about Pyrrhic victories.

Because how many victories in our lives are secretly Pyrrhic? Say you got an A on a project you've been working endlessly on for days. You may reason to yourself, "It was all worth it in the end." But how many anxious, sleepless nights did you have to suffer through? The number of cups of caffeine or meals skipped to get to the point where you can get the opportunity to do it all over again next week and the week after that? We strenuously sacrifice our bodies and our minds to be where we are today, to the point of exhaustion. By the end of it all, can we say that all that work was worth the pain and its lingering, deteriorating effects? Here's another example. How many times have we engaged in sin to get the things we want? We might "win the battle," but we cannot undo the sin that we engaged in to get there, and ultimately we are made undone for our transgressions in the end – a sort of spiritual Pyrrhic victory.

I only mention this because I also think a lot about ministry. Ministry is maybe the only thing that consists of anti-Pyrrhic victories, where we may "lose the battle, yet win the war." After all, Satan thought he won when he saw Christ on the cross, humiliated by man and forsaken by God, but was proven wrong when Christ rose again and our sins were forgiven. As the Easter hymn goes: "The strife is o'er, the battle done / The victory of life is won."

Satan had lost the war; and we have been given "the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). So, our ministry feels extra rewarding and built on endless joy all the time, right?

Obviously it doesn't. Sin corrupts us by making our work feel so meaningless, especially when it appears fruitless. Imagine how the Bible Study or Small Group leader feels when only one person shows up to the group, knowing that the leader spent weeks preparing for the lesson. Or the annoyance the Praise team feels when they're the only ones moving equipment while everyone else is just laughing with each other after Friday's Large Group. Sometimes it's as simple as not being acknowledged for one's labor, like with a simple "thank you," like they take the ministry workers for granted. We feel like losers. It reminds me of a story a CBS brother told me: he had spent hours and hours working alone on decorations the night before a Felly Dinner, only for the guests to end up not using it when it came time for photos. He was frustrated to the point of tears.

But congratulations are not the point of ministry. We are blessed by God regardless of whether a lot of people show up and appreciate us or not. We have already won the war! Please, let us not struggle for man, but let us always struggle for God (Colossians 3:17). Let us do what we can, not for recognition, but in the pursuit of Godly ministry, for the One who listens to us listens to us lovingly in concert halls full of people or empty, silent rooms. I know it's hard to let go of our pride. But forsaking our bitterness will set us free from the chains of expectation and disappointment because we are constantly being blessed with victory in the end, even when we feel like we have lost the battle. But to those who are graduating and have been ever-faithful servants to CBS, this is my message to you all: you're free! Congrats!

Let's switch gears. Here's a fun tidbit: every *BoL* editor reads the letters of previous *BoL* editors; it's almost an unspoken rule to gain perspective through their predecessors. Everything I have written and everything that has been written in this issue by others is "nothing new under the sun." Even saying "nothing new under the sun" in *BoL* is not new. Well, then, why do we keep making *Bread of Life* if CBS is just repeating itself over and over, just with new faces?

I don't know. Who honestly cares what I think? I'm graduating soon. I'm tired. It's up to those who are staying in CBS to decide why we do what we do here at CBS. Though I have deeply enjoyed the community, the traditions, the memories, and the fun during my time at CBS (even when accounting for all the stress and the frustrations), that time is over. My input about how CBS should be run shouldn't mean much anymore.

An alum once told me that typically, every three years, a CBS alum "dies" after they graduate. The reasoning goes that hypothetically, if you are a senior in CBS, you get to ideally know everyone from the freshman class up to the junior class of that year; they grow up in CBS knowing and being molded by you. Then after you graduate, there are three more school years when CBS has individuals who personally knew you before you have finally become completely forgotten.

But that's fine. Life goes on. We knew that. Do not forget, brothers and sisters, there's more to life than college and there's more to God than CBS.

In Isaiah 6:5, when the prophet Isaiah is exposed to the glory of God, he cries out, "Woe is me, for I am undone!" (KJV). But Charles Spurgeon, influential 19<sup>th</sup>-century English preacher, explained that this is not a bad thing: for "God will never do anything with us till He has, first of all, undone us."

All I know – speaking from the end – is that I am so glad to be finally made undone.

Thank you, Bread of Life, and thank you, CBS.

In Christ, Leland Xu ('24)





































~ Ghibli Felly Dinner!

### coordinator letter

#### To my brothers and sisters in CBS,

I remember almost four years ago when I logged into Zoom to attend my first CBS Large Group, staring at a gallery of names and faces I did not know, unsure of what to expect. Having grown up with Friday night fellowship since I was in elementary school, I knew that I wanted to join a fellowship in college, but I hardly knew where to look. My freshman year was fully entrenched in the pandemic; without the usual atmosphere of orientation, dining halls, and freshmen dorms, the only way to find fellowships would be to look through an overwhelmingly long list of all the clubs on CampusGroups under the filter "Spiritual/Religious".

Even after Darren (one of the coordinators my freshman year) introduced me to CBS, I was still nervous about going – after all, my home church had a college fellowship that also met on Fridays, and there were far more familiar faces there. So I figured I would compromise by alternating between CBS and my home church's college fellowship. But four weeks into the semester I realized that my fellowship attendance wasn't quite going according to plan. I thought I would stick to my alternating schedule, but instead, I found myself going to CBS week after week.

I am confident that God's providential hand was all over my coming to CBS, though it's hard for me to pinpoint one specific moment which made me keep coming back to CBS week after week. Certainly it wasn't a particularly insightful Bible study, nor a particularly inspirational message, nor a specific program or event that CBS held. But in my CBS upperclassmen, I could see a living example of Jesus's commands to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30) and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Their hearts for God radiated into their love for others, and I'm grateful that I had the blessing of being on the receiving end of their grace. I say this not just for my upperclassmen – so many of you have also been

Godly inspirations to me in your hearts for meeting up with people, for setting an example through your deep and consistent devotional life, for your courage and heart for evangelism, for your empathy and warmth towards others, and for your faithful and committed service to God.

CBS, I encourage you to continue "to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1) because the quality of your ministry is only limited by the closeness of your relationship with God. May you relentlessly pursue maturity in Christ, that you will not serve because you have to, or because you didn't want to say no, or because you felt someone was depending on you, but because of your total submission to God as the Lord of your life. As Jesus says in John 15:5,

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Only when we source our love and strength from the Vine will we receive the spiritual sustenance we need to press on in our ministry.

These past four years, but especially serving as coordinator this year, I've come to see CBS as a microcosm of the Vine and branches, an example of the unity that we have in the Vine and the body of Christ. When I began as a coordinator, I saw CBS almost as a hierarchy: an organization chart with myself at the top, followed by Servant Team, and so on. I wanted to be a coordinator that others would look up to, just like how I looked up to the coordinators who came before me. I wanted others to say the same things about me as I would have said about my former coordinators. I wanted to quantify my impact on the fellowship and to take credit for the spiritual growth of others. On the outside, I was active in ministry, but on the inside, I was tainted by thoughts of self-glorification.

But this year God slowly stripped away my conception of titles and authority. He taught me that I wasn't the authority in CBS – He was. He showed me how everyone plays a different but crucial role in CBS in advancing His Kingdom, in bringing seekers closer to faith, or in maturing converts into disciples. No matter how simple or how great a task was, God showed me that in light of His glory, even the simplest task could seem great when done for the glory of God. God showed me that the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:22-23 rang true:

"Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor."

Without the seemingly thankless role of filling up the baptism tank on Sunday morning, there could be no baptism at all; without someone doing tech at each Large Group, the fellowship would have a much harder time worshiping and meditating on the lyrics; without someone driving the Praise equipment each week, those on set would not even be able to lead worship!

Over the course of this year God changed my heart to stop worrying about what others would think of me, but instead to "fix my eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2) and serve Him to the best of my ability. When I started to focus on just doing my job to the best of my ability, and focusing on giving my utmost to God, I found freedom from striving to serve for self-glorification. Serving in CBS was not about who was in charge of whom, but instead we were all "on the same team." Like a sports team which works together towards a common goal of winning games, so does CBS serve together with the same goal to know Christ and to make Him known.

I've often heard sports teams refer to themselves as a family. As I think back on these past four years, I can certainly say that CBS has become like extended family to me. I'm thinking back to the times we served together, worshiped together, prayed together, studied together, hung out together, had deep conversations with each other, met up together, clowned each other, but most importantly, loved each other.

You remind me that we do not walk this straight and narrow road alone, but that we "spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24-25), that we "teach and admonish one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit" (Colossians 3:16-17), and above all, that we "love one another" (John 13:34) because Christ demonstrated His perfect love to us.

It hurts for me to say goodbye, but although I am moving away from Ithaca, CBS, you will surely remain close to my heart. I'm deeply grateful to God for the blessing of seeing you grow in your faith and for the fingerprints of faith that you have imprinted in my life. Continue to seek after Him with all your heart, CBS, and I am confident that you will continue to see God's blessings in vast and manifold ways.

Love in Christ, Ambrose Yang ('24)

## reach letter

### Dear CBS,

Reach began the school year with the mission stated in Galatians 5:13-14:

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

These verses remind us to humbly serve our brothers and sisters in Christ and the Cornell community as a whole with love. Jesus came down to Earth as a servant who truly loved his neighbors – not because they deserved it, but because his love came from a place of grace and mercy. God calls us to love our neighbors like Jesus did and we are rooted in this mission as we serve the fellowship and the local community through Reach.

CBS engaged with the local community through participating in CAPSU's Asia Night. Asia Night was an event full of performances and interactive activities hosted by Asian clubs. CBS had a booth where we hosted a chopsticks competition game of who could pick up the most Asian candies with a pair of chopsticks. CBS also had their spring tradition of Service Marketplace. Many brothers and sisters generously offered up their time and abilities through various services, and all proceeds were donated to Loaves and Fishes, an organization that provides free meals for those in need in the Tompkins County community.

Our Reach ministry had the usual string of events: Felly Dinners, Welcome Picnic, fall and winter retreat, etc. We also had inter-class dinner in the fall, where older and younger classes were paired up to cook dinner together.

During these times, the fellowship gathered together to be reminded of how much God has blessed us with.

But perhaps the most meaningful parts of the Reach ministry were not merely our traditions or "organized" efforts. Rather, the spontaneous acts of Reach had the most impact. People choosing to eat together, study together, hangout in Eddygate Apartments after a Large Group to watch a movie or play Werewolf, are the moments that make CBS more of a family. These small efforts also encompass the idea of "love your neighbor as yourself." At Cornell, everyone needs to eat, study, and recharge. Choosing to do these simple, somewhat mundane tasks with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ requires more effort and energy but is also what makes CBS unique to other clubs on campus.

Our hearts are so full serving the fellowship and community through our Reach ministry and welcoming others fully into Christian fellowship. We are so thankful for the ways in which God has blessed our fellowship. We have full trust and confidence that He will continue to watch over us as some of us graduate to begin a new chapter in their lives and others come back for another school year. May all the glory, praise, and honor be to the one who unites us as His children and teaches us how to love and serve one another.

In Christ, Beth Kam (MPS '24) & Nathaniel Chin (MS '25)

### praise letter

#### Dear CBS.

One of my fondest memories of worship this year was informal worship during winter retreat – sitting around in a large circle (glancing around the room for someone to suggest a song), singing a good mixture of hymns and CCM throwbacks. We had to include a hand-motion song, of course, so we went with "One Way." Ambrose and Joseph led the hand motions and I was on keys. I remember our laughter when I'd accidentally play a minor chord or when our claps were off-beat, and as we watched each other attempt the motions.

I cherish these little, raw moments when all we have are each other and our voices to worship God – enjoying each other's company in the presence of God. Coming to CBS. God showed me how much He values true worship, one that is not characterized by performance but one that reflects the heart we have for Him. He doesn't evaluate how extravagant a set is, how many instruments are being played, or how good we are at it because even those gifts have been offered to us by Him to worship His great name (James 1:17). Through each week of Praise, sets ranging from two to five people (on specific occasions haha), I am touched by how God lets all of it come together even amidst our imperfections. God utilizes our imperfections to do His good work. He desires for each one of us to just come as we are, worshiping Him for how good He is, and loving Him because He first loved us (Matthew 11:28, 1 John 4:19).

In my time serving in CBS, I saw the fruits of worship in other forms of ministry as well. Through Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and fellowship, I saw how passionate people are to serve God and make a constant effort to place Him in the center of their lives. It encourages me to strive to live out each day in true worship, worshiping God in all the things I do. I'll end with Romans 12:1-2...

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

In Christ, Sky Kim ('25)

### discipleship letter

### Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I am contacting you to inform you about my position as Discipleship coordinator in the Discipleship ministry within the Cornell campus fellowship, Chinese Bible Study (CBS). To summarize my responsibilities, I have not done much. My expertise includes small groups (last semester), Night of Worship (also last semester), prayer groups (this semester), prayer partnerships, and Men's and Women's time. The previous two statements sound as if they contradict each other, however, it may be because one is more true than the other. Maybe there is sincerely a lot more I should have done, which I did not. Or maybe I have done a lot, but it does not feel as if I did much, since through it all, I did it so full of heartfelt intention and joyful manners that it was more enjoyable than hard work. We will never know. What we do know is that I was a Discipleship coordinator, I was part of the Servant Team in CBS (STEAM), and I am glad I did it.

My previous experiences as a freshman CBS member and sophomore CBS member have allowed me to receive the fellowship's blessings of love and care as an underclassman. So as an upperclassman I had hoped to replicate pouring that same love and care to the current underclassmen (and upperclassmen too) whether this meant asking to grab meals together, encouraging them to come to church together, or sending them photos that we sniped of them when we coincidentally saw them on campus to let them know we were always watching because we love them so much. One of my prayers is that I was and am able to demonstrate the genuine love and care God has provided for them so that they can also pour into others in the future. Another prayer is that they realize that all the love and care I had is smaller than even a glimpse of God's immense and intense comfort He has for each one of them, that they are continuously touched in their spirit and heart by God.

Spending time with such yoked upperclassmen my previous years has taught me how powerful prayers can be. Through their experiences with prayers of how God showed His hand in guiding them and the beautiful words they used to praise Him, I was encouraged to go back to doing prayer groups that stopped the year just before I came to Cornell. The two prayer groups this semester, one led by me and the other a sister in Christ and future co-coordinator, Jemima, were simple but filled with nothing less than heartfelt prayers. Her group consisted of a question to reflect on, such as what they learned or experienced recently in sermons or Bible studies, and then everyone went around with praises and requests. My prayer group was just people getting on a Google Doc that was used for the whole semester, writing praises and thanksgivings, personal requests, prayers for CBS, and prayers for local churches and Christian communities. Simple it may be, I was able to learn a lot about others in a comfortable environment that we could share with each other and to God.

All in all, it would be a pleasure that you continue to pray and share your life moments or others' praises and requests to God. I am sure that He looks forward to hearing from you soon.

> Your Future Co-Coordinator, Jade Lo ('25)

### bible study letter

#### Dear CBS.

Unsurprisingly, one of the most important parts of the Christian life is knowing Scripture. But the problem with claiming that you know the Bible is that you actually have to read the Bible. And that includes the Old Testament. We. as Christians, shouldn't fall into the trap that the New Testament renders everything that came before it as pointless and not worth reading. So, it's great that this year we were able to briefly cover in Bible Study two of the greats in the Old Testament canon with the Books of Psalms and Isaiah. With Psalms, we examined the esthetic excellence of Biblical religious poetry and captured the extent of emotional outpourings of praise, lament, and thanksgiving - just to name a few. And yet all of them point to the glory and power of God. Isn't it wonderful and so comforting that the same God listens to us and is with us regardless of if our "souls are greatly troubled" (Psalms 6:3) or when our "hearts are glad" (16:9)?

In Isaiah, even though Judah is doomed for judgment and destruction, there is hope that arises from the rubble: there will be a suffering servant who will "bore the sin of many, and make intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). And although just like the Judeans we have gone astray from the will of God, our sins have been forgiven by the one who was "oppressed and afflicted" (53:7) so that we may be reconciled with Him in the "new heavens and a new earth" (65:17). It is a familiar arc that applies to us just as much as it did for the Israelites back then: we painfully fall into the depths of sin's allure, though we have hope that we can be redeemed by and back to the divine through Jesus Christ.

Theodore Roosevelt once explained that "a thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." That doesn't mean we should neglect our studies (Roosevelt himself was a Harvard alum and Columbia Law student), but it should really get us to ponder on what we should prioritize in our roles as college students.

Why? To pull from another quote, St. Jerome succinctly wrote: "If we are ignorant of Scripture, we are ignorant of Christ!" Studying the Word is assurance of our salvation and the evils of sin, so to lose track of the Word is to be eternally lost.

Let's talk about some more personal things. To my surprise. I found that Bible Study prep this year was pretty easy. Compared to teaching Youth Group at FICCC, college students are way easier to manage (though it was admittedly harder by year's end); but something new for me was teaching other college students how to be good leaders and facilitators of discussion. So I'm eternally blessed to have worked alongside such God-loving, thoughtful, and intelligent Bible Study leaders this year: Jemima, Alice Ke, Joseph, Steven, Teresa, Tiffany, Jonny, Jeffrey, and Josh. I hope your love for the Word continues to flourish and mature your understanding so that you may serve more effectively in CBS and your churches as a reliable foundation of your faith. I also want to thank Ambrose for his discernment and assistance in choosing the books and then the chapters we went over this year: Bible Study this year would have gotten nowhere without him.

As for me, I have mixed feelings about everything: I am sad to leave, but at the same time, I feel that I must go. I love you, CBS, and so I want to leave you all with an excerpt from this year's vision verses for Bible Study:

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5:15-17)

It's a difficult time to be alive – it always is – but I have faith that we will get through life together.

In Christ, Leland Xu ('24)

# class of 2024 seniors



Alice Hu

Most Likely to Carry Her

Life in Her Backpack



Bella Hu

Most Likely to Be
Found in Rhodes



Elisabeth Kam

Most Likely to Make Her

Own Cookie Recipe



Alice Ke

Most Likely to Laugh in

Any Situation



Sharon Wu

Most Likely to Be the Host of
Her Own Talk Show



Leland Xu
The Existentialist of
Corporate America



Ambrose Yang

Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize/Turing Award

## alice Hw

Hometown: Ithaca, New York Major: Biological Sciences



"Happiness is a state of mind. It's just according to the way you look at things."

— Walt Disney

I met Alice in the lobby of Mann Library on the Friday before Ignite at around 4:50 P.M. We were supposed to meet at 4:45 P.M. but alas, the construction and blockade around the Plant Science building and the Ag Quad meant that I had to take a detour, running a couple minutes behind. Thankfully, Alice, in her usual sweet and cheerful self, didn't mind that I was five minutes late. We chatted a bit about her day, how her classes were going, and what she had been up to this past week, before jumping straight into the interview.

### **Favorites**

**Praise song:** "Oceans" and "King of Kings" **Cornell class:** BIOMG 2800: Genetics Lecture

Study spot: Rhodes Hall, CIS Lounge

Place to eat: Fusia Bento Bar Music group/artist: NCT

Verse: 1 Peter 2:2

**Dessert:** Anything with chocolate. **CBS tradition:** Felly Dinner!

### 1. CBS is...

A community where we seek to know Christ. It's very welcoming. Many of my friends now are from CBS and I think they all have a very positive influence on me.

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Well, God has strengthened my faith, He has also made me more resilient in the face of a lot of challenges, such as through COVID and through applying to med school. ["Are you applying right now?"] Yes. I hate HPAC. ["No one else is gonna get this, LOL"]

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

For freshmen? Explore. A lot. Cornell, when I was a freshman, I was so overwhelmed by how many clubs and organizations and resources for help there were. So identify early what interests you and what you can take away from each organization. If you can't identify anything, then just leave. Don't waste your time. \*laughs\*

### b. Sophomores

Establish, like, a good community. You've taken your freshman year to explore and now it's time to establish a good community, surrounding yourself with people that support you. In terms of CBS, I think try to involve yourself a little more. Join REACH team. I'm on REACH so you should join.

#### c. Juniors

First year of upperclass. Kinda scary that you're already in your third year. I remember I was so scared. But for juniors, consider what you want to do. Like how can you do work that serves the Lord? You only have two years left and then you're out in the world, so think about what your interests are and go after them.

### d. CBS in general

Stay connected with each other. Really talk to people you don't interact with as much, especially people you don't see on a daily basis and you only see on Fridays at Large Group. So maybe take the time during Large Group to talk to people you don't interact with as much. Also, reach out! Reaching out especially to newcomers and people who even show a slight interest in CBS, go after them!

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

There's four years I have to consider. Favorite memory? What did I do? Nothing in the first or second year because that was COVID. Oh, I know! All the times people mixed me and Bella up. ["That's your favorite memory?"] It's so funny. It's because it never happened in high school and only started happening in college because people don't know I'm a twin. It's how I meet new people.

### 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I've been thinking about this all week. ["Why?"] Because all my senior friends have been talking about quirks and I'm like, "What hidden quirks do I have?" What did Bella say? She said she has an interest in interior design, but I do. \*laughs\* Interesting quirk, okay, I think I'm really good at doing hair on other people but not on myself. \*laughs\* Yeah, that's it. It's not very interesting, but there you go.

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Favorite spot on campus? Hmm...I'm trying to think of where I like to sleep the most. I think I have to say Rhodes again. It's just that the booths in the CIS lounge are so comfortable. They're just the perfect size for me to lie down on. ["They are pretty comfortable."] Ooh! Also, Gates third floor. It also has a really nice place to lie down on. It's very cushiony and you can stretch out and go straight to sleep. ["I feel like I've only ever really napped in Mann."] Oh yeah, Mann is pretty good too, on the second floor.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Umm...I prayed a lot for my MCAT. And I think God really got me through it. It was such a tough time for me mentally because I was just studying for three months. And closer to my test date, my scores kept going down. I think I was overstudying. But on the day of the test it was fine. I think I only got like four, five hours of sleep the night before because I was so nervous. But I still think I did well.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Lucky. And stressful. And smiley.

I think I'm very lucky to have been able to experience a lot of Cornell, even though I live here. And take all these cool classes from these famous professors. What was my second one? Oh, stressful. No explanation needed. And then smiley because I don't think I've smiled more. [ "Aww."]

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term plan is to go to Massachusetts and work as a medical assistant for a year. Long-term plan is med school. But who knows what will happen?

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

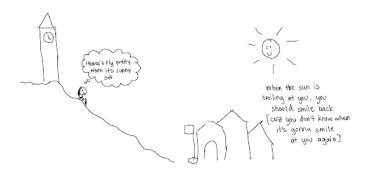
Get up! Like, start working. \*laughs\* Because it was during COVID right, so when I entered Cornell I had no motivation to do any work or meet new people or anything, and I kinda wished that I did. So, start moving!

#### 11. Bro or Bruh?

What? Um...bro or bruh? Like b-r-o or b-r-u-h? ["Yeah."] The second one. Bruh.

Alice stayed in Mann after we finished our interview, saying that she had an assignment to finish but that she would see me at Ignite later that night. As I said goodbye, I couldn't help thinking about how crazy it was that Alice was about to graduate college soon. I've known her (and Bella) since elementary school, watching her grow up through middle school, high school, and now college. I am so thankful for our friendship throughout these past years, and even more thankful that she has come to know and love the Lord. May God continue to sustain Alice as she leaves Ithaca, and may she continue to rely on Him. Good luck with everything, Alice! I know God has amazing plans for you so may you faithfully trust and abide in Him in all that you do.

- Valerie Chen ('23)



"When the sun is smiling at you, you should smile back [cuz you don't know when it's gonna smile at you again]"

## Bella Hw

Hometown: Ithaca, New York Major: Information Science



"Tell me and I forget.

Teach me and I remember.

Involve me and I learn."

— Benjamin Franklin

In Rhodes Hall where suffering thrives,
Bella studies with an incredible drive.
But today, I find her sitting in Gates,
Where she watches a K-drama with a contemplative face...

#### **Favorites**

Praise song: "Worthy of It All"

**Cornell class:** Ooh...that's a hard one. I really like the web design classes like even though it was a ton of work, I could get something out of it and put it on my résumé.

Study spot: Rhodes, obviously. There every night the party

starts.

**Place to eat:** Morrison. And if you're talking CTown, Koko. **Music group/artist:** \*beams\* Oh, that varies. Let me check my Spotify. Oh, I like to listen to Chinese artists – Hua Chen. **Verse:** Psalm 3:5. It's one I've memorized as a child so I really like it.

**Dessert:** Ooh, I like ice cream. **CBS tradition:** Felly Dessert

### 1. CBS is...

Family!

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Well, I think I've learned to trust in Him a lot more.

Um, I've also started remembering His Word because of all the Bible Studies I've been to. I've been able to remember His Word more so I've been able to apply His Word to my life.

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

In terms of school, take your core classes early because they can serve as prereqs for a lot of other classes and you can figure out your career, what you like and don't like.

### b. Sophomores

Pretty much the same [as freshmen]. Start thinking about things you can do to elevate yourself from the others, like projects, research.

#### c. Juniors

Start thinking about solidifying your career choice after senior year.

### d. CBS in general

Just always trust in God, God always has a plan for you. Even if you're lost trying to figure out your career and stuff, you can always trust in Him and pray, and understand His will for you.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

Most of my memories are in Rhodes...ohh, I think I remember, my first Dragon Day. It was really nice. It was really rainy and muddy and there was a whole crowd of people, and I went from Sibley and followed the dragon from there. And I remember in Eng Quad some people made a phoenix and the phoenix had glasses and a top hat and the dragon was kind of like Mushu vs. Rio.

# 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you? I've always had an interest in interior design and architecture. ["Ooooh!"]

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

\*laughs\* Just Engineering Quad in general. Not just Rhodes, but yes, Rhodes is comfy and conveniently located there.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Ooh. I think, getting me more into the church community and meeting a lot of new friends through there.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

I was gonna say Rhodes, Rhodes, Rhodes, but I realized I didn't go there freshman and sophomore year. But yes, Rhodes. What else? Overloading, because I tend to overestimate myself on coursework and I think I took 18 credits all the way through sophomore year. ["Even freshman year?!"] Yeah. Then, my third word...let me think. Is there one word to say close friends? ["Maybe we can make that one word."] Okay, "closefriends." I think I've had a lot of support from close friends.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

How long is short-term? ["Let's say five years."] Okay, go work for one year or so, then I need to get my sign-on bonus, and then start applying for a master's program. It's my goal to get a master's degree within the next five years. ["What kind of master's?"] Probably in info sci, but my dad wants me to get an MBA.

Long-term, just work in industry for as long as possible and live a good life.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

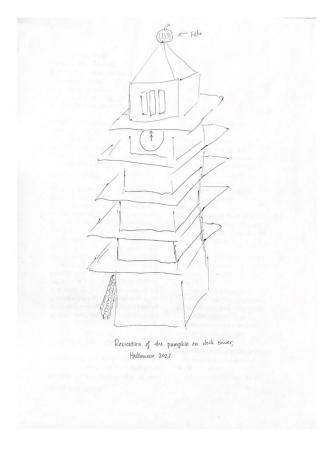
Probably the same advice I gave to freshmen because my freshman year I started off taking my college requirements, taking bio, and stuff. I was pre-med so. ["Wait what?!!"] Yeah, I was info sci on the pre-med track. I wish I figured out my stuff earlier. And right now, I'm taking multivariable calculus so I really wish I took that earlier.

#### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Bruh. Well, in text, yes, bruh. And I also say bruh.

After the interview, Bella and I spent some more time talking as I did not have anything urgent and she did not have class for another hour. I'm really happy I was not only able to spend more time with Bella, but to also learn about how God worked in her life these past four years. Bella, may the Word of God continue to feed you and guide your path onward. Perhaps I'll see you in Ithaca in a few years if we're both here for grad school:-0

- Jemima Yoon ('25)



"Recreation of the Pumpkin on the Clock Tower, Halloween of 2023"

## Elisabeth Kam

Hometown: Bedminster, New Jersey Major: Information Science



"There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves; it is not my nature. My attachments are always

excessively strong."— Jane Austen,

Northanger Abbey

Beth and I met at Fusia. She ordered a bento (a classic) and answered my questions as we ate, occasionally going off-topic to update each other about our lives or lament about the absurd grading systems one of our shared classes has.

### **Favorites**

**Praise song:** "As the Deer". It's a pretty old song (I think it's a hymn), but the lyrics are always so meaningful to me; I sang it a lot growing up.

**Cornell class:** That's hard...in the sense that I don't have a favorite class, haha. Probably AMST 2001; it's called the First American University. It's only one credit, it's really chill and fun.

**Study spot:** Music library in Lincoln – you should go! It's really quiet and a lot of people don't know about it, but realistically, I'm in Engineering 90% of the time Iol.

**Place to eat:** Probably So Poong! My go-to order is the army stew; I go there so much that the owners recognize me:)

**Music group/artist:** Day6: the first K-pop band I started listening to.

**Verse:** Probably still 1 Corinthians 10:31...l probably said that as a freshman.

**Dessert:** Donuts! Jelly donuts, but it has to be a certain kind: the best kind are the ones that are glazed.

CBS tradition: Service marketplace, hands down!

#### 1. CBS is...

God's fellowship.

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

He really made me see how real He is in a sense and how He's working in my life. Definitely before, faith was more like a "word" to me or concept, as opposed to being a real part of my life – it's not just part of my life, but it's my whole life! Everything I do connects back to God...I feel like I faced a lot of unique and different challenges. Each time I get through it, I think to myself that God put me through this for a reason to help me grow.

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

You guys gotta study, but don't ONLY study. When you're at Cornell, everyone's really competitive (I was like that as a freshman too, and still am, haha) but a lot of times it doesn't matter as much as you think. There's a lot of tradeoffs at Cornell, but I feel that the trade-off involving friends is always more worth it. This is the time to ground yourself in your faith and make Christian friends because that really helps with your faith!

### b. Sophomores

This is when you start to establish yourself a bit more, so because of that, I would say choose wisely in what you invest in. There's a good chance you're gonna get stuck in it for the rest of your college career, so if you want to do something, do it!

#### c. Juniors

As an upperclassman, you want to start setting an example; a lot of underclassmen look up to you (and believe it or not) they actually respect you. Think about the things you say, be mindful of how you're behaving and how your actions can potentially influence others.

### d. CBS in general

Continue to look out for each other, take care of each other, and love each other as Christ says. Don't undermine the importance of just being present. Some day there won't be another day: you'll be gone, the upperclassmen, the prayer leaders will be gone.

There's a finite time period to do all these things. For a lot of people, you just showing up actually means a lot. Just making the effort to come and spending time with other CBSers to learn God's word is very important and impactful.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

When I was like a sophomore, I got this wild idea to watch "All of Us Are Dead" with my friends Nicole and Priscilla (none of us are good with zombie shows). We didn't totally binge it, but we finished it pretty quickly. It was so fun, even though most of the time I was scared stiff...when we were finishing it, we jumped every time we heard a noise.

### 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I don't know if I told anyone, but I like *Transformers* – but like the original '80s one (it's called G1). Some of the *Transformers* OST is on my Spotify too (I don't know if anyone saw, but hopefully no one did, haha).

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Low-key, that sounds the same thing to me as a study spot LOL. Favorite spot if I'm **not** studying is the Snee rooftop (I definitely don't study there) because I like being up high.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I think one of them is finding a strong community of Christian friends. That wasn't something I really had growing up because I wasn't really involved in church (I didn't go to youth group) and even with Christian friends, we didn't really talk about Christianity. Being able to ground myself more in my faith (of course, I still have a lifetime of a journey left to go) but I feel like I learned so much about prayer, God, the Bible, and what it really means to live a Christian life.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Tired; stressful; fried-chicken.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term: go to work. That's it. Probably go on vacation, probably chill. I'm a pretty big believer of hanging around my house with no responsibility, so I'm probably gonna do some of that.

Long-term: I don't know, I don't really like industry that much, so I hope I'm not stuck in it forever. I want to be able to focus on my hobbies more: rock climb more, draw some comics (more specifically, webtoons), write a webtoon. That's what I really want to do.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Chill, don't hold back (within reason), don't worry so much about what other people think. The reality is that people don't actually care (in a good way). Your friends are here to support you, don't worry so much, and everything will turn out okay.

#### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Probably bro.

After finishing her drawing, Beth and I went our separate ways. Even though it was cold outside, the conversation with Beth was very heartwarming. I'd encourage everyone to take advantage of Beth's wisdom and insight before she leaves!

- Emily Wang ('25)



"Boking a lemon chiffon cake with Alex, Lucy, and Grace Jia when I was a freshman."

"Baking a lemon chiffon cake with Alex, Lucy, and Grace
Jia when I was a freshman."

## alice ke

Hometown: Hamilton, New Zealand Major: Computer Science



"Today is your day, your mountain is waiting. So get on your way."

— Dr. Seuss

After much much rescheduling, Alice and I finally got together for the BoL interview on Zoom! Before jumping right into the interview, Alice and I talked about our plans for Spring Break, and we just had a three-minute conversation about how New York City has gotten very dangerous recently. From people getting pushed into the tracks, women getting punched in the face in broad daylight...and a lot more graphic things that I don't want to scare you readers off with haha oops. After our scary talk about NYC we got straight into the interview~

### **Favorites**

Praise song: "At the Cross" by Hillsong Worship

Cornell class: Intro to Python

Study spot: Statler third floor cubicles

Place to eat: Sage

Music group/artist: Eric Chou

Verse: Philippians 4:6-7

Dessert: Coconut ice cream at Cornell

CBS tradition: Felly Dinner

### 1. CBS is...

Friends Iol.

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Oh, that's deep. \*laughs\* Well, I first started sophomore year, because of COVID freshman year. I think sophomore fall, I wasn't looking to search for a Christian fellowship. But most of my friends are Christians and I think God just brought me here.

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

Oh, let's see, be open to exploring, and don't be afraid to ask anyone for questions or advice.

### b. Sophomores

It's so strange to me because sophomore year to me feels like freshman year. I think sophomore year is the time to start thinking about your future, but don't stress too much about it. Enjoy the time you have here.

#### c. Juniors

I would say, don't be afraid to try new things, because after sophomore year you may feel like clubs are set. But I think it's still fine to try new things if you want to.

### d. CBS in general

For everyone to just continue walking together in the journey and continue supporting each other.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

I don't think I have a favorite memory. I think I just enjoy getting lunch with friends and chatting.

### 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I have no idea! \*laughs\* Nothing comes to mind, I don't think I have a hidden quirk. I think I can type pretty fast.

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Probably the slope if you can see the sunset. Otherwise, I do like being on the fourth floor of Upson. Somewhere up high, so I can get a good view of campus.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I think He's given strength through times of stress and anxiety. I feel like He's given me peace and comfort.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Struggle, growth, community.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term after graduation: hopefully do something fun for summer. Just getting rest before starting work. Long-term: just work and figure out what I want to do with my career and see from there.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Probably that time goes by a lot faster and the times that you're struggling won't be for long and to just push through, it is all temporary.

### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Bruh.

It was lovely meeting up with Alice over Zoom. I pray that God may keep growing her in her faith and her spiritual journey. May she find a wonderful community that uplifts her and walks along with her toward the path of Jesus.

- QQ Lin ('25)



"Live, Love & Laugh"

## Sharon Ww

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois Major: Computer Science



"good vibes, good people"

I forgot about the fact that I signed up to be an interviewer until the Friday before my interview and Bella asked me when I was going to have time to be interviewed. I asked Sharon at the end of LG and we had a short discussion about when we would both be available. It turns out that we both have time on Wednesday, around 4:45. I'm coming from lab class (PSB) and Sharon came from Klarman. It was snowing very hard when I was walking from PSB to Rockefeller where this interview is taking place, but thankfully the walk is short.

### **Favorites**

**Praise song:** Probably "Amazing Love" right now. I'm thinking about singing it for my baptism.

**Cornell class:** Uhm, probably a tie between CS 2800 and MATH 3110. I think both of them were interesting classes, and they're in areas I didn't know a lot of stuff about before, so you know a little bit, but they go deeper.

**Study spot:** Hm, third floor Mann, but I also like Uris Library. I think Mann is quiet so you can get stuff done and Uris is very pretty. \*subtle laugh\*

**Place to eat:** Uh, maybe Asian Chili Spot 'cause the food's good and I really like their soup.

Music group/artist: Probably Seventeen 'cause I listened to them quite a bit in high school and they're one of the only groups I've gone to a concert for.

**Verse:** Owaaa, hehahahehea. Can? I choose two? Galatians 5:22-25, yeah, so, fruit of the Spirit, and Hebrews 12:2, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

**Dessert:** I like a lot of desserts, I have a sweet tooth. Probably brownies and ice cream.

**CBS tradition:** Hehehhehe, Felly Dinners and hanging out after a Large Group. You get to know people more – well, you just talk to them. Obviously Bible Study too.

#### 1. CBS is...

Second family. Uhm, yeah, like they're basically a family except you're not actually related by blood, but there are people you love, trust, and want to hang out with.

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

Heh, I guess I became a Christian. That's a lot of change. I didn't go to church that much freshman year. I went a lot more consistently sophomore year.

#### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

Explore new things and explore a lot of different things. Yeah, 'cause it's a different environment from being at home, so you should go to different fellowships, different clubs, and see what you like.

### b. Sophomores

Tsk, feel like sophomore year you start settling in a bit more and it gets busier, so just do your best in school. Hehe, don't beat yourself up over a mistake or if something doesn't go perfectly. Try your best!

### c. Juniors

I think, in terms of fellowship or church, maybe start thinking more about how you can serve or reach out to underclassmen and then, in terms of classes, just keep working hard.

### d. CBS in general

Focus on God, trust God, and love the other members in CBS.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

I feel like there's a lot. Probably hanging out with my friends or studying with friends in Eng Quad. Also taking study breaks and walking around Arts Quad with my friends.

## 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

Heheheh! I don't think there's a lot. I guess I can't think of anything off the top of my head. I guess everyone knows I play badminton, but I also played soccer through middle school so not a lot of people know that.

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Uhm, I think by the clock tower in the spring. (Is it cherry blossoms, Alice?) When there's a lot of pink flowers.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Ooh, I think especially sophomore and junior year I prayed a lot about where to go following college, but I think God has given me an opportunity to go back home and be with my family and friends from high school, and hopefully be able to go to church with them and know God more too.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Meaningful: I feel like I made a lot of friends that I would want to keep in touch with after college, and I think the time we spent together was very nice as well.

Exciting: 'cause I've never been away from home for such a long period of time. So I guess it was pretty new and exciting as well.

And also studying: 'cause there are a lot of classes and quite a bit of work.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term is to go back to Chicago area and work. Long-termmm, uh, I'm not quite sure yet, but I think it would be nice to try living in some other area, to see what I like doing. Or traveling, traveling would be nice.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

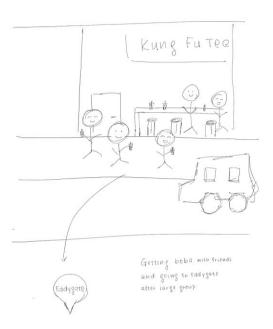
That's a deep question, uhm, not to be too stressed about getting really really good grades, but also to enjoy your time at Cornell more because it goes by really quickly. Also, to trust God more.

### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Bruh! I think bruh just sounds better than bro, I don't know, it's more staccato.

After this interview, Sharon and I are going to Morrison for North Dinner! It's still snowing outside, which is unfortunate, but thankfully I can take the bus to Morrison. We even did some more work before leaving Rockefeller. All in all, I've learned a lot about Sharon and gotten some great tips from this interview.

- Sky Chen ('27)



"Getting boba with friends and going to Eddygate after large group."

## Leland Xw

Hometown: Ithaca, New York Major: Industrial and Labor Relations



"I have tried so hard to do what is right." — Grover Cleveland

I first met Leland on my second day in Ithaca. Pastor Paul invited my family and Kevin's family to FICCC to meet two current Cornell students in CBS – Leland and Alice Ke. I remember him being very quiet (and shy) when my mom asked him about Ithaca restaurant recs, and I was like "oop – this is awk." But after being in CBS for a semester, I began to see a totally different side of Leland: quirky, funny, sarcastic. And I was even able to convince him to try taekwondo (LOVED his energy btw), where I witnessed him whacking shields and paddles with all his might. It was honestly such a fun experience and a reflection of what every interaction I've had with him is like: I feel like during each conversation I have with him, I can always laugh and be myself (and persuade him to come to more practices and pitch Eatery Blue:P).

### **Favorites**

**Praise song:** I can never remember all the praise songs. "10,000 Reasons" or "As the Deer".

**Cornell class:** I keep forgetting all of them because I don't like any of them. ["You chose the right major."] But they were all easy, so it's ok. I liked ENGL 2620: Asian-American Literature. It was a really chill class. ["Was it a lot of reading?"] Kinda, but it was interesting. I also liked GOVT 3303: Politics of the Global North. It's about the First World. ["Very ILRie."]

**Study spot:** I don't really study. But a lot of Cornell is conducive to studying because everywhere is very nice.

Fine Arts Library, Olin – all the libraries with high spots to see the view are nice as well – Mann. I'm going to say Catherwood because no one's there, since everyone thinks it sucks. That's why I like it. It's underrated.

**Place to eat:** In Ithaca? Asia Cuisine in the Commons. Or Antlers, but that's kinda expensive. It's like an American steakhouse. It's a special occasion place.

**Music group/artist:** I switch between music a lot. But the one artist I've been listening to for a decade is probably Bob Dylan, so he's probably my favorite.

**Verse:** There's a lot of them. I like 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12 at the moment. I think it's really practical and very honest. **Dessert:** I don't really like dessert, but I like cannoli and cheesecake. ["Have you ever made cannoli before?"] No, but I heard it isn't terribly difficult.

**CBS tradition:** Probably Felly Dinner/Dessert. But I also like the retreats a lot too. ["Did you go to all the retreats?"] I don't think I was there for all of them. ["Is there a Felly Dinner that stood out to you or a theme that was memorable?"] I like the Ghibli theme, but my favorite Felly Dinner was the Red Carpet one back in 2021; I was a sophomore then.

#### 1. CBS is...

A community of believers who are dedicated to fellowship with one another and spreading the love of God throughout Cornell. I'm making it sound like an ad.

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

I was really just nervous, hoping that Cornell wouldn't be a waste of time, in terms of meeting new people and getting work done. I didn't want to feel like I was wasting more time in Ithaca. ["I hope that has changed."] My expectations have kinda shifted around. I learned and experienced things that I thought I wouldn't have, so I guess that's how God changed me. Kinda made me more open and willing to do more than I previously thought I was capable of. For better or for worse. ["Is there an example? You're talking so abstractly!"] CBS requires a lot of responsibility, like driving, praise — if you're on STEAM, you have to do your specific responsibilities, like in Bible Study, you plan lessons and

facilitate leaders. I'm used to juggling a lot of things or I've had to learn to juggle a lot of things that previously I would have been like "no, I can't do this." You get used to it.

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

A lot of time freshmen can feel like if they haven't accomplished something, it's over, even though it's not. You're not "cooked," right – but sometimes you can feel the pan getting hotter. At the same time, some habits are very important to start early on to follow now and that last throughout college. Go to church. Go to class. Be aware of what types of things you can get away with while knowing what things are more important to focus on.

#### b. Sophomores

For sophomores going into upperclassmen status, communication is really important. Historically, CBS has not been super good at communicating with each other. Being available to communicate with your peers and your underclassmen is vital for better fellowship. If you're planning something, you want to communicate more, otherwise you and everyone involved will just get confused, annoyed, and mad. There's both a social and a practical level to that.

### c. Juniors

It might sound controversial, but juniors who are going to be seniors and in charge of everything have to realize that sometimes people just don't care about anything, and you can't rely on them to get things done. You either have to do it yourself or find a way to live without it. It's not your fault, but you can't expect people to care about things as much as you do.

### d. CBS in general

All my advice for all the grades applies to CBS in general because eventually, everyone has to cross that bridge. A more general one is that it's okay if you can't do something to just cut it out. If you can't support a tradition because no one's willing to do it, you shouldn't be forced or obligated to continue it. You should just let it die, which sounds kinda like "give up." Because it kinda is. Give up. Within reason and if no one cares about it. There's no shame in giving up.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

A lot of them are moments when you're with CBS outside of planned events. I remember eating dinner with upperclassmen at 1G (like with Victor and Attilus), watching TV with Meili, and being at Café Jennie with Dawn and Daniel. I like those moments when you're hanging out because you want to.

5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you? Every week I play trivia with my high school/college friends, and we usually win. The longest winning streak we had was eight weeks, so trivia is a hidden talent. ["Where do you play trivia?"] Collegetown Bagels. But we hate going, we just go for the money. ["You guys win money?"] Yeah, but it's split between four people, and with inflation, everything's more expensive so it doesn't make a difference.

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Probably somewhere on Central like Olin. I don't really have a favorite spot, I just like the campus in general. ["What about Olin do you like?"] It's in the middle and easy to access – actually, I like Statler a lot. That's because I'm used to it.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

Giving me some level of purpose while in college. In college, people have a lot of guidance about what to do: their teachers tell them to go to class, the club presidents tell them to do whatever, so I think purpose is kind of a given, but I always thought that I wouldn't pay attention or do that. So, I'm glad He gave me a purpose while here that isn't just about academics or things for me to just get ahead. ["What do you think is the purpose that you feel like God gave you?"] Serving CBS. It was spiritually fulfilling and more noble than doing something for credentials, even though that's not a bad thing.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Gloomy: It's always dark and sometimes life gets really bad. Cyclical: Everything repeats in a sense, for better or for worse.

Unexpected: Regarding things that have happened and things I've had to do as a student.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term: I'm still looking for work, just securing myself down by finding a good job. ["Do you have an ideal position?"] I will go wherever they will pay me.

Long-term: Who knows what will happen?

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

It's alright. You have to push yourself to do things that you wouldn't otherwise do. When something's happening, but you don't really want to go, you just make yourself go just so you can say you did it. You don't want to miss out.

### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Bruh.

The amount of time, energy, and service Leland pours out to CBS is truly inspiring. I admire his honesty and leadership – especially how he is never afraid to speak his mind. I genuinely believe that these traits, and with the strength of God, will carry him far in life. Leland, if you're reading this (I mean I sure hope you do...lol), I pray that God will continue to make His will known to you and your purpose in life clear, no matter where you end up after college. Even during the dark times, I hope that your faith will not waver and that you will lean on God as your rock!

- Candy Wu ('26)



"Hanging out with people from CBS outside of CBS."

## ambrose yang

Hometown: Potomac, Maryland Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering & Computer Science



"People are more important than things."

— Randy Pausch

One spectacularly efficient email exchange later, Ambrose and I had found time amidst the busy school schedule to meet up. At around 5 P.M. in the lower lounge of Appel, we sat down to chat. Late afternoon sun peeked through the clouds and cast a golden light through the window. It was quiet, with someone playing the piano behind us.

### **Favorites**

Praise song: Um...I'm inclined to say the same one from freshman year. It's in Chinese, it's 《你的爱》 by Streams of Grace, but I guess also "In Christ Alone".

**Cornell class:** I guess like – two conducting classes I took in freshman year. I can give you the class numbers. MUSIC 3122, 4121. The final exam was to conduct a piece with the orchestra, which was pretty cool.

**Study spot:** Probably CIS lounge in Rhodes or Upson but I also want to say, just like – anywhere else where other CBS people are and it's a place where I haven't studied often. I feel like Upson and Rhodes are my most common spots, but I think sometimes they can get old.

**Place to eat:** \*makes face\* ...In Ithaca? Not particularly. I guess I just don't want to eat the same thing every day.

**Music group/artist:** Worship music-wise: the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. Outside of worship, probably the Berlin Phil.

**Verse:** I'm thinking like – Matthew 6:33. I don't remember the exact verse number, but it's the one that's "seek first the

kingdom of God". I think I also like the surrounding passage about not having to worry about life. If God even clothes the flowers of the field and cares for the field, then how much will He care for us?

**Dessert:** So, they repeated this from last year...probably Jell-O! ["Any particular flavor?"] Mango, but a lot of other flavors are good.

CBS tradition: Mm...Night of Worship.

#### 1. CBS is...

An on-campus Christian fellowship that seeks to know Christ and to make him known. But I wanna add a word: together. Like "make him known, together."

### 2. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

\*sits back, big smile\*...I think when I was in high school, um, I definitely attended church and Youth Group consistently, but I think a lot of what I was really invested in were the clubs at school and things at school. I think I was committed to going to church, but it definitely felt like most of life was actually invested in the activities at school. I think when I came to Cornell, I kind of had that same mindset that was, "I wanna figure out all these clubs and which are the right ones to join" or "Which are the right classes to take and how to get and be involved in research?" And when I got to Cornell, this was during the Zoom era, I think God put me in CBS first and really taught me that I should really put Him first instead of worrying about all those other things. So I think over time in Cornell, I definitely felt more that I want to live my life to glorify God and that glorifying God isn't just going to church and Friday night Large Group, but it's in everything that I do. If I'm trying to do well in class, that's my way of glorifying God, and when I study, that's my way of glorifying God's creation. I feel my college life is much more about living for Him rather than compartmentalizing it into spiritual things and non-spiritual things.

### 3. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

#### a. Freshmen

I guess one thing is to really seek out a fellowship and a church and really make a strong commitment to set apart time for God.

As you progress through college, you'll have more and more distractions, so it'll be harder. So if you set it apart from the start and let all the other activities come in, you at least have that time blocked out. I think sophomore year is also a good time where you're already acquainted with how things go, but you still have time to try out stuff. I think it's a good time to find out what ways you want to serve God in. By serving God, I mean not just church and ministries and CBS, but also what other activities in college do I want to join and how can I serve or glorify God through those things.

### b. Sophomores

I think junior year starts at the part where you're an upperclassman and you're over halfway in college already. so I think it's a good time to really think about what you really want to invest in. I definitely think it's good to find a few things you really want to invest in and really pour yourself into those things. And I think definitely spiritually, it's a good time to really commit to a church and really commit to CBS in the sense of not so much thinking about it as, "What can I get from this church?" or "What can I get from CBS?" but really committing in a sense by saying "If things are good, that's great. If things are not going well, then what can I do to make it better?" So I think early on. people choose fellowship and churches with a consumer mindset, but I think as you become an upperclassman, it's good to really stick to one church, one fellowship, and be there through the thick and thin and be there to contribute. If you see something is wrong, that's not a reason to move to a different church or fellowship, but an opportunity to think about how you can make it better.

#### c. Juniors

I'd say finish well. There are two mentalities people can fall into: senioritis (an indifferent kind of mentality) or another is that you don't really have time left at Cornell, so you want to make the most of it. I think being indifferent is the worst of the options, I think especially ministry-wise. I think Acts 28 or 2 Timothy Paul really talks about "I've run a good race, I've fought a good fight." Paul said that at the end of his life, and this isn't really so much at the end of our lives, but I think it's to really kind of give everything you can. Really do the ministry you care about and do it to the best of your ability.

I guess also make sure you really have the time to do the things you like to do, I hope that includes spending time with CBS. Not really having so many classes and things to track, but spending time with people and with CBS and building up other people.

#### d. CBS in general

I think to really value the time that we have in college. We have to really spend time as a family of brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm definitely not old enough to speak on this, but I get the impression that working life and grad school life is not the same as undergrad. This ability to be like an extended family because we all really just live together and are going through the same things together, really treasuring fellowship in that way...it's...I feel like now that I'm thinking about graduation, CBS is something that I'm going to treasure. I would say to really invest in it, invest time and energy in it, before you realize that there isn't much time left at Cornell or that you wish you spent more time in it.

### 4. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

I wouldn't say this is one specific memory, there's not really a clear picture in my head, but I think probably some of those times when a bunch of us in CBS were just together, either after Large Group or working on campus and it was getting late at night and either we were all chatting together or studying together. I just think as long as there isn't an assignment due at midnight, these moments were just really good times for us to build relationships and bond with each other.

### 5. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

I guess I can clap with one hand on both hands. I feel like some people already know this. ["You did demonstrate for us at the winter retreat."] Oh ok. \*proceeds to demonstrate again\* It's kinda fun.

### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Anywhere that I haven't really explored. I think I just like exploring stuff, so it's just cool to find out about new places on campus.

### 7. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past four years?

I think coming into Cornell, I probably didn't know what to pray for. I think in my mind, I wanted to have a good college experience, but what "good" even meant probably wasn't even super clear to me. I don't ever remember explicitly praying, "Oh, I want to have a good college experience" and probably in my freshman year or even later than that, I didn't even know what it meant or what to even ask for. But I think God has definitely answered that prayer or...that...wish, because I'm not even sure I prayed explicitly for it. I think He's answered that beyond what I could even think of or imagine. I mean — I think at Cornell, I've...I don't really know how to put it, but um, I think it's almost fulfilling in a sense. It's fulfilling to know that I've been able to serve. Wait — wait — give me a second. I want to collect my words, this is kind of hard to describe.

I would say it's like it's fulfilling in many different ways. It's fulfilling to be able to really serve God and a fellowship that I really care about and to see some of the fruit come out of serving God. I think it's fulfilling in the sense that I've been able to build good relationships with other people. It's fulfilling in the sense that I've been able to really learn a lot with good professors and mentors. I've been able to learn about things I've been interested in. It's really hard to categorize these things completely, but I think that describes how God has answered my prayer for that "good" college experience.

### 8. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

...I guess I could say "family" and that would be people in CBS, and also people in church family, like FICCC. I would say "challenging." Classes have been challenging, but in a good way. It's a challenge that I've enjoyed working through. I feel like "grace." I feel like God has given me a lot of good things I didn't deserve during my time at Cornell. It's kind of a weird mix.

### 9. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term plans are to go to grad school. I guess when Leland finishes editing this, I'll know where, but I haven't really decided yet.

Long-term plans...I'm thinking of staying in academia and becoming faculty, but I guess that's still kind of a long way off.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

I feel like I don't focus a lot on regrets, so this is kind of hard. I feel like it's hard to find something I regret and focus on. I feel when I do regret, I think about what to do to make it better sometimes, just like – pray about it. Like when I get into a tough situation and I pray about it. In those moments realize what God is teaching me or trusting Him to get me out of a bad situation.

I would say like...I definitely had this mentality inside my head that I had to be working harder than other people, like "I have to take harder classes than other people" or "I have to be busier than other people." I'm not even sure where this thought comes from, but I think a piece of advice that I would give to myself is not to fall prey to that kind of mentality and really focus on the things that are important. So it's not important to be the person who is taking the hardest classes or is working the most or is doing the most of honestly anything, but to really focus on what is important. What are the skills and abilities that God is giving me? And using those to the best of my ability.

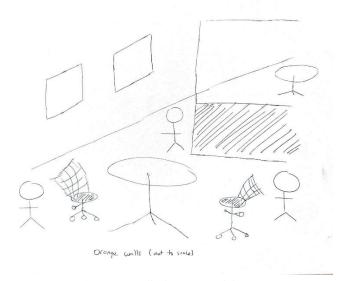
### 11. Bro or Bruh?

Bruh.

Ever since being a part of CBS, Ambrose has been someone I admired and looked up to as a good role model. I could see his passion for God and for serving his brothers and sisters in Christ. I am inordinately grateful for this time together that we could sit down and talk. It was my honor to interview him, and although I lament that our time together was so short, I felt comforted by the end of this interview. With the sun now faded behind the horizon, Ambrose and I walked up the stairs of Appel to join the rest of CBS North Dinner as one big family.

I hope I have accurately captured all the nuance that makes Ambrose, Ambrose; so whoever reads this too will be able to share in my joy of knowing him. Though I know not what the future brings, I am confident God has great plans for Ambrose. May he continue to be a light and a blessing to the world, CBS is blessed to have this beloved brother in Christ.

### - Tiffany Situ ('27)



"Orange Walls (not to scale)"



### Alice Hu

I will to Josiah all of my love for *Peanuts* and music, and that he may continue to hold down the fort for CBS felly dinners in the future.

I will to Sky Chen continued motivation and curiosity for chemistry. I will to Tiffany humor, laughter, and all my smiles, that she may continue to encourage CBS with her lovely crafts and love of memes.

I will to Leon motivation for practicing violin and persistence in his CS endeavors.

I will to Steven my thankfulness in showing me his dedication in serving CBS and God, and I will him continued joy in going to North Dinners.

I will to Abbey, Jonny, Josh, and Jeffrey success and motivation in finishing their Physical Therapy degrees, and I will be reaching out to you all after one of my clumsy mishaps.

I will to Kevin my thankfulness in seeing his dedication in serving CBS and speedy, safe trips in his cool car to and from IC.

I will to Jemima my passion for K-dramas and continued motivation in sharing testimonies and understanding Christ.

I will to Sky Kim willingness to serve on Praise Team and strong muscles for hauling the Praise equipment to and from Large Group.

I will to Jade time to rest and destress from all the pre-vet work and my smiles to encourage her love for memes and making others laugh.

I will to Joseph continued passion and resilience in learning all about computational biology and success in his future endeavors. I will to Teresa all my smiles and optimism in pursuing pre-health classes and continued dedication to serving Christ and CBS.

I will to Candy strong physical and mental health and my thankfulness for her dedication in serving on REACH team.

I will to Cheryl quiet time to serve God and a kind heart for the fellowship.

I will to QQ the desire to wholeheartedly serve CBS and God and my thankfulness for her help in all the CBS events.

I will to all my fellow seniors and those leaving Cornell and CBS success and motivation in our future endeavors, as well as the joyful heart to spread the goodness of God and make him known wherever we are.

### Bella Hu

I will to Jemima my love of wearing CIS course staff shirts, my love of studying in Rhodes Hall lounges, and my thankfulness for sharing how God has influenced her life every week.

I will to Joseph Liu my remaining resilience as he pursues difficult courses outside of the biology major.

I will to Sky Kim and Jade my remaining love of watching K-dramas, and my thankfulness for inspiring me with their eternal love of God. I will to Teresa and Sky Kim my knowledge of all the information science classes I've taken, and all my creativity for their UI/UX concentrations.

I will to QQ my love for food and my hope that she can try out all the restaurants in Ithaca!

I will to Cheryl my everlasting willingness to help out CBS, especially on REACH team.

I will to Jonny, Abigail, Josh, Jeffrey, and Kevin continued persistence in their studies at IC and continued dedication to serving God.

I will to Steven my remaining passion for learning origami and my thankfulness for inspiring me with his dedication to understanding God.

I will to Candy understanding of the difficult material in her classes as she navigates through the information science major in engineering.

I will to Sky Chen joy in studying chemistry/chemical biology, even if I don't understand it.

I will to Josiah my love for Snoopy, music, and continued cooking/baking frenzies! (CBS will depend on you for future felly dinners/desserts)

I will to Tiffany the ability to bring laughter, joy, and creativity to everyone wherever she is!

I will to Leon my love for the violin and music, and diligence in studying for difficult CS courses.

I will to my fellow seniors the will and motivation to learn and serve God as they continue on with their lives after graduation.

### Elisabeth Kam

I will to QQ all my bread and brownies.

I will to Sky K. all my baking skills.

I will to Joseph Liu a continued devotion to the Lord.

I will to Jemima my remaining obsession with Infinite.

I will to Emily W. donuts in CA.

I will to Atulya God's peace and wisdom.

I will to Steven my art abilities.

I will to Candy all my chocolate-chip cookies and Reach skills.

I will my passion for fashion to Zoey.

I will to Leon all my ML knowledge.

I will to Sky C. all the cinnamon coffee cake in Morrison.

I will to Tiffany some curly fries and a love for the Lord.

I will to Jeffrey Liu lots of strawberries.

I will to Jonny a full-length Studio Ghibli movie night marathon.

I will to Teresa all my prayers for success in her career.

I will to Jade a full heart for CBS and my ice skates.

I will to Josiah the mop in my apartment.

I will to Cheryl joyful times with CBS.

I will to Abbey my Twice albums.

I will to Joshua P. a heart to praise and serve God.

#### Alice Ke

I will to Jemima a continuous love for worship and Bible Study. I will to Steven a love for North Dinners and Morrison's supply of coconut ice cream.

I will to Joseph a constant smile and desire to chat with new members.

I will to Josh a love for New Zealand. May you find kiwis better than capybaras!

I will to Jade a strong passion for emojis.

I will to Tiffany all my understanding of memes.

#### Sharon Wu

I will to Jemima boisterous laughter (without hitting her head on the wall behind her) and a heart to care for all the newcomers. I will to Jade the ability to (gently!) tease others and be (gently!) teased in return. I also will her a heart for outreach and inreach. I will to Sky Kim the time to get coffee and catch up with many many friends. I also will her all of my (limited) musical talents:D I will to Joseph Liu a heart for those in FICCC and CBS as well as more words to describe how his day is going.

I will to Jacqueline fellowship with CBS and lovely, lovely friendships <3

I will to Teresa lots of coffee and yummy desserts~

I will to Emily Wang a love for knowing God. I also will her much enjoyment in all her CS classes.

I will to Jonny lots and lots of candy wrappers (all the candy wrappers!)

I will to Abbey the curiosity to learn more about faith. I also will her nice pink accessories for her apartment.

I will to QQ a heart that seeks to draw closer to God. I also will her good food and cute accessories.

I will to Cheryl lots of yummy yummy food and boba! I also will her a tame tag for large group.

I will Candy a heart to serve (on reach or elsewhere!) and lots of care for fellow CBS members.

I will to Josh Persaud happy documentaries with cute animals and many many Easter eggs:)

I will to Steven a heart to serve in the fellowship. I also will him pretty papers for origami.

I will to Sky Chen a decent sleep schedule and my love for boba:) I will to Tiffany my appreciation for her really really cool crafts as well as the time to write and act out the funniest scripts!

I will to Leon a heart that loves the Lord and a desire to grow in faith. I also will him loads of ~coolness~ and ~drip~

I will to Josiah information about all the cool events on campus (and hopefully enough time to go to them:))

I will to Zoey curiosity about faith and time to learn more about who God is.

I will to Hannah my love for astronomy and the ability to see God's greatness displayed in the stars.

I will to Lily trust in following the Lord and many lovely and meaningful experiences in college.

I will to Christine many precious memories at Cornell and much joy in serving God.

### Leland Xu

I will to Abbey an authentic discovery and love for the Lord and the continued hunt for bottles.

I will to Atulya an understanding of the Gospel and that it may inspire the rest of his life.

I will to Candy YouTube global fame, taekwondo *ap chagis*, and a tireless heart to serve the Lord and CBS, no matter what happens. I will to Cheryl balance and peace in her academics and other work and that she becomes a guiding light to other Cornell transfers.

I will to Emily perseverance in her faith and her relationships with others.

I will to Jade my love (for as long as she wants it, I suppose) and a continued relationship centered and built on God and His calls to freedom, prayer, and knowledge.

I will the last of CBS's ILRie soul and my leadership abilities to Jemima so that she may use it to share her endless compassion, liveliness, and dedication with the rest of the non-ILRies.

I will to Jonny a path of assurance and confidence of his role at IC as an upperclassman and that the Spirit will guide you into all truth in all your conversations and explanations.

I will to Joseph the remainder of my "it was ok"s when somebody asks him about the quality of an event, and much-deserved recognition and appreciation for his service and the reliability of his CBS and FICCC ministry work.

I will to Josh the other half of our in-sync brain and the desire that God will continue to bless you and your TikTok-addled brain, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere.

I will to Josiah my love for writing, cello, and appreciating the end product of a baking session.

I will to Kevin fast cars and ways to escape the police (even accounting for Ithaca's potholes).

I will to Leon my enjoyment of classical (and jazz music) and much laughter and joy with his humor and good dap-ups.

I will to Nat true belonging and fellowship (wherever that may be) for his final final year at Cornell amidst the robot arms and frisbee throws.

I will to QQ blessings from God and that good things and her dreams may come true.

I will to Sky Chen another 40-hour fast, exciting badminton matches, and a strong discipline in the pursuit of the Lord.

I will to Sky Kim many relaxing times to watch great movies and television shows, time to listen to great jams, and enduring hope that God has a wonderful plan for her life.

I will to Steven a continued passion for God, nights full of sleep and the stars, and days full of origami.

I will to Teresa commitment and trust in following the Lord's will, even when it is difficult and tiring.

I will to Tiffany my meme-making skills, my love for learning new things as a form of procrastination, and a desire to continuously improve in all things and in all hobbies.

I will to the class of 2024 wisdom in this now-new stage of our lives, that we can navigate through any and all of life's sufferings and sadnesses, comforted by the presence of our God.

I will to Valerie nothing.

### **Ambrose Yang**

I will to Joseph, Jemima, Jade and others applying to grad school peace and assurance in God's plan during their application process and good food and new friends during their visit days.

I will to Jacqueline a heart and desire to know God and to continue to see CBS (and alumni) as her extended family in Christ.

I will to Sky Chen many more good laughs and all my funny stories. I will to Sky Kim my piano skills, my love for worship songs, and continued strength in loading the Praise equipment (especially the electric piano).

I will to Joseph Liu all the math that I know so he can use it to talk about animals.

I will to Jade and Jemima a loving heart which longs for the spiritual growth of everyone in the fellowship and the strength and perseverance to serve each and every day.

I will to Leon Jiao my love for classical music, my CS 2800 TA experience, and the heart and courage to continue evangelizing to non-Christian friends.

I will to Josh Persaud my AngelReese5 support and more fun game nights on Nintendo Switch.

I will to Atulya the desire to seek after God and to study His Word.

I will to Steven Chen many more wonderful North Dinners and my habit of working inside the Large Group room when Praise is setting up.

I will to Josiah and Cheryl the confidence to lead CBS in worship.  $\,$ 

I will to Zoey the continual desire to seek out the truth in God's Word and the faith to accept it.

I will to QQ a desire to continue to know God through studying His Word.

I will to Emily Wang the blessing of finding CBS to be her extended family in Christ.

I will to Teresa Lian the strength to persevere through a tough schedule of pre-med classes.

I will to Candy the heart to reach out to newcomers.

I will to Boaz Ng my knowledge of CS and the ability to finish assignments due Friday nights after Large Group.

I will to Jonny and Abbey more Friday nights at U Tea and hanging out with CBS afterwards.

I will to Leon Huang my appreciation for CS theory and the ability to share it with others.

I will to Tiffany my willingness to love my neighbors in Delaware (coming from a Marylander).

# hewcomers



**Sky Chen** 



**Zoey Huang** 



Abigail Ignagni (left)



Leon Jiao



Josiah Kam



Genesis Li



Atulya Lohani



**Cheryl Lim** 



**Boaz Ng** 



**Tiffany Situ** 



**Jacqueline Woo** 

### Sky Chen

Hometown: Queens, New York City Major: Chemistry/Chemical Biology ('27)

I arrived early to my meeting with Sky at PSB. Once I got notice that he was in PSB, I sent him a picture of where I was located (I didn't know how to describe "sitting at a table near the entrance" because there are lots of entrances), and he found me pretty quickly.

### Word Associations

- \* **Cornell:** Ummm...good question. Probably nature, 'cuz I think Cornell is pretty remote.
- \* **CBS:** I guess the first thing that comes to mind is fellowship.
- \* Class: Class? The first thing that comes to mind is chemistry, 'cuz I mainly have chemistry classes.
- \* **Zoom:** Zoom??? Uhhmmm...probably like...pandemic and also...just like...staying at home, and being unproductive, 'cuz Zoom leads to unproductivity.
- \* Worship: Yeah, I think the first thing that comes to mind is singing, for sure. I think this is a question for the future, but I thought of "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High", but it depends on what I listen to.
- \* Bubble Tea: Bubble tea? I honestly don't know 'cuz I rarely drink bubble tea, 'cuz the pearls are too chewy. ["What?! Well, I agree, Ithaca's bubble tea isn't exactly authentic."] Yeah, I'll drink more when I go back to NYC.

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

I think that Cornell as a whole, for me, has been pretty good because I think the food here is like...I've never really had a problem with it, and there are various ways to spend your BRBs, and I think your options to buy with BRBs are not bad either. On the topic of CBS, I think it has been great to be there, so I have a chance to be exposed to Christian fellowship on campus. If I weren't in CBS/other fellowship, my spiritual outlook would be very different.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

Maybe that it's getting pretty warm. Wait, that's not true. Something that surprises me a lot is that it rains and snows a lot. I didn't quite expect it to rain and snow quite this much. In NYC, it barely snows now.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

That's a good question. If money wasn't an issue...uh...if I had endless amounts of money, I'd probably, like, travel the world. ["Would you visit anywhere in particular?"] Not that I can think of, probably all the popular places like Tokyo, Beijing, there are some cities in Mexico that are really popular. Europe...France, Germany would be at the top of my list, but definitely other places.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Ok, that's a hard question. I don't know! Gotta think about this...Einstein...does Jesus count?! [ "I guess, haha."] And who would I wanna meet for the third person? Elon Musk? I'm not sure, I don't know number three right now.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Quote or saying?...Idk. I guess...uh...Confucius or something? I had Mandarin class earlier in the day, but he said something like, "Be willing to know that you don't know anything." Probably separate what you know and don't know, so you know what you don't know. I don't know, it's in Chinese, so it's a bad translation.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

Hmm. Probably "How Great Is Our God".

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

By graduation? Publish a paper, but in a spiritual sense, I'm not sure exactly what, but grow a lot?

### 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

*Crazy Rich Asians?* That was pretty good. Also, I don't watch many movies, so I don't know. It was the first movie that came to mind.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

"Clown?" Uh, I think it's 'cuz I sometimes don't have common sense, so I'll do clownish things...

I don't know, easily "fixated?" If I get interested in something I usually put all my energy toward learning about it, basically something like that.

I don't know, usually open to trying new things – "spontaneous?" I'm pretty spontaneous, I guess.

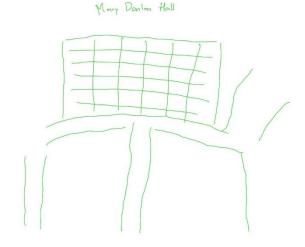
## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Can it be, like, anything? Can it be, like, potions and magic? Just kidding. I think I would like to take, like, History of Ancient China. I think that'd be fun. ["Is it an actual class?"] Probably. But it's probably not called that. Probably some other name.

[While drawing] I'm so bad at drawing...I don't knowww...I really don't knowwww...I'm just gonna draw my dorm hall, but I don't know how to draw it...

With the conclusion of our interview, Sky and I went our separate ways. As usual, I headed to Rhodes Hall, for the orange warmth of the lounge and motivation of studying.

Bella Hu ('24)



"Mary Donlon Hall"

### **Zoey Huang**

Hometown: Shanghai, China Major: Nutritional Science ('27)

I had messaged Zoey on Sunday this week to ask if she'll be at LG this Friday since I wanted to interview her at a time that's convenient for her and I. (Also, to encourage her to join LG heehee.) She did end up coming! Although I hope she was also willingly there and receptive to His Word during Pastor Tim's guest speaking today; but only He truly knows. So let's just start the interview.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Ithaca\* CBS: Christian

\* Class: 2027\* Zoom: Online

. 14/ 11 5 11

\* Worship: Fellowship

\* Bubble Tea: Emergency treatment

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

Ummm \*pulls hair back\* so it's pretty intensive, like, academically. But I like the environment, like the nature. I like the vibe of CBS, that we're pretty close to each other.

#### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

Mmm. \*pulls sweater over face\* Well, I think there are very unexpected classes, like I'm taking ballroom class for PE this semester and there are a lot of interesting courses.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I don't know, I like being a dietician, like, the track I'm pursuing. Salary is fine and I like food chemistry and I like making food. That's my ideal career...or chef. Chef or dietitian.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

I want to like...can it be all me from different times? [ "Yes."] It would be interesting to see my growth and changes and personalities.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

This is hard. \*nervous chuckle\* I actually save a lot of quotes from books but not a single one sticks out to me. ["Nothing comes to mind?"] No, sorry! ["What? That's okay!"]

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

I like the worship songs we sang today. ("Man of Sorrows", "Son of Suffering", "Worthy is the Lamb", "You Are My King".)

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Oh hmmm...I hope I can get a world value system that is meaningful to me and consistent and strong and supportive. There's a German word for this (Weltanschauung). Establish my own consistent worldview and orientation. Know where my interests, passions, and strengths are.

## 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

It's like a Chinese movie, it's pretty new. In English, it's called *Journey to the West* (2023, 宇宙探索编辑部).

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

It's a little bit hard, my own understanding of myself might not be the same for other people. Some of my friends had said that I am sincere...and then, let's see...I will say that I am quiet. ["No way!"] And I don't want to sound like I'm bragging about myself, but \*nervous chuckle\* 细心 [observant], paying attention to details.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

I want to take the ice cream class and possibly the food science minor.

I learned my lesson. Convenient to interview? Yes. Peace and quiet and being able to hear each other well? Definitely not, should have at least moved to a different room. Whoops. I'm glad I still got it down. I'm also glad Zoey is trying to figure herself out, but I hope that she grows to learn that she can't figure herself out without God. He is the One who created us so beautifully, after all, so who else to get help from to understand ourselves than the One who truly understands us?

- Jade Lo ('25)



"Big Red Pride?"

### Abigail Ignagni

Hometown: Warwick, Rhode Island Major: Physical Therapy ('27)

3B Eddygate – why, this saudade still strikes me. So familiar, of years of passing faces spake on – These silent sofas, tables, and kitchen floors. "After all this pain, a formal feeling comes."

If these walls had listened close – How much would they still retain? These walls soon will no longer hear – "What more could the future bring?"

Abbey and Jonny, arrived as guests – For Homies4Ever's movie and dinner night. Sounds fun: enjoy that "come-what-may"; I think I have finally run out of things to say.

### Word Associations

Ithaca College: Cold

\* CBS: Church
\* Class: Boring
\* Zoom: Online
\* Worship: Singing
\* Bubble Tea: Lychee

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Ithaca College? Of CBS?

Ithaca College? Very interesting. CBS? Um, everyone's nice, yeah, very friendly, very shy and quirky.

## 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Ithaca College?

The amount of stairs. Yeah.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I don't know. Probably still P.T. That means I won't have to worry about the money part, for paying for college.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Past, present, or future? Jonny, because he's always there. \*laughs\* This is just in general? I have no idea. My friend Maddie from home and her new boyfriend, Jonathan, because I would think it would be funny.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Literally "I don't know." Not the "literally" part, but the "I don't know" part.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

\*laughs\* I don't know. I don't know the names. [Jade: "Do you remember any of the words or melodies?"] Like when I hear them, I'm like, "Oh yeah, that's nice." Don't know the name. Can't remember the names. [Jade: "That's fair."]

#### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

By graduation? I don't know. I do need to make new goals in life. Oh, learning to cook more.

## 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Avatar, but like the blue people one. \*laughs\*

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

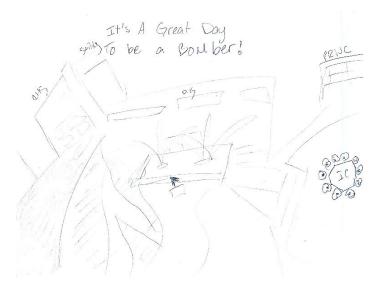
Shy, I guess, yeah, shy. Um. Simple. ["That's how you want to describe yourself?"] I guess, like I don't really do anything. And easy-going. Question mark?

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Ithaca College before you leave (or an actual class that Ithaca College already has!).

Horseback riding. ["Is that something Ithaca College has?"] No.

When I became an older prayer partner to Jonny, I would always hear about Abbey as an important person in his spiritual development. I hadn't met her yet, so she always remained theoretical and abstract to me, just as "Jonny's girlfriend." But as the past year progressed, I became more acquainted with her and saw how caring and cool she was firsthand. Abbey, I hope you continue pursuing truth and salvation, even when things become confusing or unclear, because God has put valuable people in your life to help you during your remaining time in Ithaca.

### - Leland Xu ('24)



"It's A Great Day To be a Bomber!"

### Leon Jiao

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Major: Computer Science ('27)

It's the Friday before Cornell's spring break. Campus and Collegetown are quiet and empty. \$13 Asian Chili Spot lunch specials sound great to bond over, but 2:30 is a bit late for lunch. Let's just get boba at U Tea instead.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Uhm...I don't know...uh, Asian. \*laughs\* At least I think of that about every university.

\* CBS: Fellowship

\* Class: Uhm, homework.

\* Zoom: Sleeping\* Worship: Praise

\* **Bubble Tea:** Good. \*thumbs up\* Well...money sink, let's put it like that.

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

Uhm, yeah, I mean during my time at Cornell so far, getting quite busy sometimes...but you know, it's part of the experience. I guess I didn't expect things to feel just so fast, so rushed. It's like, one second, I'm preparing to move in and two seconds later, ten weeks have already passed by. It's kind of crazy. For CBS, when I came to Cornell, I knew I wanted to be involved in some sort of fellowship/Christian group. Really thankful that I was able to find CBS. I didn't know about it before coming here, but during O-Week, I met Ambrose and he introduced me to CBS.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

The number of people here. Uhm, I don't know what else to say about that. I feel like I've only met at most 400 people and that's like...what? 2.5 percent of the student population? Two percent maybe?

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

That's a good question. I mean, if I wasn't a Christian, probably...like...just video game development or video game testing. But I feel like we're all called to ministry in some way, whether you pursue it full-time or do it here and there. I feel like it's definitely something I also would like to do.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

I feel like, uhm, Saint Augustine would be pretty cool. Mm, probably Julius Caesar. Very ambitious man. I don't know what's going on inside his head. And, let's see, Martin Luther. All very influential figures. Oh, I guess, whatever, didn't name any present or future leaders.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

I don't know if I have a favorite. Nothing's standing out to me. I don't tend to read a lot of quotes.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

Again, nothing stands out, haha. I like "Great Are You Lord", especially with...I like a lot of instruments. If you have a drum kit, a piano, guitar, and cajon all together – sounds pretty good. I just like how it sounds. Big music guy, but not a lot of listening to music but appreciating music.

#### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I guess I hope to take more of a leadership role in fellowship, whether it's in CBS or at church or somewhere else. Uh, yeah, I mean I want to be able to share my faith well and to be able to have my friends come to believe.

## 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Mmm...that's a hard question. A lot of good movies out there. Hmm. I mean, I probably have to go with *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. I just think it's really well-made and a good story. I read all the books, so I already know what's going on and I mean, I like how Peter Jackson kind of sticks to the narrative, for the most part. There are a couple theatrical embellishments, but it's a movie. Also, the music is really good.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

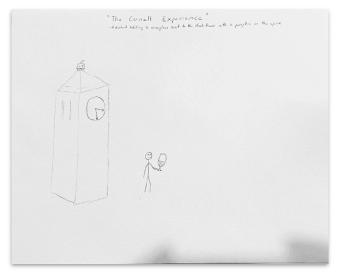
Curious, motivated, savvy. I guess maybe those words mean similar things, but that's okay.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

How about Intro to Large Language Models? So I guess the class content is using ChatGPT and doing prompt engineering stuff, and figuring out how you can make the models very useful. I'll call it, uhm, CS 4000...just 4000, because there are no nice class numbers like that.

After our interview, Leon and I chatted about his plans over Spring Break. He planned on taking the week off to relax and recharge after the endless studying at school. I drove him up to RPCC and he headed back to his dorm.

### - Kevin Yang ('26)



"'The Cornell Experience' – A student holding a wineglass next to the clock tower with a pumpkin on the spire"

### Josiah Kam

Hometown: Bedminster, New Jersey

Major: Economics ('27)

After a bit of rescheduling, which is honestly part of the Bole experience at this point, Josiah and I agreed to meet at Goldwin Smith on a Friday afternoon. I waited for him for a couple minutes at a table in Temple of Zeus since he was running late, but it was forgivable since he was on a boba run for Beth. (What a nice younger brother. If only we all had siblings to pick up boba for us.) After we talked about how deceptively warm the week was, we began the interview.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Red\* CBS: Long\* Class: Sleep

**Zoom:** Doze**Worship:** Sing

\* Bubble Tea: Expensive

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

I would say it's better than I expected. People are still friendly even if you're not friends, and I like having to walk a lot between classes. For CBS, I appreciate how much emphasis they put on Scripture and worship; I feel they're very focused and try to go all the way. Also, I feel like there's a lot of colorful personalities. Back to Cornell, I feel like the courses exert a proper amount of stress.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

I feel like at Cornell, maybe at college in general, there's stress in different areas than high school. I feel like that's not something I was expecting. In some areas, the professors are more lenient than high school teachers. With that decreased pressure, I instead feel obligated to exert that increased energy into more career-based stuff.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Maybe I'd teach a class on *Peanuts* comics. I think that's a job I wouldn't get tired of easily. Maybe if I was just playing video games, it would lose its novelty over time, but with *Peanuts* I can keep analyzing them.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

I'll say...Christopher Lee, Richard Nixon, and Charles Schulz.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"So we're all men of our word really, except for Elizabeth, who is in fact a woman." – *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"Shout to the Lord".

#### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Maybe I'll have crafted an education that will stick with me for at least the next 15 years. To have the skills and independence to just live well on my own.

### 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Back to the Future.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

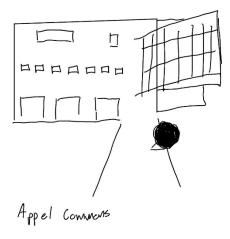
Let me look at a dictionary. \*pulls out phone\* Hesitant, forward, and selective. I guess hesitant explains itself. I'm very slow or cautious about approaching new things, or anything in general. For forward, I'm very opinionated and not shy about expressing them to certain people. I would say I'm selective because I only try my best at things I really prioritize.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Is there a culinary artistry class? ["Probably?"] Would it be in Hotel? ["I guess so. Or maybe in food science."] Yeah, let's go with that.

It was a joy to speak to Josiah and get to know him a little better through his thoughtful responses. I'm thankful that he's come to CBS, and as he continues through his time at Cornell, I pray that he will find a spiritual home in our fellowship and a place to be rooted and grow in his faith.

- Joseph Liu ('25)



"Appel Commons"

### Genesis Li

Hometown: Beijing, China/Santa Rosa, California

Major: Public Administration (MPA '23)

After I messaged Genesis about meeting up, I quickly received a list of available dates and times. We decided to meet the next day at Cornell House of Prayer (C.H.O.P.) right after Genesis finished hosting Public Reading of Scripture. Although it was pretty late, Genesis welcomed me with a bright smile and we exchanged many hugs. We started the interview after a brief time catching up.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Peculiar chunk of hilltop ["It is! It's on a hill right?? (\*) "]

CBS: Lovely friends ♥

\* Worship: King Jesus

\* **Bubble Tea:** Kung Fu (Their tapioca is so much better.)

### **Favorites**

\* Praise song: "Same God"

- \* Cornell class: Migration Mobility (ILR! It talks about immigrants all over the world coming to the U.S., its history, and social justice.)
- \* Study spot: Olin Library fifth floor (you have to be a grad student to get in I love studying there because no one is there, but after I graduated, they didn't give me the access code)

\* Place to eat: Koko!

- \* Music group/artist: Elevation Worship, Isla Vista Worship, Forrest Frank, and Hulvey. ["If you had to pick one?"] I would pick Hulvey.
- \* Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:18

Dessert: Tiramisu

\* **CBS tradition:** ACE (I feel like it really bonds people.)

### 1. How has God changed you since your first year at Cornell?

My faith was not strong at all when I first entered Cornell.

However, God graciously brought me fellowships, pastors, and ministry workers who genuinely cared for me into my life. That has definitely shifted my faith, and I think that my faith has definitely become a lot stronger since I entered Cornell because of the community at Ithaca. Honestly, I think the community is everything. I used to study the Bible by myself and not really talk to others, but Cornell made me realize that faith is something you build in a community.

### 2. What encouragement/advice do you have for...

### a. younger students?

Try not to depend on yourself during times of calamity or tough situations. Turn your eyes onto Jesus and rely on Him for everything with your whole strength. Ultimately, we are human beings with finite abilities, but we have a God with infinite power on our side. So, rely on Him for everything in hard times.

#### b. CBS in general?

CBS is such a loving community. As I am a Chinese believer myself, I pray that CBS will be able to reach out to more souls of Chinese students and Asian-American students and encourage them in their faith journey.

### 3. What is one of your favorite memories of your college career?

In one of the fellowships I was involved in during my last year of college, I gave a graduation speech and I cried a lot in front of people because I was going through a hard time during that time. Truly, I saw the Lord working through me in that time and lifting me up, so that is my favorite memory. My family recorded a video of me crying during graduation with the pastor's wife, and that was a precious memory because it shows how I grew in my faith, which has not been easy.

## 4. What are some (or just one!) of your hidden quirks/talents that we still haven't found out about you?

When I go bowling, I can only do spinning balls, which apparently is very professional. ["A natural!"] Yea, maybe I'm a hidden natural. \*laughs\* Also, I cannot do non-spinning balls, which is weird, right??

### 5. What is your favorite spot on campus?

My favorite spot on campus is Olin's first floor, having windows to the ground. I really love the view of being inside, but then people-watching.

## 6. What is a prayer that God has answered in the past two years?

So many! When I graduated from Cornell, I purposely wanted to take one year off to do ministry before going back to the public policy industry, and God literally answered my prayers within 15 days after I had the thought of doing ministry for Him! This was very astonishing for me because I didn't know prayers could be answered so quickly.

## 7. Describe your time at Cornell using three words. (Explain it only if you want to!)

Community, ambition, humility.

### 8. What are your short-term and long-term plans after graduation?

Short-term plan is to finish ministry work at Cornell and move to a city that has a decent public policy job.

Long-term plan is to use my people skills and my faith in my daily work, no matter what industry I work in, and make a positive influence on people around me so that they may know lesus better.

# 9. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

Attend more fellowship meetings, attend more church, and don't engage with non-believers to a super deep and close level because the Apostle Paul tells us that non-believers and believers should not be equally yoked. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't be a light to non-believers and be their friends but understand the deep boundaries between

non-believers and us (like we shouldn't imitate them in worldly behaviors).

## 10. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

People-galvanizer: I'm a people person! Joyful. Positive.

## 11. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I would travel around the world and live somewhere once in a while and just chill in different countries like every two months. And the day I finish visiting every country, I would go back to California!

## 12. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

First of all, I would love to dine with Bill Gates. Ohh...! Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the UN. Lastly, I would want to dine with my great-great-grandkid.

### 13. What is your favorite quote or saying?

"Many people accomplish their greatest success just one step further than their greatest failure."

### 14. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Pride and Prejudice.

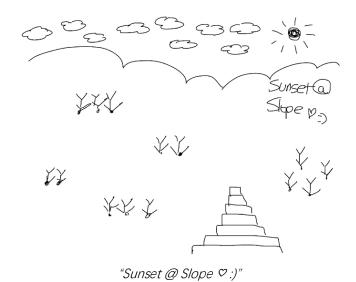
### 15. Bro or Bruh?

Bruhhh.

After our interview concluded, we hung around to talk about the things going on in our lives and comment on the random pink items that we have. Genesis insisted that I take a plate of pizza (leftover from Public Reading of Scripture) with me as I left.

It was so nice to talk with Genesis about her experience at Cornell and see how God has been working in her life the past few years. Genesis, I pray that you will continue to grow in your faith and trust in God through difficult times. May your walk with Him be filled with love and joy.

- Sharon Wu ('24)



### **Cheryl Lim**

Hometown: Surabaya, Indonesia Major: Nutritional Science ('25)

We met at Mac's and she brought food from CTown! I was excited to have a delicious meal with Cheryl and talk to her about her impressions toward Cornell, now that the year was winding to a close.

### Word Associations

Cornell: Unpredictable weather & steep heels slope, expensive

\* CBS: Growth

\* Class: Goodnotes\* Zoom: Meeting\* Worship: Praise

Bubble Tea: Guilty pleasure

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

People I've met are really nice. Everyone in CBS are very talented people who can balance their academic workload and their relationship with God. I'm really inspired. I really like the devotion and would love to be a part of it someday. Maybe next semester when I can balance my work better.

#### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

The different clubs we have and how it's so hard to balance studying and socializing.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Managing a clinic or food company so I can help provide food and fresh produce to people in my hometown.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

My grandfather from my mom's side, Jesus, and my greatgrandfather.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

You only live once.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"Goodness of God", "Yet Not I".

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I hope I figure out what I want to do with my life and my career. I wish to be able to gain my old habits and wake up early, pray more, and read the Bible more.

### 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Big Hero 6.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

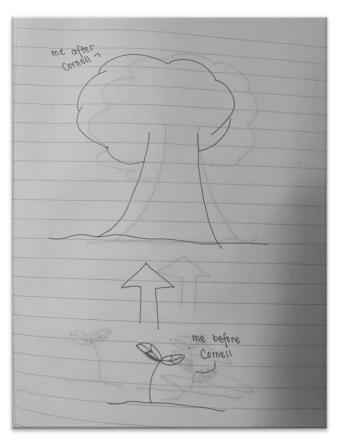
Traveler, foodie, family person.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

A class where I could experience different careers in nutrition.

We had a great time together and I really was blessed to meet up with Cheryl. I have seen how Cheryl really cares for the people at Cornell and CBS and I know God has a great plan for her to grow more in her faith and here at CBS!

- Teresa Lian ('25)



"me before Cornell, me after Cornell"

### Atulya Lohani

Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska Major: Computer Science ('25)

The wind is piercing and I'm gripping onto my coat. Little patches of snow cover the streets like powdered sugar donuts. "Shoo-shoo-shoo, sugar town." I listen to music while wobbling down CTown. Three minutes till time! I rush upstairs, catch some breath, turn on Zoom, and greet Atulya.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Academics
\* CBS: Welcoming
\* Class: School
\* Zoom: Meetings
\* Worship: Divinity

\* Bubble Tea: Taro

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

I feel like it's very overwhelming. Not too overwhelming actually. I guess as a freshman it takes time getting used to. Just gets repetitive after that – doing homework, preparing for exams. But it's very fun as well. Lots of people. You'll meet people you probably would never meet anywhere else. CBS is very welcoming. Even though I've only met you guys recently, you guys reach out and talk to me very openly.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

I would say when I first came here, I didn't know how much I had to walk. Also the winters...Omaha has really bad winters and I thought it would be better but it's pretty bad here too.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Honestly, I feel like...I think about this a lot, like, what would I do when I retire...I would enjoy being a teacher. Maybe when I retire. It would be fun.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Past – I would say...probably my grandparents I just met when I was younger. I haven't met much of my family. No strong connections. My grandparents – they would've been very wise. Present – family and friends. They are very important to me. Future. Honestly. Myself. That sounds egotistical \*laughs\* but you know, if I had dinner with myself from 30 years down. That would be cool.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

Hmm, this is hard. The only one I can think of is "measure twice, cut once." You don't really have that many chances in life, so do it right when you get it.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

I feel like all of them are pretty good. One that sticks out to me is "Cornerstone". It's catchy.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

By graduation, um, I guess I have a year left. Honestly, this sounds kind of sad, but to study hard, do well in my classes because I only have one time in college. Stay strong to the end.

## 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

This is hard. Let me think. Um. I guess I didn't really watch *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* until recently. So I wish my kid self would have watched it. Have a more authentic kid experience.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

Easy-going – I feel like I'm pretty flexible with everything like academically with projects or doing stuff for people. I don't hold grudges. Happy – I'm smiling most of the time.

I'm not sad a lot. Optimistic – I usually try to see the good in everything.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Oh uhh. In my high school – this is kinda very cliché of students to say – but in high school, I had a class called personal finance that prepared students to calculate interest on their credit cards or talk about CDs in their deposit. Just being an adult being able to manage finances. Post-high school into college. Maybe another class that helps you ease into actual adulthood after college. Filing taxes, yeah, all that stuff. No one really teaches you.

It was wonderful getting to know Atulya more after our frequent 'hi's' when passing by on the streets. He truly seems like an easygoing, happy, optimistic person! I was touched by the heart he has for his family and friends and his dedication to his work. I pray that God will continue to bless Atulya with much joy in all of his days to come!

- Sky Kim ('25)



"Penguin waddling down the slope at night after a prelim on an icy sidewalk."

### **Boaz Ng**

Hometown: Ithaca, New York Major: Computer Science ('27)

A rainy and windy day, again. I started my trek from my comfy corner of Goldwin Smith Hall to RPCC, trying my best to avoid the splash of cars and random puddles on the sidewalk that would get my already-cold feet even colder. Once in RPCC, I wandered around, finally deciding to sit on the end of a line of squishy chairs outside of RPCC 106, where the prayer meeting for Alumni Weekend was being held. Former CBS member Jon Ng and his family were walking around, waiting for the catered Thai food to come and trying to keep the children occupied, and in the midst of the chatter, Boaz texted me and said he was walking over from the Engineering Quad. In my head, I wished him good luck in keeping himself dry. He arrived, a little windswept, and after some nice salutations, we began the interview.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Cornell

\* CBS: ...Goldwin Smith Hall

\* Class: Chair\* Zoom: Speed

\* Worship: ...Wait, wait, gimme one sec, okay. Air.

\* Bubble Tea: Bubble...gum

## 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

\*laughs\* Hm...is this being recorded verbatim? ["A little."] I think growing up in Ithaca, I have a different perspective, but surprisingly it feels pretty distinct from what high school was like in Ithaca. It's really big, and there are a lot of people, and we do a lot of work: it's Cornell. ["How about CBS?"] Um...hm...CBS is like a...like a close group of friends who...are Christians and meet on Friday nights among other times.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

Mmm...I'm gonna try to think of something else. I can't think of something else.

The most surprising thing is how many people there are. I can meet someone every day and still not know everyone. Is that true? Cornell is like 20,000 or something, right? ["Yeah."] Okay.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I would want to either make something cool or like, live in the woods, yeah...those are the two options.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit \*chuckles\*, yeah. Alternatively, wait, should I give the alternative? ["Sure."] Actually, that would take more thinking. Oh look, it's Leon [commences with chatting with Leon about triple integrals or something]. Yeah, I'll just stick with that.

#### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

..."A man walks into a car dealership and asks the salesman, cargo ship? The salesman replies, 'No, car-go road.'" Mmmhm, get it? Yeah, it's one of my favorite sayings.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

That's a hard question to answer. Um...oh! There's one that's like, oh, it's called "Still". I don't know who it's by.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Uh, I wanna get better at jazz piano and singing. But like, I'm extremely bad right now, so there's like...yeah. Room for improvement.

### 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Hm...oh, maybe *Knives Out* because I think you already know what's going to happen, especially mysteries, like...yeah, seeing them for the first time is especially...yeah, it was a really good movie.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

Hm...that's a good question. Uh...probably like, chill, um...hilarious, and extremely funny. So, I chose chill because that's one of my personality traits, I believe, and I chose the other ones because ...because I am.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Heh...um...wait, it might already exist, but...or it does already exist. I wanna take one of those PE classes where you go somewhere and you hike or climb or do something. [Pastor Paul walks up, starts chatting with Pastor Paul about Bible Read-a-thon.]

[While drawing] Oooh, okay, I'm really good at drawing...I'm just going to draw Cornell. \*draws a little\* This is not good...it's fine. The clock tower is a little small.

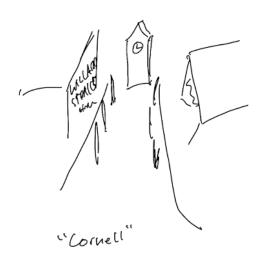
"Thanks for interviewing with me," I said. "Are you gonna stay for the catered food for Alumni Weekend?"

"Yeah, when's the food?" he asked.

"Uh...5:30, I think," looking at the time, showing 5:42 P.M., "but idk where the food is," I replied.

"Yeah, that's what I thought," Boaz said, and he goes into RPCC 106 to find a friend.

- Alice Hu ('24)



"Cornell"

### **Tiffany Situ**

Hometown: Hockessin, Delaware

Major: Environment and Sustainability ('27)

The wind was howling. Even though Lincoln to Morrison was only a seven-minute trek for me, I spent every step of the way thinking to myself about how cold it was, as if this were my first time experiencing the infamous Ithaca weather. Fortunately, I reached Morrison in due time and stepped into the crowded dining hall, ready for pizza, pasta, and Cornell ice cream! Oh, and of course I was excited to see Tiffany too.

### Word Associations

\* Cornell: Waterfall\* CBS: Family

\* Class: Fun

Zoom: Keep me away from that.Worship: Thought-provoking

\* Bubble Tea: Overrated

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of Cornell? Of CBS?

Impressions of Cornell...probably, say, very cold. I think there's a lot more freedom that I have here, which is definitely good and a bad thing. Overall, it kind of pushes me to manage myself. I think I've done a decent job of finding a work-life balance. I would say Cornell is kind of a life lesson, like independence. It's been good so far...let's say, it's been good. CBS...I would describe that as finding home away from home. I think it was one of the things, like the Christian community I had in Delaware, I was scared of losing. Or, or something similar like that, like the connection I had because I grew up in that church. I was fearful I would become one of those people who as soon as they went to college would forget everything. So I'm really grateful and thankful I was able to find a community like CBS.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about Cornell?

The number of international students. I remember walking around during O-Week or early fall semester, and just being kind of amazed by the amount of Mandarin Chinese I heard spoken that was very identifiable as "exchange student" or just "international student" in general. At the same time, I've made friends with a lot of international students. Not necessarily just from China, that's the most frequent one I come across, but ones from Morocco, Bangladesh, India, and Singapore. It's just been a pleasant amount of diversity, given that everything back at home in Delaware is pretty homogenized.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

Probably any research that allows you to travel completely. Definitely focused on field science and like, I feel like being able to visit the many diverse ecosystems in the world would be really cool to do.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Probably my paternal grandma and my maternal grandpa. And the third person...future spouse? If that exists? I don't know what God has in store for me. That might not exist. I think it's because my paternal grandma passed away when I was very young. I remember having a very good relationship with her. And I think I just want to see her again. And, like, catch her up on how I've grown. I think I've changed a lot since I was a little girl. There's not a whole lot of regret involved there or particular sadness. Unfortunately, that is kind of the case with my maternal grandpa. He passed more recently. It's been more than a year. The last time I saw him was before COVID. There's some amount of regret and sadness there that I haven't been able to see him. because usually I visited him every single year, every single summer, and suddenly there was a large gap caused by COVID. And I guess he did not survive the gap.

I feel like a lot has happened in that time, including my graduation, my getting into college, and I just didn't get the chance to talk with him about any of that. So a chance to sit down and have a last, proper conversation would be really nice. Future spouse...I think that was just curiosity.

### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

My default for that is from Vincent Gogh; he's my favorite artist: "What is done in love, is done well." That was also my yearbook quote when I graduated high school.

### 6. What is your favorite worship song?

"So Will I (100 Billion X)" by Benjamin William Hastings.

### 7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to win the ice cream competition in that one ice cream making class. This goal only recently surfaced because I had a discussion with one of my friends who took the class and his flavor was one of the final four flavors. And somewhere in our conversation, I expressed a discomfort with the lack of creativity I was feeling in the flavors I saw. I feel like it was just remixing the classic ingredients over and over again rather than trying to foster a new innovative flavor. So now I've made it my goal to take the class and hopefully create a flavor that wins. But I also just want to create a new and interesting flavor.

### 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

Definitely *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*. Studio Ghibli film! I adore that film and what I would give to see it again for the first time. I think that's one of my early inspirations for my current passion for the environment. And also for insects because there's large insects in there.

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

This is a hard question. Whenever I'm asked to describe myself, I feel like it's an inaccurate description because I'm biased. Passionate, creative, humorous...let's go with those three.

## 10. Name an imaginary college class that you wish you could take at Cornell before you leave (or an actual class that Cornell already has!).

Analysis of Ghibli Films would be really epic! Because I feel there's a lot to be unpacked there. Even from just one film. I feel like there's a lot of themes regarding what it means to be human or the human experience, especially in relation to otherworldly forces.

I always knew that Tiffany was a fascinating person between the insects and the crafts, but this interview 100% confirmed it. Tiffany just has so many amazing qualities – Studio Ghibli fan, understands the importance of ice cream, desires a strong Christian community and has a heart for the Lord. Tiffany, I hope that your remaining three years at Cornell are fruitful and fun. I pray that you will nurture and cherish your relationships with friends and of course, with God. Hope I'll have the chance to try your winning ice cream flavor!

- Beth Kam (MPS '24)



"Triphammer Falls"

### Jacqueline Woo

Hometown: Queens, New York City Major: Interdisciplinary Studies ('24)

After spending some time in Jacqueline's peaceful office hours, we bought food from Bibibowl and pondered over where we should do our interview. Jacqueline has keycard access to the mystical eHub, so she offered to take me there for the first time ever. Upon finding a small empty call room with one chair and one table, we pushed another chair into the room. Then we prayed, ate, and commenced the interview~

### Word Associations

- \* Cornell: Stress, grades...l just think of stress, grades, cold, and slopes. And animals.
- \* **CBS:** Wholesome, sweet, kind, listening, patient. Any positive adjective.
- \* Class: When you learn Romance languages it makes you think of the difference between class and course. Class is the "people" in the course, whereas course is the actual "class" itself like, I'm taking INFO 1300.
- \* Zoom: Remote learning, COVID, technical difficulties~, some inequity because some people don't even have laptops. I guess it is convenient because you can just do it wherever, but you have to find a suitable place to have your meeting, which can be hard.
- \* Worship: Hmm...I guess, it's very new to me, the idea of worship, because the ideas in the Bible I'm at least somewhat exposed to or at least conditioned to believe. But the idea of worship is really, like, lowering yourself to admire God and how prevalent and allencompassing He is. I feel like that's the word I use based on how Pastor Paul described it. Like you can't even imagine how big and how capable and how responsible He is.
- \* Bubble Tea: I wouldn't call it a guilty pleasure because I don't feel guilty...like, I like it, but I wouldn't go out of my way to get it. ["I agree."]

### 1. What are your thoughts and impressions so far of CBS?

I think, it's definitely a unique community within Cornell, at least from my experience, because I have joined a lot of things, and not only a lot of things, but a variety of things because I'm naturally interested in a lot of things. So I definitely try to explore a lot of things outside of my classes – that's why I joined a lot of clubs. I tried a lot of things, um, but it was kinda hard for me at Cornell, even though I definitely met lots of nice people that you can talk to and the resources and funding give way to a lot of things you can use, like opportunities, networking, and all the different types of classes and niche interests.

But I felt like I couldn't find community that felt 100% welcoming and comfortable. Like the club I felt that the most in, before CBS, was Design Consulting at Cornell (DCC), which is fairly new, it was founded in 2021, so they're still finding their footing. But the organization itself grew very fast and it became very well-known very quickly considering how new they are. They're definitely very unique. I think every semester they put a lot of emphasis on every aspect of the club, like: "How can we make recruitment as positive and fair and welcoming as possible?"

And that's why they have a lot of big recruitment events, and they welcome literally everyone who's interested, regardless of major. That's how I applied. They try to deliberate every tiny aspect of the club to make sure they're really doing the best they can. I'm not technically on the e-board, but this past fall and spring, I've been serving as a Senior Advisor and it's a position for seniors who still want to be involved somehow in their last year. And the existence of that role shows they still want those people; I don't think every club has that. Since I am a Senior Advisor, I get to sit in on the e-board meetings. When I go, they're usually set for an hour long but more often than not, we go over because of how passionate people are about the club and bettering it. Like from that, I've been like, "Wow, they're trying really hard."

The fact that this club was putting in so much time really showed how committed they were to their mission of "actualizing a tomorrow that can be delivered today." So, I thought this was the most wholesome community I could possibly find, given my academic career and personal interests, and I didn't want to join a fraternity or sorority.

Way before, I considered joining CBS. I was looking for a community that made me feel seen and acknowledged; right away. CBS gave me a much better vibe. I already knew Sky Kim because I met her two years ago. I made a lot of acquaintances through classes, but with Sky, it was different, because she cared enough to get to know me. Because we had similar interests and vibed together, she invested time to get to know me and be there for me. It felt very different from the experiences I had in classes and clubs and at Cornell in general. I was going through a really hard time, and I was talking to her a lot about what I was going through and life stuff in general. She kind of recognized that I would need a community like CBS. She encouraged me to come before but she didn't want me to feel pressured. I met OO for the first time at Morrison and she invited me to her baptism when we met each other. I got the vibe that it was a close-knit community and that everyone really cared about each other, but I felt like I didn't have a deep enough foundation to join a Christian club, though since I was going through such a hard time, Sky did encourage me a bit more.

I think Sky thought about me a bit strategically. She invited me to watch a movie with her and soon after Valentine's Day, she invited me to come to Felly Dessert, which was the same day as Lunar New Year. I don't know if this was a coincidence, but I didn't have anyone to spend Lunar New Year with, so she might have figured that out because I said I was feeling alone. I didn't know what "Felly Dessert" was. She made sure to mention there was worship and stuff, which I appreciated the heads-up because I was never exposed to that; my parents never went to church or taught me about the Bible. My parents are pretty non-religious and so are my grandparents. I think they're more oriented towards Buddhism. I had some friends from school who were Christian, but, yeah, I was pretty new to Christianity.

Looking back, that was the only obstacle – reservations about my fairly non-religious upbringing and a sense of

jadedness about trying so hard to explore and find a community. But I was touched because right away when I stepped into the door of where the event was happening, everyone almost immediately noticed I was new. I think you were the first one who approached me. ["Oh, haha!"] I would look around the room and everyone would be like, "Oh, let's introduce ourselves." And this isn't an academic or professional community, this just felt like a causal dessert event and it felt like people were genuinely invested in getting to know me and acknowledging my presence, it was basic human decency. I got sucked in, I was like this is the place for me. Even the first time I went through the worship, it felt very unfamiliar and foreign to me; I didn't know what the lyrics were and what the melody was. I just stood there and listened, and it felt a little strange, and even boring at times, because it was my first time ever and it felt kinda long. But it struck me that faith meant so much to people in this space and they were deliberately taking time out of their weekend to worship and be together in this space. So even though I didn't completely understand or resonate with everything I was being exposed to, I knew I needed time to process what I was being exposed to. It's already been one month and I've fallen so deep into this, it just feels so genuine and it resonates so much with me, the practices, the faith, the community, all of it. The feeling is so much that I don't think I can even put into words, how to even describe it.

I felt like I had to try everything and be disappointed every single time and not until I finally made that first step to accept the guidance I was being offered by those around me and explore CBS. And right away, I felt kinda rewarded for it, like, wow. And I feel like I haven't turned back since then. And it's not because of any ulterior motive because even when there's something I don't genuinely agree with, I feel like everyone is mature enough to have a civil discussion and help me see that I'm not really seeing it yet. I feel like I've learned how to approach even the biggest conflicts of my life.

### 2. What is one thing that surprises you about CBS?

Faith in general? ["It could be faith, it could be the fellowship."] Yeah, I was really surprised by how fast and how much it resonated with me. "These are your caring and most dependable friends – this is for you."

I feel like I'm truly part of this faith and community now. Even with all the doubts that come up, they all, like, disappear; they all go away so guickly. What surprised me in the most pleasant way was how everything just seemed to click. All my deepest doubts I've had for the longest time just dissipated and I'm left with this certainty that this is the thing for me to do. Throughout my life, I've been looking for answers and usually they come, but with unexpected and roundabout and long ways. But this time, it's just snap snap snap. I think that's just God's way of reaching out and being like, "You are My child and this is what I want and this is what you should be doing." Oh, I also wanna add that I really believe that other people going out of their way to pray for me on countless occasions, especially since I was so new to all this, really contributed to everything clicking and making sense to me so quickly. So it really helped me believe and put faith in the power of prayer.

## 3. If money were no issue, what would your dream job be or what would you be doing with your life?

I've been thinking about this a lot since I am technically in my second semester of senior year and I'm kind of planning to graduate, at least soon, so...yeah, so that naturally brings up the question of what I want to do for the rest of my life. Hmm...I've had a lot of thoughts on the paths I could take. like, I have a general idea of what direction I want to take. I want to do something that has even the smallest impact on the world, whether that be socially or environmentally. That's how I got on the Interdisciplinary Studies track, like academically or career-wise or personal life as well. Because when I was in my previous majors, in my UX and Digital Culture and Media concentrations. I knew I was really interested in Product Design and Digital Culture, but there was a reason why the core classes became an obstacle for me and steered me towards Interdisciplinary Studies. I just felt unhappy. Info sci felt like the safest major for me and I was like, "Is this really the best I can get?" I thought I had to accept it and I became very depressed. I felt like I wasn't really doing it for the right reasons. I was like "Oh, how will this look like if I change my major again, this late in my undergraduate career?" Before putting my faith in God, I thought love and worship was conditional. But now, I know God loves you anyway; worship makes us closer to Him and in turn, makes us feel His love more and see His way more. ["So true, bestie."] All the little nuances make sense.

Yeah, basically, it doesn't need to be anything specific because I know people job hop and wear many hats, so I think me being aware of this is a sign that I'm open to that being my path because I know I can contribute in a lot of ways given the skills I have attained and the interests God has imbued in me. A net positive, not a net negative in any way. I really do believe in doing good and going out of your way to do good, because I feel like that's just how I am and how I hope the world will be a much better place. Even the smallest thing, just by the miracles of God's work, even if it'll take a very long time, it'll show itself to be contributing in a positive way and even bigger than it started.

## 4. You're having dinner with three people. If these people could be from the past, present, or future, who would they be?

Mmmm, okay. So, I feel like I could say a lot of people for this because there are a lot of people I look up to, obviously not more than God. But for the sake of time, I think a good answer would be the newest freshman dorms, like the people they name them after, like RBG - Supreme Court Justice, Hu Shih – Chinese scholar, and McClintock. Because they must have contributed in overwhelmingly positive ways to have garnered their own buildings, especially the new ones which were so nice. I think I'm most familiar with RBG...I don't know much about Hu Shih, but I feel a sense of connection because the Chinese character of our surnames are the same: I think he's also Canto. I'm pretty sure we're not related in any way, we just have the same character. I think it's really meaningful because there's one side of the Hu Shih building that has the Chinese characters of his name and I think it's a win for the Chinese community in the U.S.

I don't know too much about Barbara McClintock but in one of my first classes as an E&S major, they brought up her amazing work in maze genetics research. The fact that I still remember that, like her research on corn genes, that it still sticks with me from the beginning of my time as a Cornell student, says a lot. So I think those three would be my answer to this question.

#### 5. What is your favorite quote or saying?

This is hard. I feel like before CBS, I would've said this line from *Beef*, the A24 show, spoken by Steven Yeun's character, Danny Cho, based on his struggles as a Korean-American. I don't know if this is word-for-word, but: "Sometimes rock bottom is your trampoline." So, it really resonated with me while I was struggling a lot, like in my darkest times.

But I think now, it's Matthew 10:16, which Genesis told me about, and I think it's self-explanatory, and for the sake of time, I won't go too much into it. I think what I have said has been said so I won't go too much into it.

#### 6. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Hmmm...this one's hard. Can we come back to this one? There's so many...ohhh right, I'd say Goldwin Smith Hall 132 because that's where Large Group is and it really feels like a consistently welcoming and safe space for community and sharing/spreading the Gospel with our brothers and sisters in Christ every week.

#### 7. What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years?

Setting a very specific goal would kind of defeat the purpose because things just change a lot and you never know what signs are coming, so it's kinda ignorant. Not saying it's not good to look into the future and know what's going on but finding a balance in that and being flexible with much-needed change. In a nutshell, just achieving balance, coming as close as I can to that balance. I think it's relevant and touches every aspect of life and the world and the universe. So, balance, basically.

## 8. If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be?

I think I have an answer, it's just not coming back to me. Does it have to be strictly a movie? ["If you want, it can be a show."] I feel like it's on the tip of my head, and I need to fish it out. I'm going to go on a potty break. ["Haha, okay!"]

Okay, I feel like this is not my ultimate answer, but for the sake of the question, I'll say *Inception* by Christopher Nolan. I think this was my favorite movie for a while (and maybe still is) and I get emotional every time I watch it and wish I

could experience that wave of emotion from the very first time I saw it back in high school.

I remember randomly tearing up in orgo class in my junior year of high school the day after I watched it because I thought of that scene where Cobb and his wife lay down their heads on the train tracks and trusted each other so much that they would put themselves in that situation so they could be together. I managed to keep it together until the class ended and then I had a free period, so I went to my locker and just completely lost it and started sobbing on the floor. A janitor passed by and was like, "Hey, is everything okay??" And I was just like, "Yeah, sorry, I'm just thinking about this one scene from a movie I watched yesterday." ["Awwww!"]

## 9. What are three words to describe you (you can explain them if you want!).

Analytical, introspective, and human. Analytical and introspective, I like to think through everything and weigh pros and cons and justify if this is the right decision for me. It makes me make mature choices and helps me with hardship, even with very extenuating circumstances, as well as connecting with other people and external forces. Maybe I should switch "analytical" to "empathetic," being able to put myself in other people's shoes, all the differing angles and perspectives, any one situation and topic. That helps me approach things and conflict maturely while still respecting my own space and boundaries. Everyone still deserves that and God's love.

So "empathy" is a supplement to "introspection," because you can still think through things by yourself. Empathy is similar because it helps you think in an external manner.

And the last word was "human" because I make a lot of mistakes, as all humans do. I try my best not to, but it's inevitable. There's no way anyone could ever not make a mistake, no matter how good you are or how hard you try. And at the same time, I feel like I am very uniquely blessed with a lot of niche things. Every human is unique and not in the way that everyone is so unique that they are unique in uniformness. How ubiquitous this uniqueness is does not detract from how special each individual is. Just because everyone's special doesn't mean any one person isn't.

So I think that applies to me too, as being human, as are all other people.

# 10. If you could meet up with your younger self who is just about to start their new life at Cornell, what is one piece of advice or encouragement that you would tell them?

I don't know if I would necessarily, like, change anything I did or experienced. Even though it was very hard, and I don't want to wish pain and suffering and hardship on anybody, including myself, I still feel like everything I went through was necessary to get to where I am now. So, I wouldn't say anything except "believe in the process" and even if you don't believe in God, He will show you the way and where you are meant to be.

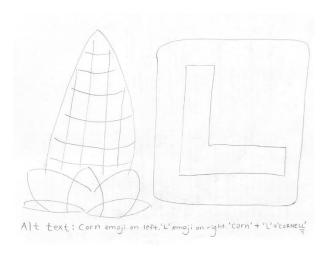
### 11. Bro or Bruh?

\*laughs\* Does the spelling matter? ["Like, what do you mean?"] Like how do you spell it? ["B-r-o. B-r-u-h."] Oh, okay, I'll say "bruh." Like I could explain it but it depends on how you want to interpret it, so I'll just leave it at that.

It has been a little over one month since Jacqueline joined CBS, and she has brought so much light and laughter to the fellowship. Jacqueline's excitement to learn more about God and embrace His truth deeply encourages my own heart. Jacqueline, I pray that your efforts in building a firm foundation for your faith may be fruitful as you continue to seek God.

TL;DR (as requested by Jacqueline): Yassssss.

- Jemima Yoon ('25)



"Alt text: Corn emoji on Left. 'L' emoji on right: 'Corn' + 'L' = 'Cornell'"





















## \*\* Winter Wonderland Felly Dessert \*\*











### Perspectives of a Former Atheist: Bridging the Gap Between Religious and Non-Religious Upbringings

by: Jacqueline Woo ('24)

The last meal I had before going home last October was with Sky Kim and a mutual friend of ours. Sky was coming from a class at Kennedy Hall while I was coming from an appointment at Cornell Health, so we met in the middle outside of Olin Library before heading down to the Bethe Dining Room together for lunch.

"What a coincidence!" one of us (probably) exclaimed as we ran into our mutual friend there. I hadn't seen either of them in a while, especially after I was sent to the emergency room and stayed in the hospital for nearly a week in mid-September; it felt like a blessing from the universe that I got to see both of them before I left campus for good that semester.

"How are you doing?" they asked me. It was a fairly simple question, but it was honestly much more than I got from most of my friends at the time.

Due to living arrangements and class schedules, I naturally ended up spending most of my time with peers from my class year: seniors. Yet, as I sat across from the two of them, it dawned on me that they, along with my friend and CBS member QQ Lin – who were all juniors and with whom I therefore had a much smaller chance of seeing – were one of the few people at Cornell who actually knew about my situation and reached out in some capacity to see if I was okay.

After a heartwarming exchange of well wishes all around, I got ready to depart Ithaca on a health leave of absence (HLOA) for the remainder of the semester and return to my hometown of Queens, New York. My father had been waiting at my apartment for me to finish lunch before driving his old silver minivan down University Avenue and stopping in front of Baker Flagpole to pick me up.

I waved goodbye to my friends and stepped into the car. My dad saw me waving and, like the polite gentleman he was, stuck his head out to say bye to them as well. As we pulled out onto the road, he asked me curiously who they were. I explained that I was in the same major as both of them (which, at the time, was Information Science), and I first met Sky because we were in the same discussion section for a French class three semesters ago and later met my other friend through her. I mentioned that I also met QQ, who wanted to come but couldn't make it, through Sky since they were both in the same on-campus Christian organization – CBS.

The conversation took an unexpected turn at this point. My father's jovial expression at hearing about my friendships quickly soured at the mention of Christians. I felt the air shift between us in the car.

"If that's something you want to explore, then that's fine," he began, tensely. As he gripped the steering wheel, I could hear the hostility rise in his voice.

"But, PLEASE, do not make me or your mom do it too. If that's something you want to get into, then you can do it yourself, but DO NOT make us join you."

My dad rarely raised his voice at me, let alone unprovoked. Keep in mind that, at this point, I wasn't even considering joining any type of religiously affiliated organization on- or off-campus. I mentioned Christianity solely as part of my explanation of how I met QQ and Sky.

Alas, my father was clearly provoked. Before I could reassure him of my then-indifference towards religion, he recounted his first run-in with Christianity during his college days. He told me that when he first came over to the U.S. as an international student (they were known as "foreign students" back then) all by himself, he was welcomed by fellow international Chinese students who happened to be Christian. Elated at the prospect of finding any sense of community in this new country, he accepted the warm embrace of the Chinese Christians. He didn't go into much more detail about his situation, but the coldness in his voice

and the fact that we had never been to church told me all I needed to know about how all that played out.

Before we continue, let's address the elephant in the room – my parents did not raise me and my only brother to be religious in any way (unsurprisingly, given the severe aversion in my dad's recollection of the Chinese Christians from his college). Other than slight nods to Buddhism from my grandparents, with whom we lived for most of my life, we were an atheist household. I'm not entirely sure if it's rare for those who grew up non-religious to find faith later on in their lives, but I've definitely gotten my fair share of curious looks and follow-up questions – and even a direct remark of "Oh, I've never heard of people getting into Christianity in college" from a friend – upon hearing about my non-religious upbringing.

I won't go into too much detail about how I ended up joining CBS and getting into Christianity (my newcomer article covers that – shout out to Jemima Yoon for writing it), but just to illustrate a timeline of my faith journey up until now:

- \* First CBS event I attended: Felly Dessert on Saturday, February 10
- \* First CBS Large Group: the following week on Friday, February 16
- First CBS Retreat: Winter Retreat over February Break (25th to 27th, literally just two weeks after I first showed up to CBS)
- \* First time going to church: the following week on Sunday, March 3

It's notable, at least to me, how close these dates are to each other. In the two-month span between attending my first ever CBS event and the current moment in which I'm writing this, I went from being a non-believer to attending Large Group and church regularly. In my 21 years of living thus far, I believe that this has been the period of my life during which it has changed the most – second only perhaps to the months leading up to my eleventh birthday.

A little-known fact about me is that I sincerely started speculating about spirituality the summer before starting sixth grade. I had just graduated from elementary school

and was looking for ways to stay connected with my friends since we'd be attending different middle schools when autumn came around. So, I decided to start using social media to keep in touch with everyone. Now, I could write an entirely separate article about how that turned out, but long story short, that was how I began to open up my atheist mind to the possibility that a higher power existed.

Needless to say, this became a point of discord between me and my parents. I would zone out during the day and lie awake at night pondering morality, mortality, sin, and so on. This was a lot for a (not-quite) 11-year-old to process, especially against the behest of my firmly atheist father and mother. While they never explicitly opposed religious involvement, they seemed to – for lack of a better phrase – passively discourage it. I recall one conversation in which they asked (perhaps rhetorically, but I couldn't tell back then) if I wanted to start going to church, to which I responded yes. I waited and waited for them to take me, but they never did. (I've always wondered if they'd simply forgotten or hoped that I'd forget about the entire thing if they just kept stalling.)

It became increasingly difficult for me to sustain these conversations with the lack of support and follow-through on promises from my parents in regard to my explorations into faith and morality. Sensing that I was driving a wedge into our once-intimate relationship, I eventually gave up probing the matter any further and redirected my time and energy into being an agreeable, obedient daughter and respectable student.

I want to make clear that I neither aim to demonize my parents nor believe that they were acting without my best interest in mind. I've come to realize that a myriad of factors beyond our control in terms of our backgrounds – from the countries we were born and raised in to the cultural nuances we were exposed to throughout our lifetimes – have significantly shaped our respective mindsets and values.

This was just one of several elements that delayed the onset of my faith journey. While my own family was not religious, I did grow up with friends and peers whose families were – granted, most of them only seemed to be so nominally.

I often heard classmates complaining about waking up early on Sundays and being forced to attend church; I also remember being confused when I came to college and saw friends praying before meals (I'd never seen that happen in a single school cafeteria I had been in up until that point). The overall impression that I got of being religious was this: feeling obliged to go through the motions of archaic practices that have long ago lost significance but continue to be upheld merely for the sake of tradition.

With that being said, I want to highlight a sermon that Pastor Paul Epp from the English congregation of First Ithaca Chinese Christian Church (FICCC) gave during the CBS Winter Retreat this year. He talked about avoiding the pitfalls of being a hypocritical Christian, which involved engaging in religious acts and rituals superficially or with an ulterior motive. Sitting in that room and hearing these words of wisdom from Pastor Paul, I felt like it was meant to be that this was the very first sermon I'd ever experienced. My reservations about all Christians approaching their faith robotically and carelessly were dispelled at that moment. It dawned on me that being truly Christian means being sincere about one's faith, and this sincerity in glorifying and loving God means infinitely more than the practicalities of observing said faith.

To be honest, the first time I heard people singing praise songs together during worship at Felly Dessert was quite strange to me. Likewise, I've heard stories about Christians and Catholics bringing their non-believer friends to church events only for them to walk out during praise because being surrounded by a room full of strangers loudly professing their love and devotion to an invisible higher being was very unsettling. I also recall feeling extremely awkward and out of place at prayer meetings because I'd never prayed before and wasn't accustomed to voicing my inner thoughts to God. In my opinion as someone with an atheist upbringing, this is all understandable; it's like telling an innocent child that Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy don't exist. (There are definitely some adults who still believe they do. Who knows? Maybe they're right.) I feel blessed that Pastor Paul's sermon on hypocrisy and sincerity gave me the strength to continue showing up to prayer meetings and trying my best to learn the praise songs (none of which I'd ever heard before coming to CBS), because it showed

me that even though I didn't have the motions down yet, I could at least feel deep down that I was earnest in my efforts to grow my faith and relationship with God.

If there's anything I hope you take away from this, it's that we should strive to be understanding and compassionate to everyone, regardless of our differences. The catalyst that causes a non-believer to start believing could be as simple as asking them how they're doing. I'm deeply grateful to those who checked in on me during my health leave of absence and showed genuine concern about my well-being. In my time away from campus, I felt much more love and support from the CBS juniors than any of my closest friends at the time from my own graduating class. I don't say this to compare them to one another, but I believe that their conviction as Christians is what bridged the gap between our ages, class years, majors, schedules, proximity from each other, etc.

I'm definitely not qualified to speak on evangelism, but it was Sky and QQ's gentle treatment of me going all the way back to when we first met - way before I even considered giving Christianity a try - that actually encouraged me to join CBS. They extended open invitations to me for CBS events and reassured me that I didn't need to be Christian or know anything about the Bible or theology to feel included. It took me a while to actually accept one of those invitations, but I really appreciated that they never made it feel compulsory to follow them and adopt their religious beliefs in order to be friends and get along. We'd still meet up for meals to catch up outside of class, and they didn't judge me for things like not praying with them before diaging into my food. I didn't know any better, but they treated me like a sister anyway. At an evangelical visitation dinner at the Epp household, I talked about how looking back on this non-discriminatory kindness helped me realize that God's love is unconditional; He loves each and every one of us even if we have not opened our minds and hearts to Him yet. To honor the purpose of being more like Jesus Christ, we should love everyone around us.

I think of my father, whose traumatic response towards the mere idea of being evangelized suggests that he was forced in some way to conform with the Chinese Christians with which he sought community, solace, and refuge. I think of how confused, outcast, and betrayed he must have felt being pressured into a religion he was never exposed to and knew nothing about. It took his firstborn and only daughter hitting rock bottom and landing in the hospital for him and my mother to entertain the idea of letting me go to church. I called them in a moment of anguish and desperation, bawling over how useless and alone I felt in this world. After witnessing this, for the first time in over ten years, they asked again if I wanted to start going to church, to which I again responded yes. But this time, I wasn't asking for permission or waiting for them to take me there; as an adult, I now had the legal right and personal maturity to make my own decisions and direct myself onto the path I wanted to take in my own life.

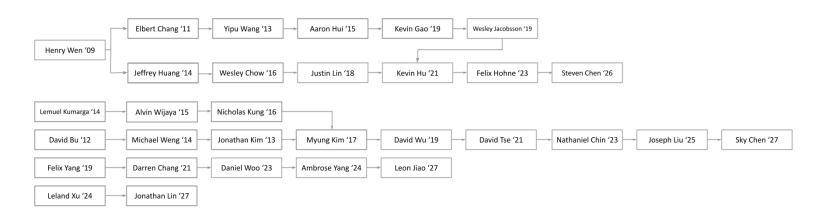
Since returning to campus this spring semester, I've been trying to communicate more with my parents and suture the tears in our relationship caused by intergenerational and cultural differences. I told them that I've joined a Christian fellowship and been attending church and that I believe this has immensely changed me for the better. Hearing that I finally see purpose in my life has slowly thawed the coldness towards faith in their hearts. Now, when I call to tell them how full my heart feels after attending a Large Group, church service, or event, they respond by expressing warmly how glad they are to hear that.



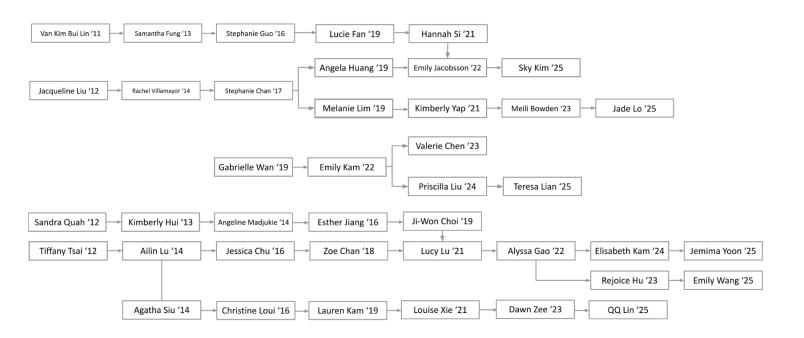
Zoom call with QQ and Sky during my leave of absence!

## prayer partner trees

### brothers of CBS



### sisters of CBS





#### To: Valerie

Congrats on UPenn! I'm bummed that I didn't get the chance to get to know you better before you leave for dental school, so please come back and visit sometime:)

From: Jacqueline

### To: Jade

CONGRATS ON BECOMING MADAM COORDINATOR!!! I know you will do great things and bring CBS to new heights. I remember the warmth and kindness I felt when I first met you at Sky's birthday party two years, long before I even thought about exploring spirituality in college and joining CBS. I'm so glad to reconnect with you now and continue being in your gracious presence. Your dedication to faith is inspirational and encouraging to all of us. You speak with such sincerity and maturity, which is a much-needed source of light in this cutthroat, hypercompetitive environment in which we find ourselves during college. I'm excited to spend more time with you in the coming year and learn more from your example!

From: Your fellow Canto-speaking sister in Christ,
Jacqueline

### To: Steven

Thank you for co-leading Bible study and organizing the weekly North dinners! I've learned a lot about the gospel from your discussion prompts and questions in these past few months:)

From: Jacqueline

### To: Genesis

Matthew 10:16 changed my life. Thank you so much for sharing that verse with me and having a heart-to-heart talk about the struggles of growing up Chinese-American, as well as the journey from growing up with a non-religious family to finding Christ! I'll be cheering you on as you walk down the beautiful path God has laid out for you.

From: Your sister in Christ, Jacqueline

### To: Bella H

Thank you for being the most goated prof in INFO 2950:))) I think out of all the TAs in that class, I went to your office hours the most and always left knowing more and feeling less confused, so tysm for all your help hehehe <3

I also love our funny exchanges via Locket LOL those always make my day >:3

From: Jacqueline

#### To: Teresa

It's been nice walking home with you back to North at night! Thank you for bearing with me as I ramble about whatever's rattling around in my head that day, especially since I know social interactions can be very draining. I hope we get to have more fun times together next year!

From: Jacqueline

### To: Chervl

It's so fun getting to church and CBS events with you from the Risley bus stop :))) I'm gonna be so sad next year when you'll be far away in CTT :((( thank you for always being so patient, understanding, and willing to listen! You have such a kind heart <3 I hope you can continue to explore different areas of study that you're interested in like nutrition and data science and that all goes well!

From: Your fellow North Campus resident, Jacqueline

### To: Sky Chen

I'm so glad I got to know you this semester! It's nice meeting someone else from Queens haha :p it was fun going to your service and jam sesh service and playing badminton with you! I think your sound bytes are really fun (like "wOw" or "YiKeS"). You're a big brain chem major and I hope you don't have to spend too much time in your second home PSB lol I'm looking forward to hanging out more next semester!

From: Jacqueline

### To: Leland Xu

Thanks for helping so much with CBS:) you are greatly and deeply appreciated

From: Anonymous

### To: Qq Lin

Prettiest, loveliest girl -- i'm going to miss you so much :((

From: Anonymous

### To: Tiffany Situ

You're such an amazing and unique person Tiffany! And thanks for all the cool facts about Delaware in Africa:D

#### To: Josh

Congrats on being a resident of the borough with the least number of rats in NYC (bc Staten Island doesn't exist ofc). You're not too bad for being one of those kids these days. Don't forget to give Sharon her spectacles when you wheel her into Longview /jk Sharon if u see this ily <3 manifesting that we can pull up to Gov Ball over the summer ;-; have fun becoming a kiwi next semester bahaha

From: "oh naurrr" - Jacqueline

To: Josiah Kam

Chicken fried rice and boba

From: Anonymous

To: Leon

Thanks for mogging me

From: Anonymous

To: Transfer Students

We are slowly becoming the quiet majority in CBS. Hang in there, my brethren, for one day we shall all rise.

From: mwahahaha

To: Seniors

You all are some of the best people to hang out with!

From: Anonymous

To: Hannah

It's so cool that you're an astronomy major and are involved with Illuminations! I hope to learn more about you and your cool interests going forward :)))

From: Jacqueline

To: Alice

HI love your laugh and the way you smile whenever someone is talking with you <3 you're so sweet and such a big brain bio major & TA :)))

From: Jacqueline

To: Steven Chen

Love your origami--keep posting!

From: Anonymous

To: People who drive

We appreciate you all for offering an alternate mode of transport lest we use our weary legs to trek across the expansive, hilly terrain that is Ithaca or await the coveted yet unreliable TCAT. Thank you all so much for your service.

From: Anonymous

#### To: Leland

Thanks for organizing Alumni Weekend and BoL and giving me extensions for finishing my article. I also appreciate your wry sense of humor and amusing takes on the world. It's fun seeing you when I crash visual studies too haha. Congrats on graduating and best of luck in the future!

From: Jacqueline

To: The Sky's (Kim & Chen)

Night Skies SMP was fire! Thankfully, we didn't get kidnapped by Steven and made it all in one piece to Nasties LOL #ivkyk

From: Anonymous

To: Alice Ke

S-class bible study leaderrrr

From: Anonymous

To: Teresa Lian

Thanks for the support in CMC:))

From: Anonymous

To: Tiffany

I love your energy! You never fail to make me laugh, whether it's pointing out yet another example of someone misidentifying where Delaware is — Germany? Uganda? What's next, Uranus? — or pointing out how ridiculous something is by exclaiming, "That's GOOFY." I think your passion for the environment and nature is admirable, and I hope we become closer and get to hang out more going forward! Thanks for being my fav Hockessin native <3

From: Jacqueline

To: Sky Kim

The BEST praise coordinator ever love you so much Skim  $\,\,$  Kim  $\,\,$   $\,\,$  u <

From: Anonymous

To: Leon Jiao

cool guy

From: Anonymous

To: PT squad

Thanks for telling us to straighten our backs so we don't become hunched over and giving us sound medical advice on what to do about knee pain #physicallytherapeutic

From: An old Cornell grandma who can't sit up

straight:p

To: Leon Jiao

Such a talented violinist and computer scientist!

### To: QQ

Thank you so much for listening to me trauma dump to you for hours, whether it be at your place on Linden or via text. I'm really grateful for your patience and understanding when it comes to dealing with heavy topics and tough situations. It means a lot when you invite me to grab a meal together, and I always love catching up with you. I'm so excited to be neighbors next year! And here's to having a great summer in Ithaca together:D

From: Jacqueline

#### To: Nat

Thank you for co-offering the coffee chat SMP and giving me and Cheryl a tour of your MS office in Gates! It was really cool to hear about your research and passion for CS. I hope we get to hang out more in the future!

From: Jacqueline

#### To: Ambrose

Your devotion to CBS but above all to the Lord is wholly inspiring. You set a prime example of balancing being a stellar student without compromising on spending time with God. We are so blessed to have had you as our coordinator this year and encouraging us to deepen our own relationships with God. It can be easy to get swept up with prelims and p-sets and job applications and whatnot, but you provide us with a safe space every single week at large group on Friday nights. Thank you so much for all that you do, and I know you will continue to bring light to many others as you embark on your path after graduation.

From: With gratitude and well wishes, Jacqueline

#### To: Beth

Your extensive knowledge of and passion for K-Pop is awe-inspiring <3 keep on stanning!!! #delulusunite

From: Your fellow fangirl, Jacqueline

### To: Jade Lo

JADE you're the BEST i'll love you for a thousand years <3<3<3

From: Anonymous

### To: Emily Wang

Emily Wang you are the coolest :)))

From: Anonymous

### To: Joseph

I appreciate your fervent and utterly unapologetic love of broccoli. It's always super interesting to see your personality change when that item is on the menu. Also, thank you for being an extremely good listener and for laughing at my unhinged jokes and spontaneous rambles. I think you're a lot funnier via text than you let on IRL, and the wide assortment of emojis you use as reactions in the group chat never fails to amuse me. It's also very cool being in your Bible study group (that diagram you drew of the three Millenium views was lit).

From: ROFLMHOOL (rolling on floor laughing my head off out loud), Jacqueline

### To: Veya

We haven't gotten much of a chance to chat, but you seem really cool! I love your style and think it's awesome that you're a TA for CS 2800. Congrats on graduating, and best wishes in your future endeavors!

From: Anonymous

#### To: Jemima

CONGRATS ON BECOMING A CO-COORDINATOR!!! You already know the story of how I first met and knew of you, so I'm so glad we were able to spend more time together and become close over these past few months. It's always cool having deep conversations with you whether it be about DEI, making connections on LinkedIn (congrats on hitting that 500+ mark btw yasss), the transfer experience, or Korean (you are 내 여동생 윤보은 ♡ 이히히). Here's to more enlightening conversations and fun times in the future!

From: 네 언니 Jacqueline

### To: Jacqueline Woo

Amazing and thoughtful---really happy I had the chance to get to know you this semester!

From: Anonymous

#### To: Jemima Yoon

May the Lord bless you with wisdom, peace, and understanding next year as you serve!

From: Anonymous

#### To: Sharon Wu

Hope to see you somewhere that isn't Chicago hehe

From: Anonymous

### To: Candy Wu

Sweeter than candy and fashion sense is on point <3

From: Anonymous

#### To: the freshmen

you guys are cool kids

From: Anonymous

### To: Josh

Thanks for being BeReal coordinator this year :)))

#### To: Sharon

AHHHHH IDK WHERE TO START ;-;-;-; OKIEEE first of all thank you for being so welcoming when I first joined CBS <3 I remember us exchanging phone numbers at my very first large group and I immediately felt a good vibe from you~~~ I always love hanging out with you whether it's having a (not so productive) productivity sesh, grabbing food together, meowing at random objects and/or people, watching you absolutely dominate at badminton, or hearing your thoughts about Chicago and physics ehehehe :3 I can't believe you're leaving me to go to the windy city T\_T you MUST come back to visit I will not accept no for an answer thank you please ahahaha but anyways CONGRATS ON GRADUATING AND GETTING BAPTIZED AHHHHH SO HAPPY FOR YOU WUUUUUUUU

From: The Wu Impostor (Jacqueline)  $\sim$ o( = $\cap\omega\cap$ = )m

### To: Sky Kim

You already know we go WAYY back so idek how to begin ^\_^ I will be eternally grateful that you encouraged me to come to CBS and that you've been an incredible friend through the thick and thin ever since we first met. You have a quiet but strong presence, and you're a light to everyone around you:D I'm so grateful that we've stayed friends for all these semesters since we took FREN 1220 together~~ I'll always look back on those memories fondly and hope that we get to make many more together in the future!!

From: Your fellow MOA & 연준 stan, Jacqueline:)

### To: Ambrose

Princeton is lucky to have a great leader who cares about the church and about His kingdom, even amidst these wacky four years

From: Anonymous

### To: Class of 2024

We survived the pandemic hitting our freshman year of college, and now we're graduating y'all! That is surely an achievement worth celebrating.

## alumni Weekend 2024!

























