Alumni Advisory Board - Sustainability

Membership List
October, 2017
Kristin Barbato

Kristin Barbato joined Edison Energy as Managing Director of Enterprise Development in July 2016. In this role, she provides Energy-As-A-Service strategies for large customers to manage their facilities’ various energy needs such as planning, efficiency, onsite resources, renewables, operations, analytics, and financing.

Prior to this role, she was Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions at the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and built a new energy services business for NYPA’s public sector customers. Prior to NYPA, she was appointed to Deputy Commissioner / Chief Energy Management Officer for New York City during the Bloomberg Administration. To implement PlaNYC, New York City’s long-term sustainability plan, her team managed the country’s largest municipal energy infrastructure and operations with an annual budget of $1.3B. Supply contracts, hundreds of energy projects for over 4000 municipal facilities, and development of new programs for efficiency, renewables, emerging technologies, building performance, and energy education were all under her leadership. Before this appointment, she was Director of Business Development for a global energy, water, and environmental services company, Veolia Environnement. Ms. Barbato also worked for Con Edison and Florida Power & Light utilities in various departments including Strategic Planning, Customer Operations, Engineering, and Information Technology.

Ms. Barbato graduated Cornell University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. She also holds a M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Mercy College and completed her MBA with focus in Finance and Economics from Columbia University in May 2008. She is an adjunct professor at Columbia and New York University and serves on the Advisory Board for The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund to support families of children with cancer.
Bert Bland

Bert is Associate Vice President for Energy & Sustainability within the Infrastructure, Properties and Planning Division of Cornell University. Bert leads the generation and management of electric power, heating, cooling, and water at the main Ithaca campus of Cornell University. He also leads the transformation of the campus to a living laboratory for sustainable practices.

Bert began his career in environment & energy as a refinery engineer for Exxon, and then pursued research in the conversion of waste biomass to fuel ethanol at Cornell in the Biological and Environmental Engineering Department. At Cornell, Bert directs the award-winning Climate Action Plan, which achieved a 33% reduction in campus carbon emissions in four years, and ultimately aims for carbon neutrality. He is developing the energy and sustainability plans for the Cornell Tech campus, which will begin operation in 2017.

Bert has B.S., M.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Cornell.
Kenneth Davies

Kenneth Davies is Director of Renewable Energy for Microsoft, where he is responsible for wholesale renewable energy procurement for Microsoft’s global data center footprint. Kenneth is a recognized leader in renewable energy strategy, having structured and negotiated over 1GW of corporate renewable energy transaction. Kenneth previously held roles at Google, where he created Google Energy LLC and at Altenex, the first corporate PPA brokerage house, now part of Edison Energy. As part of his effort to advance the market for renewable energy, Kenneth developed the Proxy Revenue Swap, a new type of wind energy offtake agreement facilitated by Allianz Risk Transfer.

In addition to a background in wholesale power structuring and origination, Kenneth is an experienced venture capitalist, having served as Director of Technology Ventures at Constellation Energy, and Cleantech Advisor at Google Ventures. Kenneth has worked for over a decade in the renewable energy space, including experience at Charles River Associates, Cambridge Energy Research Associates, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Rocky Mountain Institute. Kenneth holds a BS, summa cum laude, in Mechanical Engineering and MEng in Operations Research, both from Cornell University, as well as an MS in Environmental Studies, with a focus on energy economics, from the University of Colorado at Boulder.
Bill Day

Bill Day spent his corporate career in the field of industrial gas turbines for electric power generation. At General Electric (1960-79) he established and led the High Temperature Turbine Technology Program and managed GE’s business with EPRI and the US Department of Energy. At United Technologies (1979-2002) he led a joint gas turbine design effort between Pratt & Whitney and Siemens. He also was responsible for negotiating a contract with the People’s Republic of China that launched the FT8 gas turbine and for directing the development of the FT8. He was responsible for negotiating the contract with Siemens that led to the development of the V84.3A gas turbine and was in charge of that development at UTC. From 1995 until his retirement in 2002 Bill was Manager of Advanced Engine Programs for Pratt & Whitney’s industrial gas turbine business. In 2001 he was named a Fellow of Pratt & Whitney for his expertise in industrial gas turbines. In 1995 he led the founding of the Gas Turbine Association, the trade association for the gas turbine industry, and served as Chairman of the Board of GTA until his retirement from P&W in 2002.

In 2002 Bill founded Longview Energy Associates, LLC, a technical services company in the energy field with emphasis on gas turbines. Also in 2002 he joined the management team for the US Department of Energy’s University Turbine Systems Research Program, initially through Clemsn University and since 2010 through a site support contractor for DOE. He is a member of the ASME Electric Power Committee. In 2008 he also became Managing Director of the Gas Turbine Association. He has four patents and has published over 60 technical papers.
Russell Diamond

Russell Diamond is the founder of Alcova Capital Management, an asset management firm which lends to mid-market commercial real estate projects.

Russell chairs the investment committee as a trustee for the Children’s Aid Society, responsible for a $300mm endowment. He has previously been general partner of two CleanTech / renewable energy funds, investing across the breadth of the sector. He has been involved in a variety of sustainability projects, including construction, farming, energy, philanthropy and government. Russell lives in Westport, CT with his wife and two children and is founded the Sag Harbor Cycle Company.

He is graduate of Cornell University ('91) and has his MBA from Columbia University ('98).
Joshua S. Eisenberg

Mr. Eisenberg is an Executive Vice President and Partner of Urban American, a real estate investment and management firm that specializes in multifamily, workforce housing. Mr. Eisenberg responsibilities include real estate acquisitions and dispositions, as well as the structuring of investment funds, joint venture partnerships and access to the capital markets. Mr. Eisenberg is also actively engaged in the management, operation and rehabilitation of Urban American’s portfolios and serves as its Director of Sustainability, with a focus on increasing energy efficiency, promoting conservation and reducing carbon.

Prior to joining Urban American, Mr. Eisenberg was a real estate lawyer and represented real estate developers and equity investors in the acquisition, development and finance of various types of real estate, including multifamily housing, office buildings, luxury hotels and retail. He also represented financial institutions in all aspects of real estate financing, including construction and permanent loans, community development loans and credit-backed bond financing. Mr. Eisenberg is admitted to the New York Bar, the New Jersey Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

Mr. Eisenberg holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University and a JD from Cornell Law School, where he was an Editor of the Cornell International Law Journal. From 1996 to 2007, Mr. Eisenberg served as a reserve officer in the United States Army and commanded units in the Field Artillery and then in the Military Police. Mr. Eisenberg is a Member of the Board of Directors of Student Agencies, Inc., Chairman of Student Agencies Properties, Inc. and a member of the Cornell University Council.
Richard Eno

Rick Eno is a Senior Partner at Roland Berger where he focuses on key management issues in the energy and chemicals industries. His focus is on Strategy Development, Technology Commercialization as well as Sales and Marketing Optimization. Rick began his career with Chevron where he had a series of engineering, manufacturing and construction management roles.

He then joined Arthur D. Little where he supported chemical and oil & gas clients all over the world on business strategy issues. He ultimately led the global Chemical and Energy consulting practice which was sold to Charles River Associates in 2002.

In 2008, Rick joined Metabolix, an Industrial Biotechnology company located in Cambridge MA as President and CEO. Metabolix is focused on commercializing an innovative family of biochemical and biodegradable polymers, utilizing renewable resources as raw materials. Metabolix also possesses a crop program researching innovative approaches to improve crop yields as well as to directly express value-added chemicals in crops. In 2015, rejoined a number of his ex-colleagues at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants where he works across both the traditional fossil as well as innovative renewable value chains.
Kim Leinward Erle

Kim Leinwand Erle is a LEED accredited sustainability professional with a career spanning institutional asset management and strategy consulting. An independent consultant, she currently advises property owners on sustainable retrofit, renovation and new construction projects.

Erle has also been a portfolio manager in a private equity real estate fund using investor capital to implement deep energy retrofit projects in third-party buildings, where she oversaw engineering evaluation of client facilities and structured complex retrofit projects to meet Fund underwriting requirements. Her work included developing a strategic framework for a large private REIT to generate incremental portfolio alpha through energy efficiency and other sustainability actions. In 2016 Erle was recognized as one of Sokol Media’s 2016 Top Women to Watch in Sustainability for her work on the LEED Platinum certified Sunset Green Home project, a showcase of durable, resilient and sustainable residential construction.

Erle enjoys a strong connection to Cornell. She serves on the Advisory Board of CFEM, Cornell’s Financial Engineering Master’s Program, and is an elected member of the President’s Council of Cornell Women. Erle is parent to a Class of 2016 graduate, and served on the Parent’s Committee from 2012 – 2016.
Donna Forsman

A freelance writer, Donna Forsman lives in Annandale, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. She graduated from Cornell University’s College of Architecture, Art and Planning in 1964 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She began her writing career as an advertising copywriter at Young & Rubicam in New York, where she also worked for Ogilvy & Mather Advertising before moving to San Francisco in 1970.

In San Francisco, she continued working as an advertising copywriter, first on-staff and then as a freelancer. At the same time, she wrote her first book: What About Tea? published by Artists & Writers Publishing. Simultaneously, she co-owned and co-managed a commercial photography business, where she specialized in food photography for advertising clients.

She returned to the East in 1976, purchasing a farm in Adams County, Pennsylvania, where she managed a pick-your-own cherry business, raised purebred dairy goats, and developed a business processing and marketing dairy goat semen.

In 1986, she moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where she established an advertising program for a Fair Trade non-governmental organization, now called Ten Thousand Villages, which markets handicrafts from developing countries in North America. She continued writing advertising and marketing communications, as well as articles for trade and consumer magazines, while in Pennsylvania and after moving to Northern Virginia.

In 1995, she coauthored The ‘21’ Cookbook, published by Doubleday, with Michael Lomonoco, then Executive Chef at New York’s famed ‘21’ Club. The ‘21’ Cookbook was excerpted by Gourmet magazine.

Throughout the years, she has been involved in numerous Cornell alumni initiatives. She served on the Cornell Club of Washington Board of Directors as Chair of the Activities Committee and as Vice President. She then served on the Cornell Alumni Federation Board, where she chaired the committee overseeing the Cornell Visa Card program and developed a new section within the Cornell Alumni Magazine called Alma Matters.

She continues to serve as a member of the Class Council for the Class of 1963 and is a member of the Cornell University Council.
Todd Glass (Chair)

Todd Glass is a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where his practice focuses on the representation of project developers, utilities, investment banks, and venture capital firms in the energy and clean technology sector in North America, Asia, Europe, and Australia.

Todd has extensive experience with the development, purchase, and sale of renewable and thermal generation projects; structuring, negotiation, and implementation of energy transactions and financings; and state and federal regulation of the energy industry. He served various enterprises as lead project counsel in the commercialization, project development, regulatory approvals, and financing of alternative energy projects and technologies, including solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar, and solar thermal projects. In addition, Todd represents utility-scale solar and other renewable energy clients in their power sales and renewable energy credit (REC) transactions, national and international joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and various equity and debt financings.
Daniel Goldman

Daniel Goldman has over 25 years of energy industry operational and investment experience, having been involved in over $4 billion of energy infrastructure finance transactions. In 2005, he co-founded Clean Energy Venture Group, one of the most active early-stage clean energy investors with a portfolio of 29 companies, and he currently manages this group. Until recently, he was president and CFO of GreatPoint Energy, a clean energy gasification company commercializing its technology in China which has raised over $280M from investors such as Kleiner Perkins, Khosla Ventures, Citi, Dow Chemical and China Wanxiang.

Mr. Goldman holds a wide range of advisor and board roles: co-founder and director of Environmental Entrepreneurs; board of directors or board observer at REsurety, 7AC Technologies, Zagster and Quidnet Energy; member of the strategic advisory board of Asia Environmental Partners, a Hong Kong-based private equity fund with $500M under management; and board of directors and executive committee of the New England Clean Energy Council. Previously, Mr. Goldman was a partner at New Energy Capital, a clean energy-focused private equity fund which he co-founded, and prior to that held senior management positions as InterGen, a Bechtel-Shell joint venture global power development company, and Arthur D. Little, a global management consulting firm. He received a B.S. from Cornell (CALS ’87) and an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and is a member and the past Chairman of the External Advisory Board of Cornell’s Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future. He lives in Newton, MA with his wife, Diana (HumEc ’87), and has three adult children. Mr. Goldman is a competitive road cyclist, runner and national qualifying triathlete.
Thomas F. Judson, Jr.

Thomas F. Judson, Jr. began his career in construction working as a laborer and carpenter apprentice during school summer breaks for John B. Pike & Son, Inc., a general contracting company founded by his great-grandfather in 1873. Having worked his way through the ranks, Tom became President of the company in 1975. In 1985, he established The Pike Company, Inc., one of New York State’s most respected and successful construction firms.

Under Tom’s leadership, Pike has played a major role in shaping the region’s landscape with projects for numerous clients such as Rochester City School District, City School District of Albany, University of Rochester, Cornell University, Xerox Corporation, Corning Incorporated and Con-Edison. Pike has built numerous major projects throughout the country including the General Motors & Exxon Pavilions at Disney’s Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida, the Charlotte, North Carolina Airport and the Bryan Cancer Center and Fuqua Business School at Duke University.

Highly active in the community as well as the construction industry, Tom currently serves on the following:

- Executive Committee and Board of Trustees—Rochester Institute of Technology
- Executive Committee, Past Chair and Board of Trustees—Center for Governmental Research
- Executive Committee and Board of Directors—Business Council of New York State
- World President’s Organization
- Executive Committee and Board Member—Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

An alumnus of Yale University (B.S.) and Cornell University (M.B.A.), Tom has remained committed to the community. In recognition of his business achievements and his contributions to the community, Tom was honored with the 2000 Civic Award for Commerce and Industry from the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Rochester Business Journal’s inaugural Fifty Over 50 award in 2003. Most recently Tom was inducted into the Rochester Business Hall of Fame 2009.

Tom lives in Victor, New York with his wife, Ebets. He enjoys spending time with his family; son and daughter-in-law, Rufus and Amy Judson, and grandchildren, Trip, Maggie and Emma; daughter and son-in-law, Bess and Mauricio Riveros, and grandchildren, Thomas, Oliver and Wesson.
Deb Kemper is an active angel investor and mentor to early-stage start-up companies. Deb is Managing Director and Operating Committee Chair of the Boston Forum of Golden Seeds, a national angel investor group. She is also a member of Clean Energy Venture Group and on the Advisory Board of Red Bear Angels. Her investment focus is high growth companies in the clean tech, healthcare, and technology sectors. She is a Board Observer at 99DegreesCustom and Day One Response, as well as serving on several non-profit boards including the Council of Advisors of USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

Deb was a consultant with McKinsey & Company where she served clients in the energy, electronics, and healthcare sectors. Her functional experience spans manufacturing, product development, operations, strategy, and leadership development. She has provided leadership support to organizations in China, Peru and the United States.

Deb earned her MBA from The Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College where she was named an Edward Tuck Scholar. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Cornell, where she graduated With Distinction and was a member of the Varsity Women’s Crew. She spent eight years living in Peru and China prior to moving to Boston in September 2013.
Laurie Kerr leads Urban Green’s policy team, which assists New York City in achieving its sustainability goals, especially 80% citywide carbon reductions by 2050. A licensed architect with over 30 years’ experience, Laurie Kerr is a national leader in green building and urban sustainability policy. As Deputy Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability under Michael Bloomberg, she developed the city’s innovative green building strategies, and at NRDC, she was the Founding Director of the City Energy Project, which is helping 10 major American cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta, adopt similar integrated energy efficiency policies. Her awards include AIANY’s 2012 Public Architect Award and Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. She serves on the board of the Global Cool Cities Alliance and is the Director for Sustainability for the New York Chapter of the AIA. She holds a BA in Engineering and Applied Science from Yale, an MS in Applied Physics from Cornell, and an MArch from Harvard.
Ian Kline

Ian Kline serves as president and CEO of The Cadmus Group (Cadmus), a technical and strategic consultancy partnering with clients in the areas of energy, the natural and built environments, public health, climate change, homeland security, and international development. Cadmus has more than 500 employees working with the public and private sectors across the U.S. and around the world, delivering services and solutions that transform markets and behaviors, create social and economic value, protect the natural environment, and improve people’s lives.

Mr. Kline is the architect of Cadmus’ strategic vision. Under his leadership, the firm has quadrupled in size over the past eight years and has diversified into several high-growth social good consulting markets. During this time, Cadmus has become a vanguard firm in the areas of: climate change vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation; renewable energy and distributed energy resources; high performance building and building energy management; demand side management program evaluation, measurement, and verification; homeland security; sustainable transportation; and infrastructure management and finance. It has also enhanced its long-held reputation for technical excellence in the areas of drinking water, water quality, and social marketing and market transformation.

Mr. Kline retains a deep technical understanding across the firm’s many practices. He has expertise in supporting the development and implementation of major public health and environmental protection programs at the national and state levels, and extensive background in performing regulatory and policy analyses for many public, private, and non-profit organizations. He has also served as a senior technical advisor on the firm’s work in the areas of climate change and sustainability.

Mr. Kline joined Cadmus in 1995 as an associate, was named a principal in 1999, and became a vice president in 2000. He became president in 2005 and CEO in 2007. He holds an M.P.P. in environmental policy and management from the University of Southern California and an A.B. from Cornell University. He also is a graduate of the Harvard Business School’s comprehensive executive leadership program.

Mr. Kline participates on the Global Adaptation and Resilience Investment Working Group (GARI), a private sector working group focused on climate adaptation and resilience announced in conjunction with the UN Secretary General’s Climate Resilience Initiative. He serves on the Alumni Advisory Board – Sustainability for Cornell University and on the Advisory Board of the Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise at Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management. He is also Chairman of the Executive Board of The Nature Generation, a nonprofit organization that works to inspire responsible environmental stewardship.
Fred Lee

Fred is the Director of Legal and Business Development, and a Corporate Officer for the New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation (NYCEEC), a not-for-profit, clean energy specialty finance company. Fred manages the day-to-day legal affairs of the organization, in addition to leading underwriting and execution of new transactions.

Fred has experience in clean tech, real estate finance and the public sector. Prior to joining NYCEEC, Fred led the Clean Technology and Energy team in the Center for Economic Transformation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. He served as project lead on a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and focused generally on developing the clean technology and energy sectors in NYC. Prior to entering the energy related industry, Fred was a structured finance attorney, focusing on securitization of real estate related securities.

Fred holds an MBA with a concentration in real estate finance from Columbia Business School and a JD from Cornell Law School. He also holds a BA in Political Science from Amherst College.
Robert H. Lynch Jr.

Mr. Lynch graduated from Cornell University, receiving both a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (1990), and a Master of Business Administration (1991). In 1997 Mr. Lynch co-founded Aristeia Capital, L.L.C., a private investment advisor focused on relative value strategies in the high yield corporate bond market. Over Aristeia’s history he has worked in various capacities, and currently serves as Aristeia’s Chief Risk Officer. He is a member of the Hedge Fund Sub-Committee of Cornell’s endowment and lives in Manhattan with his wife and two daughters. An active fisherman and sailor, he actively supports a variety of environmental organizations.
Doug Merrill

Doug studied Applied & Engineering Physics at Cornell, earning B.S. and M.Eng. degrees in ‘89 & ‘90. He continued his studies on the hill to earn an M.B.A from the Johnson School in ’91. His career has focused on manufacturing and supply chain leadership roles. He is currently the CEO of Semiprobe, a firm that designs and manufactures analytic probe stations for the semiconductor industry. Previously, Doug was the Director of Operations for Dynapower, a world leader in engineered-to-order power conversion equipment.

Doug was a founder and the COO of Sunward Systems, which designed and distributed solar thermal systems. He began his career with General Electric, graduating from their Manufacturing Management Program and spending time in the Aerospace, Motors, and Transportation divisions. He settled into GE Energy and spent eleven years leading teams that produced steam, gas, and wind turbines, as well as photovoltaic modules across North America, Europe and Asia.

Doug taught manufacturing engineering and manufacturing management as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Vermont for five years. He currently serves as a director on the Boards of Washingtonian Magazine and of Orbit/FR. He is a former Cornell Council member, and the former Chairman of the Friends of Cornell Sailing. He currently serves on the Alumni Advisory Board for Sustainability at Cornell.

Doug resides in Shelburne, Vermont with his wife Lisa (BS ‘90) and two teenage sons. When not in the office, he can be found sailing on Lake Champlain or skiing in the Green Mountains with his family.
Gus Noojin

Gus Noojin retired as President and CEO of Shell US Gas & Power in 2004. During his 35-year Shell career, he held a wide variety of technical, operating and executive posts. He served as a director on the boards of Shell Oil Co., Shell Petroleum, Inc. and Enterprise Products Partners (NYSE: EPD). He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Cornell.

Since retirement, Gus has been involved in community service with a focus on the education and development of young people.

Following are some of the organizations he has been involved with:

- Cornell Energy Institute Advisory Council (2012 – present) (Chair)
- All Kids Alliance (2010 – present) (Board Chair)
- United Way of Greater Houston (2002 – 2014) (Trustee, Chair of Investment Committee)
- Houston Achievement Place (2004 – present) (Board President 2009-2010, Executive Committee)
- Cornell School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Advisory Council (2002 – 2008) (Chair)
Robert Petrina

Mr. Robert Petrina is the Managing Director and President for JA Solar (North America), the subsidiary of one of the world’s largest companies in the solar energy industry. Mr. Petrina has more than 15 years of experience in international business development and entered the solar sector in 1998 when he spent time with Atersa in Madrid and Valencia, Spain. Prior to joining JA in late 2015, Mr. Petrina was the Managing Director and President for Yingli Americas. Mr. Petrina established Yingli Americas as the wholly owned subsidiary of one of the largest Chinese companies in the solar industry. He led its growth to become a leading solar energy products suppliers in the Americas, with offices in New York, San Francisco, Mexico City and Sao Paolo and cumulative revenues of 1.7 billion USD over six years. Between 2008 and 2016 he served on the board of directors of the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA).

Previously he was responsible for global silicon procurement at General Electric’s Solar Technologies business unit. Mr. Petrina received his BS degree in Applied Economics and Management and his MBA from Cornell University (’00 and ’08), where he was a Park Fellow.
Chuck Rosenzweig

During his twenty eight years of commercial real estate and capital markets experience, Chuck Rosenzweig has focused on principal investments (debt and equity) for all asset classes of commercial real estate. Mr. Rosenzweig is the Founder and Managing Partner of Criterion Real Estate Capital, a NYC based investment company focused on high-yield debt, preferred equity and common equity investments in commercial real estate, with a focus on properties in gateway cities. Criterion’s strategy includes investment in value-add and opportunistic business plans and the recapitalization of properties and portfolios.

Mr. Rosenzweig’s previous positions include Managing Director for the Real Estate Finance Group at RBS Greenwich Capital, which he joined in 2002. Prior to RBS Greenwich, he was a Managing Director and Head of Origination for CDC Mortgage Capital (now Natixis Real Estate Capital). Prior to CDC/Natixis, Mr. Rosenzweig was a Managing Director and Head of the Eastern Region for Nomura Capital. His experience in real estate began with the law firm of Kaye Scholer, where he was a transactional attorney in the real estate department from 1988 to 1994.

Mr. Rosenzweig holds an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a law degree from Cornell Law School. He is a member of numerous industry associations, and has been a speaker at numerous industry panels and has guest-lectured on commercial real estate finance at a number of universities.
Bob Shaw

Robert W. Shaw, Jr. is managing director of Aretê Venture Management, which advises and invests in alternative energy companies. Until his retirement in 2010, he was president of Aretê Corporation, a venture capital firm focused on small-scale energy systems. Aretê managed SC Green Tech Ventures for Sumitomo Corporation, and the Micro-Generation Technology Fund for a group of electric utilities. Earlier, Shaw was founder and president of Aretê Ventures, serving as managing partner of the five Utech Funds.

Shaw has served as a special limited partner and on the investment committee of several international venture funds. Previously, he was a senior vice president and a member of the board of directors of Booz, Allen & Hamilton, a member of the research staff at Bell Laboratories and an AFOSR post-doctoral fellow at the Cavendish Laboratory in the U.K. He has served as a member and past chairman of the Department of Energy’s Hydrogen Technology Advisory Committee, and as a trustee and treasurer of the Society for Science and the Public. He has a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Stanford University and an MPA from American University.
Samir Somaiya

Samir Somaiya is the President of Somaiya Vidyavihar and Chairman and Managing Director of Godavari Biorefineries Limited. He is Chairman of K.J. Somaiya Trust, K.J. Somaiya Medical Trust, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Applied Agriculture Research and the Girivanvati Pragati Mandal. Along with his wife, he is the owner of Kitabkhana, a bookshop in Mumbai. He is Chairman of a Technology Business called Riidl – Research Innovation Incubation Design Laboratory.

The Somaiya Trust and Somaiya Vidyavihar are involved in education, healthcare and rural development. The Trust manages over 30 different educational institutions of learning extending from elementary to Ph.D. The education is imparted in diverse areas such as medicine, engineering, the arts and sciences, religion, vocational studies, education, languages, etc. There are over 39,000 students and 1,300 faculty. There is also a 650 bedded urban teaching hospital and a 40 bedded rural hospital. The Trusts jointly run 8 schools, 6 of which are in rural Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Godavari Biorefineries Limited is a biorefining company with $200 million in sales, engaged in the manufacture of sugar, ethanol, renewable energy, chemicals, biogas, and compost, all from agricultural resources. More than 70% of company inputs are from renewable resources. The company also works extensively with 20,000 small farmers in over 200 villages to help improve productivity, yields and standard of living. The company has partnered with research laboratories and done remarkable research in frontier technologies on cellulose and feedstocks for polymers from renewable resources at the pilot scale.

Samir was the President of the Indian Sugar Mills Association in 2009, and the Chairman (Western Region) of the Indian Chemical Council in the years 2006-08. Furthermore he was a Committee Member of the Green Chemistry Initiative, constituted by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister, of the Advisory Board of Cornell’s School of Chemical Engineering, the Council of Religious Leaders, Astana, Kazakhstan. He holds a Master’s in Public Administration (2005) from Harvard University and an MBA (1993), Master’s in Chemical Engineering (1992) and Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering (1990), both from Cornell University. He is a recipient of the American Institute of Chemists Award (1990) and of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Award for Scholastic Achievement (1989). Samir is married to Amrita and has three children – Gayatri, Meera and Madhav. He lives in Mumbai, loves to play squash, do yoga, swim, and has a black belt in Taekwondo.
Zina Spezakis

After a successful career as a financial services executive, Zina Spezakis started her next career in clean energy technology. She has coupled her passion for environmental causes with her interest in helping grow companies sustainably and profitably.

Driven by a strong sense of urgency for environment, she is focused on helping and investing in clean-tech start-ups and sustainable business practices. She is currently an advisor to Ecolectro, a Cornell startup in clean energy.

She has a demonstrated record of accomplishment in investment management, operations, business creation, resource planning, budgeting, risk management, strategic planning and media appearances.

With over 20 years of experience, she worked in asset management in a variety of roles including trading, portfolio management, operations and distribution, servicing retail and institutional investors in both traditional and alternative investments. She has led and grown investment advisers throughout most of her career. Previously, at MA Capital Management, Zina was part of team that brought alternative investments to the retail space. At Allianz Global Investors she was Chief Operating Officer (Managed Accounts) and Director of Risk Management and Operations (US retail), responsible for approximately $130 Billion in assets. She has also worked at PIMCO Funds, Morgan Stanley Private Client Services and Chase Private Banking.

Zina earned her MBA in Finance and Business Economics from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and a MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago School of Social Sciences. She also has dual undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Economics and Government. She is a Charted Financial Analyst.
Nancy Sutley

Nancy Sutley is LADWP’s Chief Sustainability Officer, reporting directly to the General Manager. In this role, Ms. Sutley oversees the Department’s energy efficiency goals, environmental affairs, sustainability initiatives, and the electrification of transportation network. She initiated LADWP’s corporate sustainability programs including Green Team and the commissioning of its headquarters, The John Ferraro Building, as a LEED Gold facility.

Prior to joining LADWP in 2014, Ms. Sutley served as Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Under her leadership, the Council played a central role in shepherding the Obama Administration’s signature environmental projects and was one of the chief architects of President Obama’s 2013 Climate Action Plan.

Sutley has an extensive background in public service that includes posts as Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment for the City of Los Angeles, Board Member of the Metropolitan Water District, Member of the California State Water Resources Control Board, Energy Advisor for California Governor Gray Davis, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Senior Policy Advisor for the US EPA during the Clinton Administration.

Sutley received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.
Ellen Tohn

Ms. Tohn is an environmental health consultant with over 30 years of experience. She is the founder of Tohn Environmental Strategies and a nationally recognized expert in housing based environmental health threats, green and healthy housing, and indoor air quality. Ms. Tohn works with housing developers, owners and managers to create green and healthy housing and developed the nationally recognized “One Touch” approach. She has assisted health advocates catalyze policy solutions; designed energy efficiency programs incorporating health protections; and managed environmental health research studies.

Ms. Tohn served as an advisor on indoor environmental health issues to the US Green Building Council’s LEED program, Enterprise Green Communities, Delos Living, EPA, Department of Energy, and numerous green building programs. She has also worked to bring climate change and environmental issues into hospital community benefit work. Ms. Tohn is a nationally recognized trainer, providing professional development to over 7,000 individuals. She received her BA from Cornell University and a Masters from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Ms. Tohn is also the Co-Chair of the Wayland Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee and Co-Chair of the Cornell Outdoor Education Advisory Committee.
Jeff Weiss

Jeff Weiss co-founded Distributed Sun in 2009 and is Co-Chairman and Managing Director. Distributed Sun is a leading project developer, operator, engineering services provider, and tax equity advisor in the U.S. solar industry. Since 2010, DSUN has developed Community Solar, C&I and Utility Scale Projects in nine states. DSUN has been privileged to develop and operate solar facilities for Cornell in Ithaca and at Cornell Tech. Jeff leads capital formation, business development, strategy and governance.

An early digital media and commerce entrepreneur, Jeff has led companies in renewable energy, cyber and physical security, intelligence and corporate fraud mitigation, mission preparedness and training, software development, and transformational management. Companies include Picture Network International (sold to Kodak in 1997), CDx (Certificate of Deposit Exchange), Vista ($100MM network services firm), TSG ($10MM strategic intelligence firm), and ASAP Ventures (strategy, advisory & angel investing).

Jeff graduated from Cornell University and The Wharton School (University of Pa). He is Washington Leadership Co-Chairman of Business Executives for National Security (BENS); is a past Trustee Council member of Cornell University; serves on the Executive Committee of Washington Hebrew Congregation; is past Co-Chair of the Aspen Institute’s Socrates Society and founding director of Shenandoah National Park Trust. A third generation Cornellian, two of Jeff’s children and his niece extended the family legacy and graduated in recent years.