

CHINESE BIBLE STUDY

bread of life

FALL 2016



CBS VISION VERSE

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 4: 16-18 -

Chinese Bible Study (CBS) is a student-run Christian fellowship at Cornell University. We seek to **know Christ and make Him known**. There are four ministries within CBS, and two coordinators who help oversee the ministries and provide guidance for the year. You can also find out more about us at cbscornell.com.

EDITOR LETTER

Dear CBS,

Hi! I hope you enjoy reading this edition of CBS's Bread of Life, and get to learn a little bit more about the leaders that are running this fellowship and about many of the members of CBS that are new or reflecting on their time at Cornell.

CBS has gone through a lot this semester. From a few ministry leaders being away on co-op, to "sophomore slump", to the Ithacan cold, it has been a tiring and busy semester. However, despite this physical tiredness, God has been restoring each of our hearts on the topic of eternal glory. He has shown his glory so many times through my fellow brothers and sisters, in how they consistently serve with joyous hearts, in how CBS's traditions live on strong, in how He speaks through sermons and messages. We are only just beginning to understand what it means to fix our eyes on what lies ahead while being transformed in the present.

I'm not gonna sugarcoat it, this semester has been a hard one for me. From CS 3110 (I've complained way too much about this class...) to serving on Praise Team, to generally my life being in shambles, I've had trouble finding the motivation in my heart to worship - to have true, pure, uninterrupted worship.

But I think I'm just starting to realize that I've been having exactly the opposite mindset that CBS has been discussing this year. I've been looking only a few steps ahead or behind, but forgetting what's waiting for me on the horizon. I've been focusing on my abilities, not on what God can do and how much He has given me here. Being the editor of BoL has

shown me that I really can't do it all, and that I was focusing my attention on my earthly abilities. A verse we're all familiar with, Matthew 6:20 says,

"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

It took me a few months to realize that this slump I was in, the one where I had trouble focusing on God during worship was because I was looking inwardly, and not looking towards Christ. I was storing treasures on Earth, in my schoolwork, in my leadership positions, in the gifts that God has given me. But there were gifts waiting for me in heaven I was completely neglecting.

So.. this has been like my own mini sharing, but I just want to encourage anyone reading this that we must rend our hearts (shoutout North Women's Bible Study!) and come to God humbly. We must look towards our eternal gift and towards our Father for strength. When we only look at ourselves and what we can do, our perspective becomes arrogant and selfish. But when we look at the cross, we are humbled, and filled with unspeakable joy for our Savior who has given us innumerable gifts.

And yeah. Just want to thank CBS for being a community of brothers and sisters that continually challenge each other, and for allowing me to serve our one and only God! This has been a joy. Enjoy :)

**In Him,
Anna Tedijanto '19**

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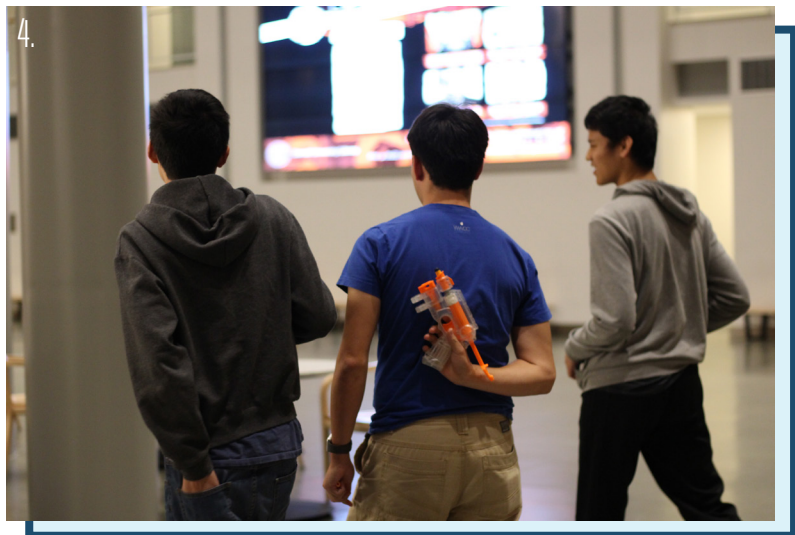
INSIDE CBS



2. Megan Lee '20 pies Charles Phil '16 at an After CBS Event (ACE) involving a scavenger hunt and some very sneaky seniors. The first three teams to complete the hunt got to pie seniors in the face.



3. At the yearly CBS welcome picnic, hosted by the Sophomores, Edward Chen '17 prepares to catch a gummy bear in his mouth during one of the fiercest competitions of the year. Just look at that stance!



1. (Left to right) Chris Qian '20, Charlie Qian '17, Jeffrey Huang '19, Stephen Hwa '19 pose for a selfie while making each of their best attempts at mustache whiskers. But watch out, don't pose too long or your face may permanently look like that!
4. (Left to right) Adrian Lim '20, Liam Patterson '20, and Kevin Gao '19 prepare to fire a Nerf gun in Klarman atrium. There's no way anyone could suspect a sneak attack from these three.

COORDINATOR LETTER: XINRAN PAN

Greetings CBS!

My heart is filled to the brim with emotion as I ponder how to express my thoughts to this dear community united under Jesus. Through the lens of coordinatorship, God has revealed much to me about Chinese Bible Study. Our Father is steadfast in his love and ever so faithful to us. Only by his mercy, has he allowed CBS to exist these 50 plus years so that together, we could grow in our love for the Lord, understand the truth of the gospel, and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

I am also filled with emotion because our Great Shepherd cares deeply for each one of his sheep and brings back those who stray from the fold and those not of his fold (John 10:12-16). Jesus, our Shepherd, not only gathers us, his little lambs, in his arms (Isaiah 40:11) but lays down his life for us (John 10:11). The truth of the gospel is beautiful and unites us in a perfect and eternal relationship with our loving Father. But our lives are still messy, our relationships still imperfect, and our afflictions still sorrowful. So how do we live as Christians in light of all this?

Our vision verse for the year comes from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Paul writes,

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Paul urges us not to lose heart and give up because though our bodies are wasting away, our spirits are being renewed and transformed into the likeness of God day by day. We may experience trials and afflictions of many kinds but through these afflictions, God is preparing us for a heavenly dwelling glorious beyond all comparison. So we live a life in view of eternity, knowing God’s steadfast love is what we can fully put our hope and trust in, and that our afflictions are temporary while our fellowship with him is eternal.

And yet, I confess that many times this semester, I myself have been so challenged to accept this passage as

truth. Some days I ask myself, “How can I possibly cling on to this hope when my current afflictions are so present and weighty, to the point of hopelessness?” It is during these times I realize I incorrectly focus so on what I can and can’t do and who I’m not. Recently, God has gently revealed to me that **he cares more about who I am than what I do.** (Really though, within the past 10 days, five different brothers and sisters have shared this thought with me!)

I know many of you CBSers face similar affliction and challenges. I struggle with feeling inadequate, unintelligent, and ineffective. I fear uncertainty and rejection, put my self-worth in grades, in other people’s approval. At times, I have come to believe in lies and falsehood. Satan whispers them, peers affirm them, and I accept them. Maybe you have come to believe in falsehood, too. So then, what is truth? **And if God cares more about who we are, well then, who are we?**

We are not inadequate, unintelligent, and ineffective, unworthy of love and acceptance, Nor do we have to forever feel hopeless or carry our sorrows because Jesus has already borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). **Who are we, truly?** In God’s eyes, we are his beloved sons and daughters, we are his redeemed, we are worthy, we are made to reflect the image and glory of God. So long as we forsake the lies for the truth of the gospel and repent of our sinful, former way of life, Jesus forgives us, Jesus saves us, Jesus comforts us, Jesus heals us, Jesus renews us day by day.

I have been greatly encouraged by CBS this semester. From the curious, spiritually hungry freshmen eager to understand the Word, to the sophomores stepping up to serve, to the upperclassmen leading the fellowship (some while on co-op), it is evident God is at work among us and desires for CBS to know him and make him known.

If you are reading this, then know that God is at work in you, despite circumstances and afflictions, he loves you so dearly, and is preparing for you an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. So do not lose heart! Let us as a fellowship, continue to look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

I am praying for you, CBS.

**Your servant and sister-in-Christ,
Xinran Pan '17**

COORDINATOR LETTER: CHARLIE QIAN

Dear CBS,

Two questions: Who are you? And who in the world reads these letters anyway?

I ask jokingly but I mean it seriously. This matters to me because I am truly curious. I want to know if you are someone that God keeps putting on Xinran's and my heart this semester. If you even kind of consider yourself a part of CBS, then I'm absolutely certain you are one of those people. But if you don't, then there's still a good chance. God puts anyone and everyone I come across on my heart in some way. One of the things I learned this semester is that my allegiance and service is to God first, and then CBS after.

First things first: Do you realize how much God loves you?? I prayed, at the beginning of the semester, that God would teach my heart to love the fellowship of believers as he does. I have come to feel so much for each of you. Whether it be joy, pain, loneliness, or inadequacy and beyond, I have been learning to share in all that you are going through. God puts you and your brokenness on my heart at the most random times. Sometimes, I'll be in lecture, or watching Adventure Time in my room, or just in line at Apollos. Then, I'll feel a deep tug in my heart as a small voice. "Your brother is stressed and at the end of his rope, but I can be his eternal joy." "I love this sister, who feels 2-faced and fake, but I see her for who she is and I love her."

In all honesty, I'm never "alright". Between you and me, if I ever respond with just "alright" or "okay", then you have my permission to admonish me on the spot for lying. In my prayers for you, I have high hopes--- that you'd be freed from the slavery of this world and be

**Only God will,
Charlie Qian '17**

filled with joy. However, praying for God to help you love as He does is like trying to redirect a fire hydrant with a straw. God feels so much for you. So much more than I will ever be able to give you. He hurts so badly when you're far from him. And my heart is becoming more broken for you in the ways His heart is. We so badly want for you to see, to understand. Yet, the more I get Him, the more frustrated I get that I can't just make you understand.

There are a lot of things I can choose to say in this letter. In fact, I could probably write a textbook based on everything I've learned so far in coordinatorship. But I think you'd agree that only a rare slice of all I've gone through is pertinent to you, an arbitrary reader. So, specifically for this letter, I think God has put it on my heart to help you understand how much He loves you.

CBS: I've learned that I am wholly insufficient to meet your needs. I cannot open your eyes, and I cannot make you feel God's love. I cannot force or persuade you to lead a bible study, join worship team, serve on Reach, or attend prayer meetings. I cannot reason or convince you to become a Christian. Yet,

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

(Psalm 95:7b-8a)

His love is here. His call is now. If you feel it, don't ignore it. Friend, this is the tip of an iceberg.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Hello CBS,

What do you do when you're feeling stressed out, when life's "not fair", or when you just want to give up? Hopefully these feelings don't reach you often, but I highly encourage you to reach out to God in every season of your life as He is always desperately reaching out for you. Prayer ministry's vision for the year is derived from Philippians 4:6-7, which reads:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I personally struggled to acknowledge this during my freshman year, and trusting in Him is definitely something that I'll wrestle with for the rest of my life. But you know what has radically changed the game for me this past semester? Serving in Prayer Ministry (bet you didn't see that one coming). I invite you to join Stephanie and me at our weekly prayer meetings to re-evaluate and reflect upon your placement in this world as a Christian student at Cornell.

So what's a typical Monday like in Clark 294C at 4:30pm?

We start by kindly kicking out whoever's in there because we reserved the room. Then we use the nonsensical Physics scribbled on the blackboard to make the PSB prayer fish that you might've seen on Facebook.

After the takeover and vandalism, we repent and quiet our hearts with a Psalm. The book "Life Together" is the inspiration for this practice of ours as Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes that "in the Psalter we

learn to pray on the basis of Christ's prayer ... Here we learn, first, what prayer means. It means praying according to the Word of God, on the basis of promises". Through this practice of praying the Psalms that according to Bonhoeffer do not belong to the individual but to the whole body of Christ, we have been learning how to pray in the Word and for the fellowship.

The time that follows varies from week to week, simply for the surprise factor! In general though, we stick to topics such as current world events, the health of CBS, and the requests of those present at the meeting. Also, if you've ever inputted a prayer request on our prayer wall, we diligently pray for your requests on a weekly basis!

We have prayed in different ways and for many different things but ultimately have come to the realization that no matter how we pray, there is always an undeniable presence of the Holy Spirit moving in us. Each time we pray together, we expose ourselves, our sins, our worries to present everything to God; we are effectively connecting at an extremely intimate level not only to each other but also to Christ. These experiences of the Holy Spirit at our weekly meetings are the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:19-20. He says in this verse, "again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." It's so great to be able to communicate with our creator, and it has really taught all of us that we can put our hope and trust in Him. Join me and Steph on our mission to learn more about prayer and how we can grow CBS' heart for prayer!

Bye CBS,

Jamie Wong '19 and Stephanie Chan '17

REACH MINISTRY

Our Dearest CBS,

“But Moses said to the LORD, ‘Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.’ Then the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.’”

(Exodus 4:10-12)

Reach’s vision verse is more like a vision passage. We chose Exodus 4 (we highly encourage that you drop everything and read this now), which recounts how Moses tells God that he can’t lead his people out of Egypt. So often when God gives us a task we make excuses-- we point out our past failures, doubts, un-giftedness, and other commitments. We feel like we don’t have the skills: we’re not strong enough, we’re not eloquent enough, we’re not equipped enough to face the tasks at hand. It’s easy to just think: “God. Please send someone else”. But in response, God points to what Moses does have. Despite us telling God that we can’t, He still uses us to make great things. When we were selecting the vision for the year, we did so with the idea of outreach in mind. Evangelism is scary and uncomfortable but we as leaders wanted to assure the fellowship that no matter how little and insignificant you think you may be, He can do great things with you through both your strengths and your weaknesses.

To be honest though, we haven’t really emphasized

Humbly,

Kathy Lin ‘18 and Myung Kim ‘17

this vision in our meetings. While this was a theme that was envisioned to encourage people for outreach, it ended up being a lesson that we as leaders have been preaching to ourselves daily. Guys. Real talk. Leadership and ministry are hard. Nothing could have ever prepared us for the whirlwind of coordinating freshman outreach. Nothing could have prepared us for the struggles of getting people’s attention after large group for ACE with shower claps. In many ways it feels like we’ve failed as leaders. At so many points in the semester we felt voiceless, inadequate, and awkward, and we saw so much of our own weaknesses: soft spokenness, complacency, and being easily discouraged. But like Moses, God reminds us that He equips us. Despite our inadequacies, we’ve had the joy of welcoming an amazing class of freshmen into our family and it’s been such a blessing to just see these freshmen grow. We’re so encouraged when we see them seeking answers to their questions and we’re inspired when we see how they love on people. We’ve had new ACE’s this semester which have been great opportunities to just share life with others in the fellowship, and Felly Dinner is on the horizon!!! There is so much to praise God for.

Soooo yeah. With that we just wanted to remind everyone that God calls each and every one of you because of your failures, not in spite of them. These challenges are what ultimately shape you and equip you. Be blessed and know that God will be with you every step of the way.

PRAISE MINISTRY

Dear CBS,

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

(Romans 5:1-5)

This is our praise team vision verse for this year. In choosing this passage, we wanted to focus on the hope of eternity, keeping in line with the CBS vision. This hope is able to give us peace, knowing that we are saved through Christ. Furthermore, these verses emphasize the importance of our spiritual journey, reminding us that the trials that we face here on earth are also important. They are not simply things to get through, but rather situations that help to build us up. Suffering leads to endurance; endurance, character; and finally, character leads to hope. We hope that as praise team, we do not get caught up in our current struggles but can look past them, seeing how God is using them to build our character and give us hope. And ultimately, to be able to praise God through all our sufferings and blessings alike.

Phoebe: Being praise team coordinator has really been a blessing to my life this semester. At first, I was terrified and overwhelmed by the weight of responsibilities that the position came with. I felt that I was underqualified to lead, especially in my musical

With love,

Phoebe Lo ‘17 and Zoe Chan ‘18

#spiritualgains16

abilities. However, as the semester progressed, I became more used to the logistical routine and also became more comfortable leading praise. Through praise team, I became so much closer to a lot of the sophomores than I had expected to be. Watching them grow and step up to lead praise also challenged me to mature myself. At a time when I felt very lonely in CBS, God provided the brothers and sisters in praise team to remind me of His love. I thoroughly enjoyed serving with them.

Zoe: Being on co-op while serving on ministry was definitely hard on my pride. There were so many things I wish I was there for and wished I could help with, but too far away to actually do. My job consisted of very logistical things: updating the chordsheet archive and OpenSong archive. I would skype in every week, only to get cut off toward the end because of bad Eddygate internet haha. But still, God taught me that it’s okay not to be in the middle of everything and that sometimes growth happens when you step away and let God do the work. I love seeing the sophomores step up and I can’t wait to serve with everyone physically. It’ll be very interesting when I switch places with Phoebe next semester and I’m excited to see what God has in store for us!

Despite being apart for the whole semester, Phoebe and I developed a way of serving our praise team together. Even though we were hundreds of miles away, God filled the distance between us and made our servant team work! We thank all of praise team for stepping up and praising God without constraint. We hope that y’all continue to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God!

BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY

Dear CBS,

Our vision for Bible studies this year lined up with the overall vision for the fellowship. As we were encouraged to have an eternal perspective, we wanted the fellowship to use Scripture as a means of understanding the unseen and the eternal, and a way to renew ourselves daily. We chose to study Joel and 1 Thessalonians this semester, hoping that CBS could find comfort in seeing God's faithfulness in the past, present, and future, and also learn about the eternal life God has prepared for us. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that

"all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness."

We want to be able to study the Bible and God's Word together, but also be able to apply these teachings in our daily lives. After hearing the desires and interests of people in the fellowship, we introduced the idea of holding workshops in our small groups throughout the semester. This allowed us to have more topical discussions and provided an open time to speak about what we have learned in the Bible and its relevance to our own lives. The workshop topics were chosen by each group and included the role of women in ministry, self-worth, difficult questions about God, and discussion of theology through video games. Through the time we spend together, we really hope to encourage a close fellowship of brothers and sisters with whom we can pray, be vulnerable, and grow.

This purpose is generally straightforward. We desire the Word, and we desire a community around the Word. However it's often the implementation that's a bit messier. As Bible studies have been in flux during

the past few years, it seems that we can only deduce what works for CBS each year. For example, a few years ago Bible studies didn't even exist as a ministry, but rather the leaders were asked or volunteered to lead a Bible study on a topic of their choosing. This evolved from having groups of very variable sizes - from large groups to super small groups of just two or three people - in an attempt to foster deeper community and intimacy. Later, when the Bible study ministry first became a formal ministry of CBS, the ministry leader taught the material to the rest of the Bible study leaders, but eventually the Bible study leaders broke off to "pre-study" the passage on their own for their respective Bible studies. In short, the ministry became more hands off so that the leaders were better able to conform their study to the needs of their particular group. As ministry leaders this year, we desire the structure by which CBS can study the word together in conjunction with the overall vision, so that CBS is able to discuss with one another what they've learned. However, we were challenged by not only the needs of the fellowship and each Bible study, but of the leaders as well. In order to incorporate more coherence in the teachings of each Bible study, we realized that the current pre-study paradigm is not necessarily the best for our fellowship, and we want to also move toward a more structured pre-study for the leaders.

Nonetheless, we have been blessed by hearing about people's experiences in Bible studies and seeing the fellowship bond in their small groups. We hope that as a ministry, we can foster growth in the fellowship's knowledge of the Bible and spark a desire to go to the Word for guidance and restoration.

In Christ,

Felicia Sadikin '17 and Zhijiang Li '16

WEDNESDAY NORTH MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Dear CBS,

I didn't want to lead a Bible Study this semester. I did my time when I was a sophomore and felt really burnt out by it. But this past summer, God convicted me and encouraged me that if I did it, He would work through it.

At first, I was scared about messing up and misguiding people. I was uncertain whether I had the discipline required to prestudy every week. I was skeptical as to whether I was wise enough.

Alas, I did miss up. And I did misguide people. Behold, I did not have discipline to prestudy every week. Indeed, I was not wise enough. In fact, I wonder sometimes if I did more harm than good on my own.

But God still worked through the bible study. The amount of grace God had for me was immense. Talking to other bible study leaders, I realize how little effort and care and intentionality I put into the North Guys by comparison. The more I studied the passages, the more I realized how little I understood about them.

Yet, God has worked in a lot of the conversations that we've had this semester. God has created a community of believers, young and old among the North Guys. I want to confess before all CBS.

"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."

(2 Cor 11:30)

For all my fellow bible study leaders, I hope this encourages you to see that God has been using you in ways that you do not know, and not of your own accord. For those who may be considering leading a bible study, I want to exhort you to try it if you feel God calling. It's actually very exciting to see how God uses you despite your weaknesses!

**In Christ,
Charlie Qian '17**

Dear CBS,

Hearing Bible study be called "Men's Small Group" truly made me feel like I was no longer a kid in VBS. After a semester at Cornell, I feel like I know much more about the Bible and have developed a greater sense of respect towards it. I personally came into Cornell with a lot of frustrations, doubts, and questions about God. The struggle is not over, but the guys in the small group really made me feel like I had a community in which I can voice my thoughts and be vulnerable with. Even though I came into Cornell with the adamant attitude that I was not going to get myself caught up in the "Christian bubble," my experiences in the small group and at CBS softened my heart to the meaning of community. Small group is an amazing group of brothers that redefines the conventional boundaries of what it means to be in a "Christian community." We don't focus on doing the "Christian things", nor do we focus on being the tightest group of friends, but we share the common goal of finding spiritual truth through the Word and our experiences with God. Even though I don't hang out with most of the guys in the small group on a day to day basis, I still feel like they are some of the closest friends I have here. That is not to say the men at CBS don't have fun. There's a healthy amount of laughs whether it's from me defeating the coordinator in Passcodes (I haven't lost yet), or playing high-low, or just making really nerdy jokes since we are mostly in STEM. The most encouraging thing to see is how others ask questions and want to learn more, too. There's civil discussion over theological topics, but at the end of the day, there's humility in knowing that we can only lift these questions to God to answer.

**In Christ,
Junlan Lu '20**

THURSDAY NORTH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Dear CBS,

This semester, we had the blessing of leading the Girls' Bible Study on North campus. We always try to claim the infamous purple lounge of CKB, though sometimes it's a challenge we have to face every week. Going through the book of Joel was a very different experience from going through other more commonly studied books of the Bible. The metaphors, imagery of locusts and destruction, and poetic structure really required us to study the meaning of God's Word and how it could be applied to our lives. We talked about how God used Joel to make his will known to his people, and how we should be open and ready to be used as instruments of God (#beaflute). As a group, we shared our views of sin and repentance, and how we see God's mercy in our lives. Ultimately, the book of Joel taught us about God's grace despite our resistance, His restoration, and His power and provision over us. 1 Thessalonians also lead us to think about many theological questions and prompted us to better understand the process of sanctification and the incomprehensible depth of God's love. Following Paul's examples and encouragements, we can begin to understand how to lead an effective ministry by loving those around us as a mother and a father does, how to persevere through trials, and how to live a pure and holy life for God.

We have had a really great time this semester, reading the Word, discussing tough questions, and sharing about our experiences and prayer requests. We're excited to continue growing with these girls and living life together!

**In Christ,
Lucie Fan '19 and Felicia Sadikin '17**

Hellooo, CBS!

We're here to share a little bit about our Thursday nights with you all. Led by Felicia and Lucie, our North Bible Study is blessed with sisters from every class! With such a scope of perspectives, we've had so many awesome discussions about the Word and delved into topics like Jesus' second coming and the true meaning of loving others - really just building, and feeding off of each other's understanding of Christ. This semester, going through the books of Joel and 1 Thessalonians was an interesting combination. Many of us were inexperienced studying the Old Testament and through Joel we got to witness God's fury, but also His justness and overflowing grace and mercy through his judgement on Israel. Moving on to 1 Thessalonians, we learned a lot from Paul's encouragement and love for these people who have been living for the Lord in the midst of persecution and temptation.

In every Bible study we have the chance to share about what we are thankful for and anything we've been struggling with over the past week. It's such a relief to be able to lay down our worries or simply share joys we may be experiencing with our fellow sisters. This intimacy has really allowed us to foster a tight-knit community, filled with of trust, support, and prayer for one another, not to mention the tons of laughs (#throwback to our icebreakers on most embarrassing moments)!

And at the end of every Bible study, we somehow manage to conclude the same way too - by sprinting to catch the bus back to west or collegetown! We are so grateful for this group of girls, and hope to continue encouraging one another in our walks with Christ next year!

**In Christ,
Melanie Lim '19 and Tiffany Kei '19**



SUNDAY C-TOWN MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Dear CBS,

What more can I say. As guys we bonded over wings (RIP over Ithaca), video games (read: Halo), and the Word. I'm thankful for such a consistent group of brothers (arguably more consistent than myself), and for their desire to grow and learn more about the Bible. Even when we went off on tangents, we could faithfully question and study Joel and 1 Thessalonians, and share and pray for one another throughout the week. These passages point us toward the day of the Lord, a day which at the least signifies the power and terror of our Lord. We are reminded of the awe and respect we ought to have for Christ, as well as the temporal nature of our stay on this Earth. We hope and pray that this continues to settle in our hearts, in conjunction with the CBS vision - understanding that our life is ultimately eternal.

**In Christ,
Edward Chen '17 and Zhijiang Li '17**

Dear CBS,

On Sunday evenings, the Collegetown men's Bible study met after dinner in Eddygate 1G to study the Bible with Edward and Zhijiang. We found Joel to be, at times, hard to understand, and Paul to be very show-offy in 1 Thessalonians. Every so often, we noticed differences in meaning between different translations of the Bible. But after intellectually stimulating conversations with veteran CBS members Mike Cao, Zhijiang Li, and Edward Chen, we understood better both God's righteous nature in Joel, and the power of encouragement in 1 Thessalonians. Through our group chat, we kept track of each other's prayer requests. It was cool to be able to share about our lives and to get to know brothers we normally wouldn't have the chance to talk to. (So it turns out that Halo has a lot of Bible references. (apparently they name various sides of the story with terms like "Flood", "Covenant" (apparently I have a lot of room for improvement in Halo (apparently there are different flavors of wings (but I digress).).).).).

As a final encouragement, in reading through Joel, we encountered--between predictions of famine and conquest and judgment--this uplifting description: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28). It's a reminder to think about eternity, about both the end of days and our hope in God.

**In Christ,
Jeffrey Huang '19 and Newton Ni '19**

MONDAY WEST WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Dear CBS,

The Keeton G04 suite has been boppin' every Monday evening, by the grace of God, and we've been challenged in so many ways through the West girls' small group this semester. In the beginning, we often had NO idea what was happening in Joel--"Wait, where did these quotation marks start? Where do they end??"--but thanks to Felicia's pre-study sessions, God's hand was always evident in helping to discern what to bring to Bible study. Despite our initial confusion, we loved digging into this book and seeing all the relevant life lessons we could draw from the passages, as well as the vivid connections to last year's study Hebrews--OT, more like OP, amirite? Joel has reminded us of the importance of repenting not through our actions but through our hearts, which is because of the new covenant (aka Jesus!!). Delving into 1 Thessalonians has been a refreshing change after Joel, and seeing the Thessalonians' incredible faith in the midst of persecution has inspired us in the midst of our own semester struggles.

Each week, before we open our Bibles, we've also shared about life, its burdens, and God's presence among those difficulties. We've been encouraged by each person's vulnerability and the way in which we've been able to bond and draw closer together in faith. Through discussions that range in both breadth and depth, we've pondered hard questions and been encouraged by new insights, even if that means spending an entire evening on 1 Thessalonians 4:1. This time of precious fellowship has been a bright spot in our weeks and a constant reminder of how surprising God can be.

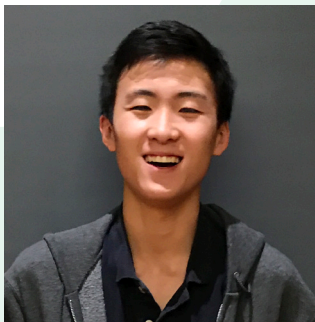
**In Christ,
Lauren Kam '19 and Evelyn Shan '19**

Dear CBS,

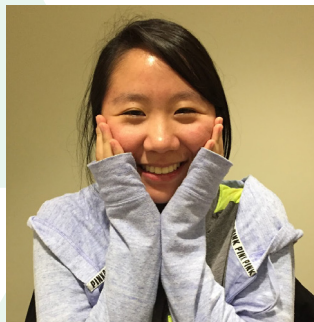
Every Monday, it has been an incredible blessing to share about our weeks, read scripture, and pray for fellow sisters during small group. We started off the semester by going through the Book of Joel and now have moved onto 1 Thessalonians. Reading Joel was helpful in reconciling our perception of God as a loving but just God. Sometimes it is easy to claim that God in the Old Testament used punishment because He was angry with His people, but Joel clearly illustrates that God just wants true repentance in hearts rather than physical sacrifices. Even in our own lives we see that God gives us challenges so that we may acknowledge our sins and fully render our hearts to the Lord. Ultimately, God promises to protect His people and we can find comfort knowing that God truly loves us despite our brokenness and sinful nature. In 1 Thessalonians, we learned how Paul cared for Thessalonians and desired to see their spiritual growth. We reflected on how God has placed people on hearts to care for and has called us to show love to them. Paul's description of the process of sanctification inspired discussion on the meaning of sanctification and its importance in our life. Through our Bible study discussions and prayers, we have been able to grow closer to one another and to God and hope to continue to see continued growth in our sisters' lives and our own lives.

**In Christ,
Stephanie Chan '17 & Ji-Won Choi '19**

FALL 2016 CBS FRESHMEN



ADRIAN



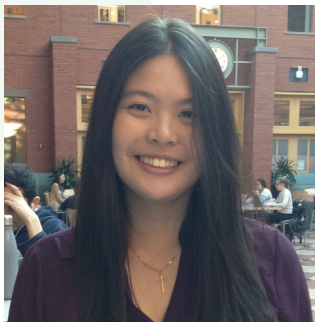
ALICE



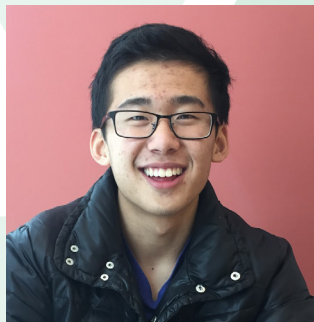
CHARLES



CHRIS



FRANCES



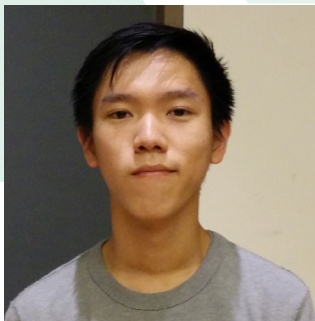
JUNLAN



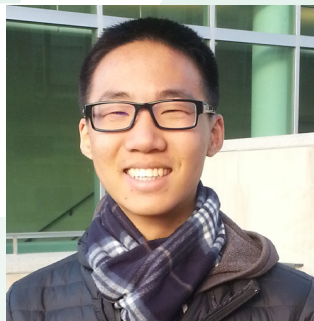
LIAM



MEGAN



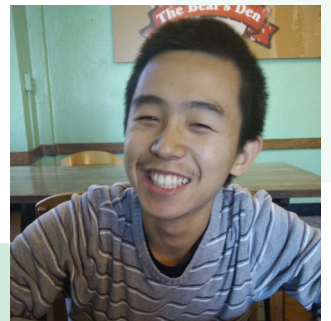
MICHAEL



RAY



RAYMOND



WENYU

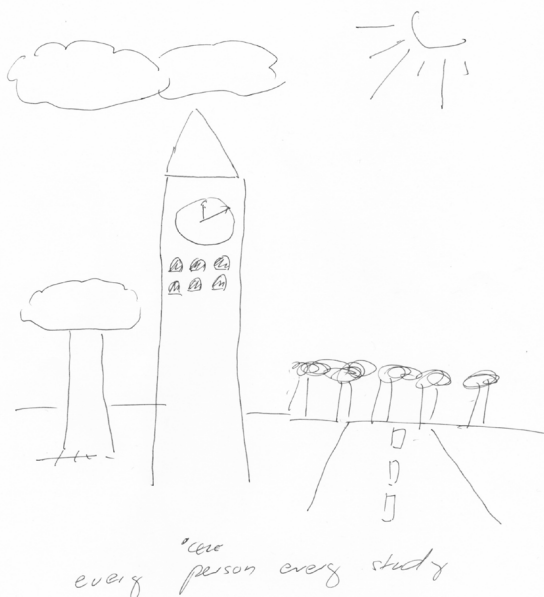
ADRIAN LIM

hometown:
HONG KONG
major:
INFORMATION
SCIENCE

When I joined Adrian for dinner at Appel, it was already dark and, according to Adrian's Hong Kong standards, "freezing cold." After waiting in lines and collecting enough plates for the meal, we sat down to eat, and the first thing we established was the supremacy of Appel over RPCC. The interview was off to an excellent start...

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Charlie
Junior Class: Kathy
Sophomore Class: Evelyn
Freshmen Class: Adrian?
PSB: study
Fall: Cold
Bacon: Unhealthy
Ithaca: Rustic



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

I found it very pretty. When I started taking classes, I found that the workload was more difficult than in high school,

so there have been some adjustments, but Cornell's great. The student body is huge and very diverse, but that's good that students come from different backgrounds, and that's something really good to offer, especially coming from Hong Kong, where the majority of the student body is Asian. When I came to CBS Large Group, I found the people very welcoming and open, which was definitely a good impression, and I also really enjoyed the worship experience. I think that CBS is definitely a close-knit experience, and the people are very friendly towards each other. At the same time, there's the fellowship part that allows you to maintain your spiritual life and walk with God and at the same time destress.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

The number of classes they offer. Way too many classes. For example, I was trying to pick my gym class, and there were too many to choose from, and in general, there are so many more, coming from high school with the set number of courses you can take.

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

A basketball player. I wouldn't be very good, but I'd be an MBA player, and train everyday. I wouldn't be as good as LeBron, but I'm okay. (Note: This is Adrian-speak for phenomenal)

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

I'd rather be bald. Bald is clear-cut, but hairy is pretty ambiguous.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I guess I'd say a panda. Just as a panda is black and white, there are different sides to me.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

One small part is the academics--I hope I end up doing okay at least. I hope the Cornell education will help me broaden my education in general, especially with my distribution requirements, and that I come out knowledgeable in various subjects, not just a single one.

Sharing a meal with Adrian has made me realize how genuine, earnest, and troll he is (seriously, CBS, watch out). The semester has been challenging him and opening his eyes, but he has taken it all in stride, and I'm so excited to see him continue to grow closer to both God and the brothers and sisters in this fellowship.

-- Evelyn Shan '19

ALICE ZHAO

hometown:
SYOSSET,
LONG ISLAND, NY
major:
BIOLOGY

I strolled into Appel and found a little Alice sitting on a couch talking on the phone and I thought, man I am #blessed to have made it into this girl's schedule. We found the most remote table in the corner of the 2nd floor of Appel and she was so excited to eat so I allowed her to enjoy her beloved mussels before grilling her with the questions.



WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Phoebe
Junior Class: Kathy
Sophomore Class: Evelyn
Freshmen Class: ME
PSB: Goldies
Fall: Autumn
Bacon: Ham - originally she said 'cookies' because she thought I said 'baking'
Ithaca: Old

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Prettier than I remembered when I visited. I guess it's because I walk around a lot more now. And all my socks have holes in them now. The people are really great- I'm really glad that I got to meet all of them. I was really nervous in the beginning but I'm really grateful to have found people here.

My first impression of CBS was at the Barbeque, when Kathy sort of told me what CBS is and she gave me a popsicle and that was good. Then I think I came to a large group like the first or second week after move-in and I think the sharing time was what stood out to me the most. I thought it was really interesting that CBS has something like that for people to share because I went to an AAV large group too the same week and when we had sharing at CBS I was like woah! Yeah I think the people are just super fun... very weird. There was an ACE one time and afterwards I went to Eddygate and played Nertz with Phoebe and oh my gosh it was so intense but it was so fun! I have a lot of fun hanging

out with CBS.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

That there was such a large Christian community at Cornell. I didn't expect that at all.

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

Man... if money was not an issue, I would travel a lot but with friends not just by myself. I'd probably also eat a lot of expensive good food. Dream job... I used to want to be an actress! When I was in elementary school I joined the theater club, but then I realized that I have stage fright so that dream ended. I also used to want to be a vet but I'm not sure if I would still pursue that now.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Define really hairy. [Up to interpretation!] I was hairy when I was younger and so kind of more used to it, but I also really like my head hair [pats own hair] so it's ok if I have other hair elsewhere. I'd rather be really hairy.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I think it depends on the situation or maybe the people I'm with. When I'm with people who are more crazy I'm more down to earth [So what animal then?] probably a bird. But sometimes I think I'm like a hamster because I like to sleep a lot after eating.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

I have like a list of quotes [pulls out phone] Some I got from reading books and just felt like writing them down, and some I just see around. I guess I'll just go with this one... I don't know if it's my favorite but I like it. It's by Mary Oliver, she's a poet: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" You know how sometimes we think that each of our lives are so normal and we're not really special and we're all the same- all humans. I think I just like how this reminds me that each of us are unique in our own way. "Wild and precious" makes it sound amazing.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I guess figure out if I want to go to med school, and the normal stuff like research. I want to read the whole Bible before graduation and I guess answer some spiritual questions, so maybe that will help me figure out where I want to go after graduation.

Immediately after I took the cutest picture of Alice, she excitedly asked if we could go get ice cream. I consented and after flinging multiple pieces of Appel's rock-hard ice cream all over the place, we walked together to North Bible Study! It was a great time, and I'm so glad that I had the privilege of interviewing the one and only famous Alice Zhao.

-- Melanie Lim '19

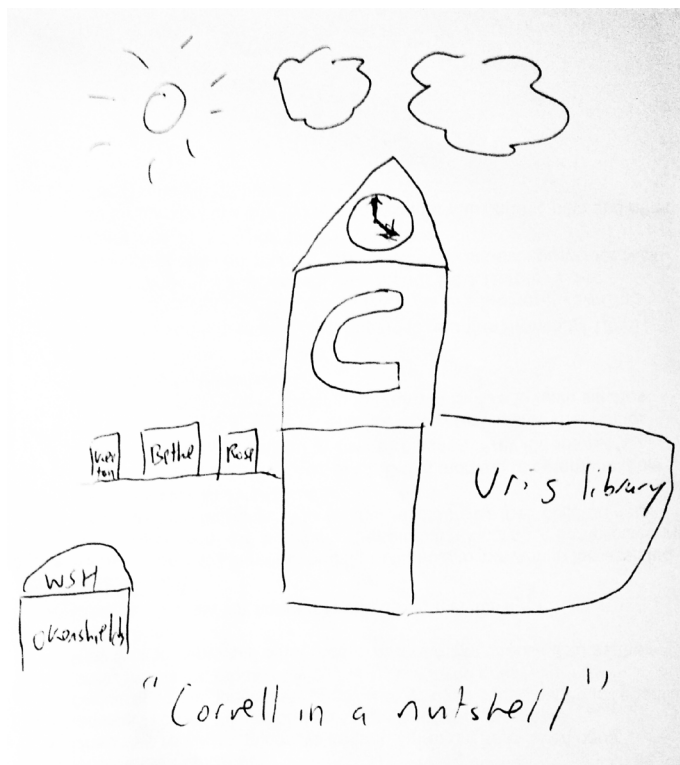
CHARLES JIANG

hometown:
HOLMDEL, NJ
major:
COMPUTER
SCIENCE
& MATH

As Charlie prepares for his interview with Charles, Charlie is excited because it feels as if Charlie is interviewing himself. Charlie cannot help but wonder if the interview will conclude without Charlie having felt old at some point. Only time can tell!

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: 2017
Junior Class: 2018
Sophomore Class: 2019
Freshmen Class: My own grade
PSB: Study area
Fall: Like the season? Leaves
Bacon: Pigs
Ithaca: Cold



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Everyone was just really friendly, like during orientation week. People were just willing to help. Everyone wanted to get to know each other really well. I don't know if it's like that at every college, but that's just the impression I got. (Of CBS) Pretty much the same, except everyone was even closer with each other. And everybody knew each other really well. They weren't afraid to reach out to you.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Probably the size of the campus. When I first visited, I didn't get the feeling that it was this big, but now I realize it's pretty big. I pretty much only went to North and a couple of buildings on Central.

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

I would try travel around the world tasting different foods. I'd be like one of those people on those food network shows, where all you have to do is go around and taste foods. I would say things like, "it's good!" I would have to have like really strong opinions to get more viewers for the show.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Really hairy.
I'd look like an animal. It'd be cool.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

A turtle. Because a lot of times, I like to do things slowly, and inefficiently, and sometimes I like to keep things to myself.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day."

-- Winnie the Pooh

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I just want to learn more and become a better human being. Be more aware of lot of things. Like in the adult world.

Charles and Charlie realize they have a lot in common. Charles imparts much wisdom unto Charlie about Maplestory, and Charlie reminisces upon his days as a youth, playing Maplestory early in the morning. Charlie yet again reflects upon the inevitable passage of time and the irreversibility of aging.

-- Charlie Qian '17

CHRIS QIAN

hometown:
SKILLMAN, NJ
major:
UNDECIDED
(between Math & CS)

Chris and I scheduled for a Skype interview over Thanksgiving break. He looked as fresh as ever, while I looked as if a racoon had died on my head. Though his room was dark, our interview was LIT.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Charlie

Junior Class: Like, gone.

Sophomore Class: Newton

Freshmen Class: I don't know any freshmen

PSB: The Atrium

Fall: Colorful Trees

Bacon: Mom's cooking

Ithaca: Hilly

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

First impression of Cornell was that it's really grotesque. Like, I really don't like the architecture style. As for CBS, it seemed pretty similar to every other fellowship. I picked CBS because I knew more people in the fellowship.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It was really hot during the summer.

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

A therapist because you get to help people. When I was a lil' kid I wanted to be a therapist.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Well, it depends on how hairy you are. Because there are genetic conditions that give you hair everywhere except your hands. If you're talking about that then I'd rather be bald. But in general I'd rather be hairy because then I can shave it off.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

A cat, because I'm not that sociable.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"My pain can be the source of someone's laughter but my laughter should never be the source of someone's pain."

– Charlie Chaplin

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

By the time I graduate, I want to be more involved with the church community.

Apparently apple computers don't have Paint, so our interview ended without me getting a chance to see his wonderful drawing. ALAS.

-- Edward Chen '17



FRANCES LIU

hometown:
LEONIA, NJ
major:
ORIE
*(operations research &
information engineering)*

I met with Frances on a beautiful, strangely warm, mid-November day. She entered Sage with her characteristic smile and energetic demeanor. I opened my laptop to record what mysteries I could learn from this sweet sister.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: I miss you all

Junior Class: Almost there

Sophomore Class: Intimidating

Freshmen Class: Cute people

PSB: Goldie's (best place ever to eat)

Fall: Leaves

Bacon: Love/hate relationship

Ithaca: So pretty



Picnic at Cornell

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

First impressions of Cornell: It's really pretty. I was surprised because Cornell is more rural than my hometown but there's more to do here. Also it's so pretty. The walking is probably my least favorite part, but I'm glad I came here. First impressions of CBS: I think it was fate. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. Even though it's only been 2 months, I've gotten to know a lot of people. It's easy to open up to people, and I really like you all.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

It's not that cold yet. I thought it would be freezing by now, and that there would be snow on the ground--although it's supposed to snow in a couple of days [*don't worry, the cold is coming*].

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

I have so many answers: maybe a historian or archeologist or inventor. Those are my childhood dreams. I definitely want to travel around the world and give to charity.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Hairy, because I could cut my hair or get laser treatment, shaving, waxing. Also, even as an old grandma I would have lots of hair.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I would be a dog, because they're loyal--I'm loyal to my friends, fun to be around, intelligent--I want to be intelligent, and cute--I'm not that cute [*Frances, you're adorable*]. When people are sad, they talk to their dogs and I want to be the type of person to be there for others and comfort them.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"It's already tomorrow in Australia."

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to make lasting friendships, get a job, have a good GPA but also make sure that I learned a lot, and get a boyfriend.

After our lunch together, we shared some laughs and reminisced over how we had met last spring at SWE event, how I also met a CBS through that event as a pre-frosh, and how Frances could now continue that legacy. Frances, you are such a joyful presence in CBS, and I am excited to see how God will work in your life over the coming years!

-- Stephanie Chan '17

JUNLAN LU

hometown:
MONTGOMERY, NJ
major:
APPLIED
ENGINEERING
PHYSICS

Junlan and I meet up in PSB and he approaches the table holding a chicken panini sandwich like a true CBS-er. Before diving straight into the interview, I ask Junlan how his college transition has been so far and somehow we end up talking about music. Apparently he has been self-teaching himself piano since coming to Cornell and now spends a significant amount of time practicing in Lincoln Hall. Feeling intrigued by Junlan's willingness to learn new things, I myself decide to sit down and get to know more about this very cool bro.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: New Jersey

Junior Class: Never seen them before
(besides Kathy Lin)

Sophomore Class: Large

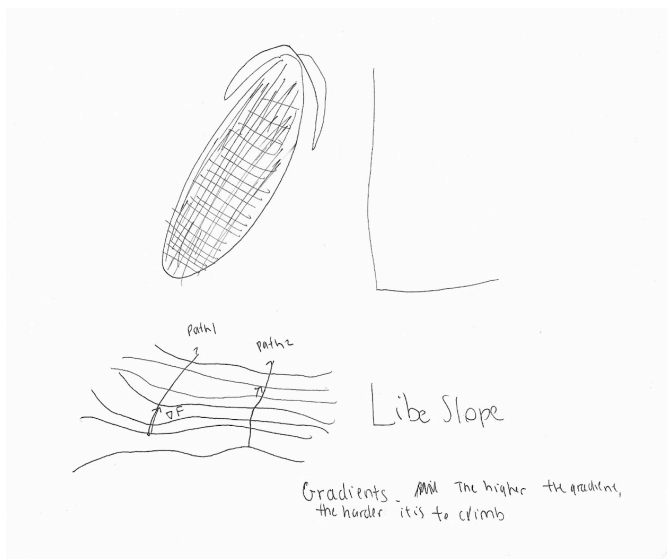
Freshmen Class: Chill

PSB: Pretty

Fall: Cold

Bacon: Unhealthy

Ithaca: Isolated



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

My first impression of Cornell when I visited was that it was cloudy and wet. It seemed like Cornell students were the ones who didn't get into Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, but still pretty nerdy.

My first impression of CBS was that the community was very tight-knit and small. You could tell that everyone was close with each other. Oh yeah, everyone was Chinese! [I then reminded him that Myung, Daegun, and I are non-Chinese members of CBS hehe]. Also, the people were very nice, friendly, and helped me with homework (*cough* Aaron, *cough* Newton, *cough* Jeff).

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

There are a lot of Asian Americans at Cornell and even though the school is geographically isolated, you don't feel like you're alone.

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

I would be a high school physics teacher because I enjoy teaching people and I've had the pleasure of tutoring people in the past so I feel like I'd be good at doing it as a career.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Probably bald because then you don't have to worry about shaving. Plus, Asian girls like guys with less hair anyway. Isn't that true???

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I think I would be a tiger because I'm strong and independent.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"You only lose what you cling onto."

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I would like to be published as a co-author possibly 2 or 3 times, become good at playing the piano, and have at least one friend I've met here come to know Jesus.

As Junlan shared more about himself, it became quite clear that he was ambitious in just about every part of his life, whether that was academics, hobbies, or faith. Talking to Junlan has left me inspired to continue seeking for truth and I believe that this is a mindset that everyone in the fellowship can learn from. It is so encouraging to see how God is already using him as a light on our campus and in CBS. I can't wait to see how Junlan will grow in his faith and as an individual as he navigates his way around Cornell for the next four years.

-- Ji-Won Choi '19

LIAM PATTERSON

hometown:
SAN JOSE, CA
major:
ECE
(electrical &
computer
engineering
-- it's riveting.)

I walk quickly into Sage, 5 minutes late. Shouldn't have made the appointment so early -- noon is way too early, and I should've anticipated staying up til 6am playing Shengji (thanks Phoebe!). Luckily, Liam's 10 minutes late #AsianTiming

We get some food and sit down for the interview.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Walrus

Junior Do I...? I know Kathy! I don't think I

Class: know many juniors, because they're all away right?

Sophomore You guys are chill. Also a huge class.

Class: Newton because he gives me stuff to study.

Freshmen Class: We're chill.

PSB: 1) Physics discussion. I can see a lot of CBS people but feel bad cz no time to chill. 2) "PSB is very lit all the time"... in terms of actual light
3.) "I have yet to meet Aaron Hui"
!!!!!!!

Fall: 1st time seeing fall colors -- don't get it in CA

Bacon: Yums

Ithaca: Very cold. Saw the Snapchat filter of Ithaca w/ ice mountain, was like "nah it's not true"... A month in: "yeah it's true."

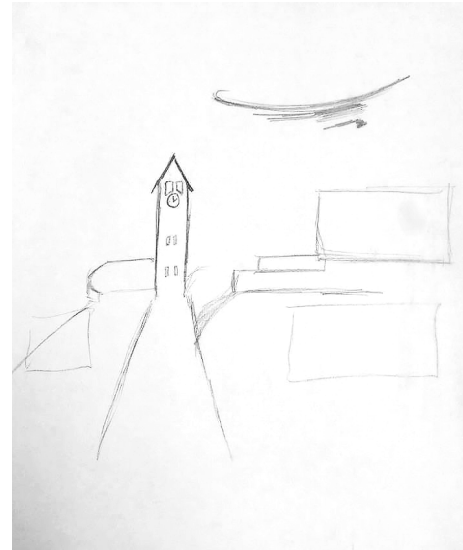
1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Cornell is gigantic. Not even in terms of campus, but the buildings -- they're like 3 times normal college size. Clark Hall is huge!
CBS is super chill and very nice. It's not a TV station!

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Lack of good freshman dorms -- I hear horror stories from the Low Rises & Dickson.

3. If money was no issue, what would your dream job be



His caption: Ho Plaza, or Cornell meets cubism

My caption: An archie's preliminary sketch of Ho Plaza

or what would you be doing with your life?

The guys on the tarmac with the sticks, because they're surrounded by giant aircraft all day. I like that the job's not stagnant all day -- you do something meaningful.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Bald, because hair disgusts me. Plus Asians have no hair al-ready. I wonder what your scalp looks like if you just shave yourself bald. I figure it's awfully disgusting compared to other parts of your skin.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

Sea turtles because they can't retract into their shells but carry their homes with them -- there's always security on your back. But they're also free flowing.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

This is gonna sound really nerdy, but "every object tells a story if you know how to read it" -- Henry Ford (I think). Someone had to think of every object. Everything has intrinsic value.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

GPA above 3.0. Set low goals. I figure you're never gonna be the smartest person in the room, so you should be the best person you can be and learn from them.
I came in with little knowledge of Cornell so I'll just find goals later.

I enjoyed our, as Liam would say, chill conversation. Of course, I did have to correct his extremely mistaken belief -- Low Rise 7 is actually super lit and the best dorm on campus. But I'm glad he has such a positive attitude towards Cornell and life in general. He does have his quirks (square poop?) -- so he'll fit right in because #CBSisWeird. I look forward to getting to know him more in the next few years =)

-- David Wu '19

MEGAN LEE

hometown:
HACKENSACK, NJ
major:
UNDECIDED

One evening, I walked out of my room to the Rose dining hall to meet Megan for her interview. 10 steps down the hall, I realized I totally forgot paper for her drawing so I sprinted upstairs to the Rose computer lab to steal some from the printer. I found Megan waiting for me near the entrance, composed and smiling. She started chatting with me about her week immediately, and after grabbing some yummy pasta from the pasta bar, we sat down and began.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Xinran!

Junior Class: Who's in the junior class? Is Kathy a junior?

Sophomore Class: Lauren!

Freshmen Class: Me! Wait, also put Alice, I don't want to seem selfish

PSB: I like the cafe

Fall: Leaves? I don't know...

Bacon: Yummy

Ithaca: Cornell



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

I guess I thought it'd be like, better? I thought it'd be like

a fresh start. Wait no this sounds bad, but nothing really changed when I came to college at first, then it got more difficult so it was harder to adjust. But I like it now. I ran into CBS accidentally at the Balch picnic, and I guess the bubble tea thing is effective because I followed them to get bubble tea.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I knew it would be big, but I didn't really compute how big. It's like a small city basically.

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

I think I'm going to go to the Caribbean and build a tiki bar and sell mangos and mango martinis and various other things. And there's going to be a pool in the front and lots of dogs of different kinds, big and small, running around, and a big canopy because I don't like sunlight. There'll be other animals too, and then I want to start a line of onesies but like for adult onesies that are animal shaped, and then I want that to become a trend. I would also save all the dogs in the world, and they can join me in my tiki bar. Except I would pay people to clean up after them because I'm not dealing with it.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

I would be bald, because at least it'd be low-maintenance. I have a lot of hair. And you wouldn't have to spend money on shampoo. Hm, maybe I should just shave my head. I think I will.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

What's like small but full of rage? Just kidding. I think it'd be a mantis shrimp because they're colorful which reflects my colorful personality, and they have bowling ball hands and I'm not good at bowling. Except they also kinda look like clowns and I don't like clowns.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"Fight me."

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to start my tiki bar! I also want to feel like I didn't waste my time. I also want to swim in one of the gorges.

Part way through the interview, we figured out that our moms had both been in CBS so we texted them and found out they'd been in the same class! My mom also thinks that we might have met like 15+ years ago when we were both babies haha. I'm so thankful to have found another sister with a CBS legacy, and I'm looking forward to getting to know her better for these next 2.5 years at Cornell.

-- Lauren Kam '19

MICHAEL HUANG

hometown: HILLSBOROUGH, NJ
major: CS

I really enjoy the community that it builds, the open faith in God, and how everyone can connect interpersonally. Just being able to have that community to fall back on or to be with isn't something I've always had, so it's nice to have that here. Like meeting new people and building these relationships with them and God through praise. Every fellowship has its pros and cons, but what I like about CBS is how close-knit it is.

The whispers began not long after his arrival. A mixture of wonder and respect--for here, they said, was a dank memer to rival the likes of David Wu. A fresh-faced young challenger from New Jersey, with Jesus at his right hand and Kermit at his left; a connoisseur and purveyor of crispy Internet image macros. Overcome with trepidation, I asked the man himself how an introduction could do him justice. And this, with soothing voice and sage wisdom, said he: "do what you feel is right in your heart."

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

- Senior Class:** Cool
- Junior Class:** Existent
- Sophomore Class:** Funny
- Freshmen Class:** Eclectic
- PSB:** Building
- Fall:** Autumn
- Bacon:** Pork
- Ithaca:** New York

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

It's a lot more fun than I expected. The people are really nice; there's a lot of student involvement, a lot of activities that I want to get involved in.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I didn't know nerds liked to party.

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

Working for a non-profit or NGO like Charity Water or Advocacy. Anything with a worthy cause that I could devote my time to.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Really hairy, because you could always shave or get a haircut—or donate it. Yeah.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I guess... a penguin. Because it's cold and distant.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

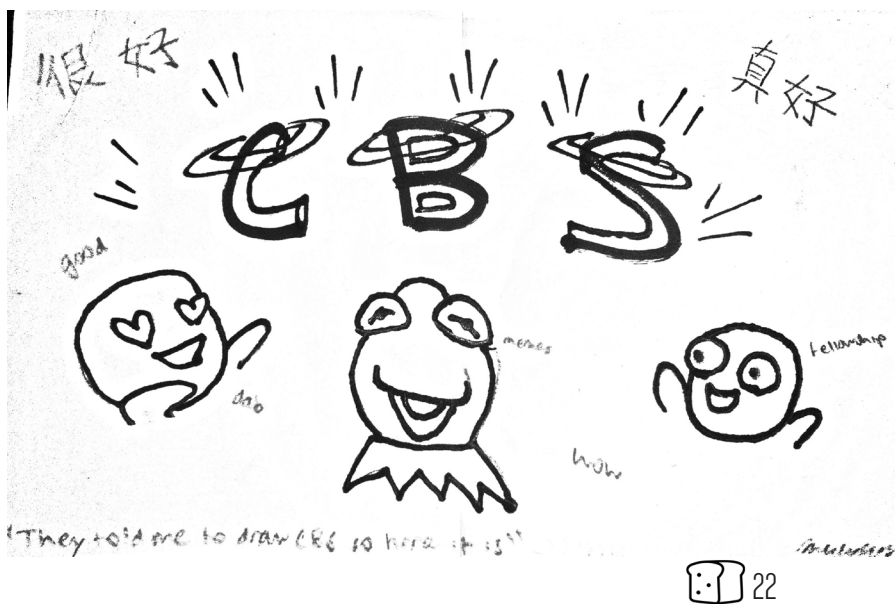
"The sum of us is greater than all our parts." Or something like that.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Get a degree. Use all my BRB's.

I speak for the rest of CBS when I say this--I look forward to seeing how Michael will grow. For already with his great talent, he has brought smiles to many a member of the fellowship; there is no telling how far he can go over the next three years. Here marks the beginning of a legend.

-- Newton Ni '19



RAY ZENG

hometown:
MIDDLETOWN, NJ
major:
COMPUTER
SCIENCE

Ray meets me in the atrium of Physical Sciences Building on a Monday afternoon, and we walk around, seeking a suitable location. It's a sunny day, so we go outside and end up on the west end of Rockefeller Terrace. Having situated ourselves thusly, we begin the interview.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Fun?!

Junior Class: Existent (as in they exist)

Sophomore Class: **Existent** (in bold face, please.)

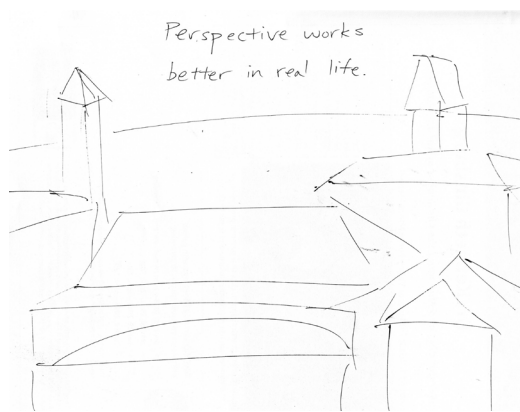
Freshmen Class: Diverse

PSB: Snacks

Fall: Autumn

Bacon: Eggs

Ithaca: Gorges



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

Okay, so I visited Cornell last year during the fall. It was during O-week. My first impression was meh, because finding parking was really tedious. But then, I stopped by the fellowship BBQ – it just happened that that weekend fellowships were tabling. I was surprised that there were so many fellowships... Fast forward a half year to when I visited Cornell Days. It was eh, didn't get to talk to that many people – I went to AAIV small group. Hung out at Eddygate. It was fun. It didn't change anything because ED, but I got to know some people. Getting here, I think despite the stress and the tiredness, I'm happy here. It's peaceful here.

CBS: When I visited for the first time, I went to AAIV small group. It was interesting. For a long time, I thought I was

going to join AAIV because their Bible study is a little more Bible focused. But then... I guess my first impression of visiting CBS is that it feels like my fellowship at home. I think I only went to each fellowship once before settling on CBS. I went to a CBS Bible study – just the discussion there – it was good to have the discussion and be challenged. CBS has been a place where I can talk to people who challenge me in my faith, and are also loving and supporting and all the cheesy things you can insert.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Could I say two things? First thing that came to mind is, wow, the weather's nice. Also, how many people I met that are interested in Christianity or are interested in getting some idea of the faith. Cause in high school I didn't really talk about my faith. But there's definitely more of that in college – being able to initiate conversations. One thing that was surprising is that I cried more times here than I expected. It's mostly been for good things. I think part of growing this semester is being more willing to surrender. I guess the push to trust God more.

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

I think the honest answer is, I don't know. There's so many things you could... Like, I'm doing CS right now, but do I really want to be a career software programmer? I don't want to do academia stuff for life. But I can't do nothing – that doesn't feel right. I guess there's the question: "Would you go into full-time ministry?" but I don't know if I'm cut out for that. So basically, I don't know.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

(laughs, coughs) I kind of don't want to be bald, so really hairy. If you're bald, adding hair is more difficult than removing hair.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I like to think of myself as a lazy housecat. Actually, I don't think that's accurate, though. Uh, lemme think... I'm lazy enough that it fits; I'm nocturnal enough that it fits. I just realized – I eat a lot on campus.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

-- 1 Corinthians 1:25

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Uh, I hope to have a job offer? (laughs) Generically, yes, that would be good. Also, I hope to build friendships that will last a lifetime. Friendships include, yes, a friendship with God. Dang it – it's a stereotypical answer but it's my answer.

From the terrace, you could see East Avenue, the bell tower, and the Arts Quad buildings. What a view! Ray makes a valiant attempt to draw it on paper. I try to tempt him by offering him all of it in return for his worship, but he does not accept. Good man.

-- Jeffrey Huang '19

RAYMOND ZHANG

hometown:
WEST
WINDSOR, NJ
major:
UNDECIDED

I had lunch with Raymond in Trillium on a wonderfully warm day for November. Whilst waiting to pay for our food, we ran into a wild Eddy Chen. We shared about our struggles waking up for and walking to class before proceeding with an interview about Raymond's first few months at Cornell.

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Old people

Junior Class: I don't know any of them - everyone's on co-op. I know Kathy and kinda Tim

Sophomore Class: Everyone's a sophomore

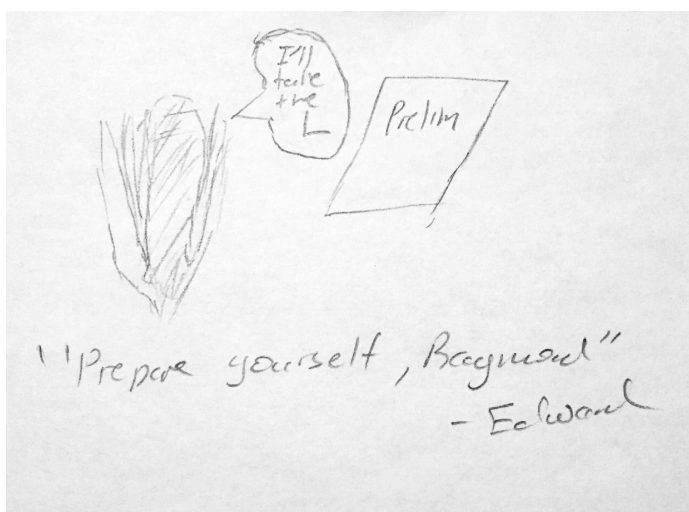
Freshmen Class: I'm a freshmen

PSB: I see everyone there

Fall: Leaves on the ground

Bacon: I don't eat enough bacon

Ithaca: This is home



"Prepare yourself, Raymond" - Edward

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

I was really excited to come here, but I didn't really know what to expect. No one really told me what to expect. I really like the surroundings and atmosphere. People I've met

are super nice, super chill... So far. I don't know what's going to happen, but I'm pretty optimistic.

I came in late the first day I went to CBS. Every time we did introductions, people were screaming. Everyone is super nice. A lot of people in the next 2-3 weeks asked to eat lunch with me. The sophomores also walk me back from eddygate. They're so caring.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I was surprised to find such a big presence of God here and I never thought about that before. A lot of people around me are Christian or followers of Jesus. It's good. It's eye-opening.

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

I like astronomy and I like birds. Ornithology seems cool, but I don't know if I would want to do that for the rest of my life. My friends joke that I might be the first space bird guy. *[I asked: What is a space bird?]* What if there is life in space? What if there are birds in space?

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Really hairy, it would insulate me during the winter. If I went to school in the south, I'd be bald. I'm scared of bald people, because my dad is bald. When I was young and my dad was balding, my mom would scare me like that because I didn't want to start balding.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

Turtle. I also like turtles. They seem cool. Very tenacious and they also have a shell.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

From high school physics teacher - "Keep your friends." Like your friends in high school and college. You don't want to lose connections. It's the only thing I remember from high school physics.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I've never thought about that. I want to go to grad school, but I don't know what.. So maybe that's not a good plan. I just want to learn new things, not just school but about everything. Like learn how to do cool things. Like people in CBS know how to play guitar.

Raymond is an incredibly sweet and cheerful guy. I hope that me and Edward's complaints about Cornell, senior year, and job searching didn't taint his innocence and excitement about this school. I'm so glad to have gotten to know him a little bit better through this! :)

-- Felicia Sadikin '17

WENYU DING

hometown:
WUHAN,
HUBEI, CHINA
major:
UNDECIDED
(ECE or CS)

Charlie is not sure what to expect with Wen as they sit together at the Bear's Den. You can always know when Wen will be zen. And then...

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

Senior Class: Graduation

Junior Class: *Nothing in my mind*, two years later

Sophomore Class: Next year

Freshmen Class: Fresh blood

PSB: Make PSB Great Again

Fall: The best season in Ithaca

Bacon: 1) What is that? 2) Delicious
3) Breakfast at Appel

Ithaca: Memories

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

There's a lot of work, but a lot of fun on campus. The professors are really clear, at least some of them. And I like the fact that the courses are really flexible. You get to take whatever class you want--if you can get it. It really feels like a big family. Or even home. Some of the songs I like a lot. One of them is Habitation. And the speakers are great.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

Somehow I just can't play badminton well on the courts at Cornell. Oh and this is more about Ithaca--it's not so cold yet! The food is very good. A lot better than I expected. The place hasn't really changed much since you lived here before. And I made so many friends! :)

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

I want to help people by developing technology. And also like, modifying the education system in China, maybe. Trying to bring technology to the poor countries around the world. Trying to found a company like Google and Apple. I appreciate companies whose focus isn't just on making money.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Bald. First because I think I'd look better. And second, it feels better. You know, I don't like the feeling of having long hair. And third, being bald means that my hair will dry really fast after I shower.

5. What animal best describes you and why?

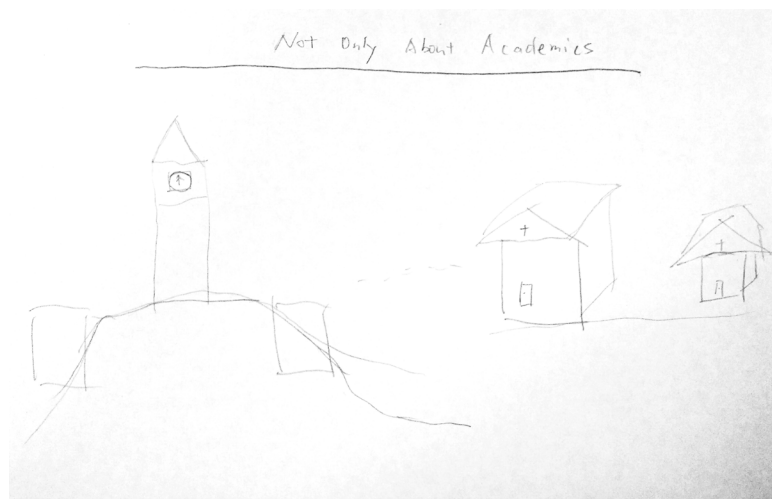
A Dog. First, I really like dogs. I've always wanted to have one. Second, I believe that most dogs are pretty loyal to their owners. And that's what I try to do.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

天道酬勤. You gain however much you put in. If you put in hard work, you will gain what you should have. But I haven't been following it very well.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I want to become, or I aim to be an expert in a certain field. And to try to be a leader in the fellowship or a church. I also want to be on a research team or engineering project team. Those things are more important than my grades. Oh and I also want to grow stronger.



Charlie is glad he had this conversation with Wen. He hopes that they will meet up again. Charlie would rate it a 10/10, and will never stop meeting with Wen as long as he has ink in his pen. Zen.

-- Charlie Qian '17

FALL 2016 CBS SOPHOMORE TRANSFERS



ANGELA



TIFFANY

ANGELA HUANG

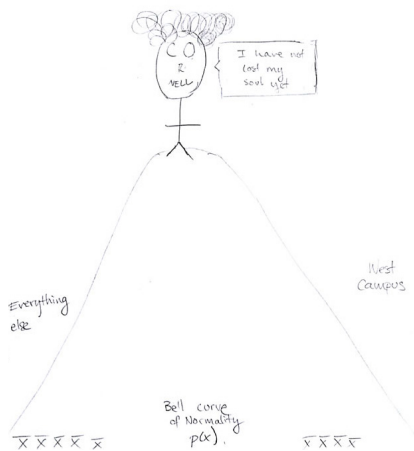
hometown:
WALLINGFORD,
PA
major:
APPLIED
ECONOMICS
& MANAGEMENT

(I've been trying to convince people of this need for years now!!!)
(Of CBS) "What's your favorite smell?" [First question asked during lg intros/announcements] (Angela's smell was baby powder). CBS...mmm...really aggressive bible thumpers. Or the most wonderful group of people I know.

"Pick somewhere yummy!!!!" said Angela over Facebook Messenger as we pondered where to eat lunch and have our BoL Interview. Of course, we ended up in Sage because nowhere on campus do they put Lao Gan Ma Chili Oil (that's literally translated to "Old Dry Mom" Chili Oil in Chinese) into a deliciously warm and toasted, mozzarella and basil-filled PhD. Eggplant Sandwich. But enough about the amazing Sage Atrium sandwiches. This interview is all about ANGELA HUANG! Angela is a most wonderful character and sister. She always has a witty remark or insightful comment so interviewing her was quite enjoyable. Read below to learn more about this panda-loving sophomore!

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

- Senior Class:** The best!
- Junior Class:** Who are you?
- Sophomore Class:** Mm, hopeful.
- Freshmen Class:** Losers (She doesn't really mean it!)
- PSB:** I don't know. I don't go
- Fall:** there often...
- Bacon:** Pumpkins
Should be baked
- Ithaca:** Slopes and more slopes



"Bell Curve of Normality"

1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?
Cornell, lets see. Needs better and more accessible bathrooms! The best ice cream! Outdoor escalators are needed.

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

The obsession with PSB. But also, the closeness and love you guys have for each other. In my previous fellowship we didn't see each other that often. I think I can survive the winter! And not just because of Philippians 4:13!

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

Taking care of pandas in China! (Why pandas?) Because they're so cute! If I could reincarnate in my next life, I wouldn't want to be a human; I'd want to be a panda!

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

It's deciding whether you need to shave more or not shave at all if "bald" means having no hair on my legs. Can you say your legs are bald?

5. What animal best describes you and why?

Pandas. I am slow, useless, but I want everyone to still adore me :D

6. Favorite quote or saying?

Hm...I'm so bad at memorizing poems in general. *Goes to phone to pull up quote*
"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smater than you think. - Winnie the Pooh"

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

Is this when people say finding a boyfriend? Adopting a panda! Convincing my parents to buy a puppy! They're lonely. The panda's for me and the puppy's for them. (What about serious matters?) Finding fulfillment in God's purpose. Because I don't know what he wants and uncertainty is frightening. I want to be a bible thumper - I want to be able to quote verses.

Angela and I finished the interview and had an interesting discussion on the nation's current state of affairs. Angela had thoughtful questions and responses about God's role and authority in our nation and our own lives and we dug through scripture to search for answers. I'm encouraged to see my sister relying on God's Word for truth. And I am so glad to have this lovely sister as an addition to the Cornell and Christian community! If you're reading this, then YOU should grab a meal with her and get to know Angela too!

-- Xinran Pan Food Truck '17

TIFFANY KEI

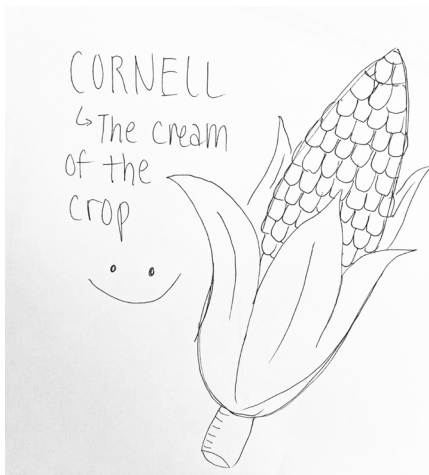
hometown:
ROSLYN, NY
major:
ANIMAL
SCIENCE

lives by their religion. It's so encouraging to be surrounded by a community that believes in what you believe and will build you up.

"November 9th: It's a dark and gloomy day following the results of the 2016 election. The campus is restless and the weather is also not having it... but when Tiffany sits down across from me my day suddenly gets a little brighter."

WORD ASSOCIATIONS

- Senior Class:** Uhh Stephanie
Junior Class: I think of you *giggles*
Sophomore Class: Tyler
Freshmen Class: Megan
PSB: Oh Physical Sciences Building! I think of Orgo.
Fall: Tress
Bacon: Pigs
Ithaca: Cold



1. What are your first impressions of Cornell? Of CBS?

I really liked the people here, I feel like it's a very different atmosphere. Everyone is engaged and passionate about what they study. I've met so many incredible people and I'm always in awe of how passionate and smart they are. For CBS it's definitely a strong community. It's nice to get to know everyone. I feel like I've never really had this type of Christian community before in my life. It's hard at home to see the impact of living a christian life. Everyone in CBS,

2. One thing that surprised you about Cornell?

I kind of came in with an expectation of finding arrogant people at an elite institution. But in actuality there are really nice people that get each other and try to help each other out. I'm also surprised by how much I like my classes. I'm actually interested in everything I'm studying. I feel revived like I made a good decision. I've never felt more happy about the education I'm receiving.

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

(Her eyes definitely lit up at this question) I talk about this with my friends all the time!! I'd open a dog cafe in the city. Yeah. That's it.

4. Would you rather be really hairy or bald?

Really hairy. I mean you can do stuff with the hair. If you're bald you've got nothing to work with. I always wonder, do bald people use shampoo or do they use soap?

5. What animal best describes you and why?

I don't know they're all kind of the same to a degree. After learning about them you realize how similar they all are to each other. Let me think... I guess I'd be a koala because I've been falling asleep all over campus.

6. Favorite quote or saying?

I like song lyrics but I can't think of any at the moments. I really like the lyrics to "Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" by U2, but also Psalms 118:6 has given me a lot of strength and comfort.

7. What do you hope to accomplish by graduation?

I don't want to have any regrets looking back. I'm hoping I can say that I made the most out of my time here, like really going out of my comfort zone, pushing boundaries, and seeing how far I can go because a lot of times I underestimate myself so it will be really great to see myself go beyond what I thought I was capable of.

Ah. Spirits lifted. After a good laugh over Corn-ell puns we said our goodbyes. It's been a rough week for Tiffany and she has an even rougher one ahead but I'm inspired by her passion for life and her perseverance in the face of trials. She is truly an a-maize-ing woman and it's been a pleasure watching her grow this past semester. So glad she has joined our poppin' family <3. Here's to more adventures in the future!

-- Kathy Lin '18

GET TO KNOW US!

Three CBS'ers' perspectives at three very different points in their Cornell career.

A Freshmen Perspective:

I had come to Cornell with the goal of shifting the focus of my life off school to my faith. Yet I found myself in a contradiction, convinced that I would take CS 2112 for the technical and academic challenge and learning opportunities. But it was pretty clear by the last day of add/drop that I couldn't have both this semester. It also happened that on that last day, while still deliberating, I had lunch with Robin from AAV, and at some point our conversation ended up at my goals in college. In that moment, I felt convicted of my hypocrisy in my stubborn refusal to give up my pride and my plans and there I was, crying and making a fool of myself in the middle of Nasties, not even a month into the school year. I ended up dropping the class there.

It was really the smallest surrender, but it was basically the first time I had given up something tangible. Amidst the sense of shame in surrendering what I thought would be best for me, I remember feeling a sense of peace as if a burden had been lifted off my shoulders. Since that moment, I've been continually amazed by the doors that God has opened that I don't think would have been possible if my time had been tied up in 2112: from joining a project team to having time to spend talking, praying and crying with fellow believers. Honestly, I've barely scratched the surface, and if this is what God can do with just a fraction of a mustard seed of faith, I can't begin to comprehend what blessings continuing to surrender will bring. It really is as it is written in 1 Corinthians 1:18:

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

-- Ray Zeng '20

A Co-Op Perspective:

Attending a church on Sundays is so different from being involved in a Christian community. This would probably be my biggest realization after a semester of working and living alone.

Due to my work schedule, I can't attend any of my church's community groups or Bible studies. But I am also not actively pursuing a community that I can serve because I always think to myself, "hey, I am only going to be here for one semester. Why bother?" However, when God's words shine upon me, on my thoughts, I feel ashamed and worried. Because I am wasting the time God has given me; I am not serving his people nor am I equipping myself with his words. So here, I want to encourage you all with a verse from Hebrews 10:25:

“...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

CBS is really a great Christian community where brothers and sisters can support and encourage each other to fight the good fight of faith. We never know when that Day is; the only thing we can do is prepare ourselves as if every day were the last day.

After I finish this piece, I will still have five weeks of work left. I really hope I will keep that verse in mind all the time and strive diligently to know God more.

-- Michelle Sun '18

An MEng Perspective:

I did my undergrad in computer science, but having gone through various internships, CS lost a bit of the luster it once had for me. As a result of trifling with physics, i.e. taking a random physics class my junior year, I decided that pursuing physics a little more seriously was also an option. I knew that it's a pretty popular option to stay an extra semester to finish an M.Eng., but I started jokingly considering staying an extra semester to finish an M.Eng. in AEP (applied and engineering physics). But the joking became serious. As I took more and more physics classes, I realized this could legitimately be a serious pursuit. My parents -- typical Asian parents who value higher education -- encouraged me to go ahead with it after some discussion.

So I applied and got in, and my comedic fantasy to stay an extra semester became a legitimate decision I had to make. Some people probably know this, but I was in two minds about staying an extra semester for my MEng. I weighed the cost, I weighed the value it could add to my career, etc. It seemed daunting to stay an extra semester for almost \$30k, without any serious potential career bonuses as a result. But it wasn't just a career decision either. This could be the last semester of my "college" experience, in CBS, with the ability to continue serving, and obviously I could continue learning and studying purely for the sake of interest and curiosity.

I'm pretty sure I made the decision to stay. The only real hesitation was the issue of money. Of course, it's hard to compare something so fickle and quantitative as money with the knowledge or experiences or growth I've gained this semester. I had a grading position which helped subsidize a pretty significant amount of the cost. But more than that, I got to enjoy my last semester worshipping God with such a tight community, playing shengji, laughing with old friends and making new ones, and studying a subject I'm still fascinated by. And so for the ability to get another degree in just one semester, for the chance to spend more time with people I've already crossed paths with, and for the opportunity to serve various ministries, I stayed.

Not gonna lie though, in a lot of ways my spirit had already left Cornell and Ithaca altogether. It wasn't quite the case the first month or so, but as the days went by, without some of my closest friends (my CBS class) with me, Cornell was not what I imagined it to be. It's really no one's fault but my own, but I think this has affected my ministry and my work. There just wasn't the same amount of drive in me anymore.

Of course, it's not all bad. Perhaps my motivation waned and faltered, but this still has been a precious semester for me. I've had the chance to talk with and hang out more with people I normally wouldn't have, and it still is a half year tacked onto the supposed "best four years of your life." I may not have had the most satisfactory experience, but I know that God has included this semester in his plans and that I've done what I can for Him this semester.

Take from my experience what you will, but was this

semester worth it for me in the end? ...probably (:

-- Zhijiang Li '16

FINDING GOD

By Felix Yang

Every since coming to Christ in the summer of 2015, I've always been troubled by the question of "Where is God in my life?". This goes for the present. For the past I had a similar question of "Where WAS God in my life?". These questions I had were, and sometimes still are, a matter of ego. I am an accomplished person, as is everyone else who attends a prestigious college. But only some can take pride in the process in which they build themselves.

From the first day of stepping into high school, I was obsessed with growth. I prioritized it so much that it encompassed all aspects of my life. I wanted to become the best possible version of myself. So I prioritized myself and my goals for four years. And in the end, I did a fine job at crafting myself, sculpting the masterpiece that is Felix. Like an artist who prides himself with his work, I prided myself with... myself.

When I met Christ, it was almost like he was competing against the sculptor for the reins that directed my life. I still lived life with the idea that the only person in my life that could define my future and my life was myself. It is a self-empowering idea, but it is also very sinful. It meant that I believed I was stronger than God in controlling my fate. The questions mentioned before always spiraled in my head, but they were never answered. And if they were answered by a friend, or even my pastor, I was blind to it, willing but unseeing.

In my first semester of school those questions were answered.

I was in a long distance relationship. I had met her in the beginning of the summer, and I took her to church. And when I left, she stuck with it. So I thought that things would work out now that we were both religious. But I was wrong. We were both baby Christians and in a sense, we still are. To cut things short, things

got messy. Messages were unreturned. And if they were, they were late and unenthusiastic. Things were falling apart, and I couldn't see a single way out of it. All I could do was pray, and just keep trying.

Try as I did, our relationship kept getting worse. The ship was sinking. At this point I stopped sleeping. I was up all night in bed asking myself "What is wrong with me?", "What can I do to make things better?", and "Should I break things off?". I would sleep when the sun came up and wake up for class, drowsy and miserable. This was in the midst of my first semester at Cornell Engineering. Needless to say, I was not in a good shape because everything was in shambles. I just couldn't do it alone.

During the worst of my insomnia, I was getting 20 hours of sleep a week, with an additional couple of hours from naps and falling asleep in class. That became routine. Then something happened. I embraced the suffering and the pain. I attributed my suffering to God, and strangely, I was never happier. I would walk to breakfast after a sleepless night and thank God for the thick trees, the vast blue skies, and the running streams that characterize upstate New York. Everything was beautiful and bright. I was truly thankful to be alive. Before meeting Christ, I would have thought myself crazy.

I felt so close to him, to the point that I could almost breathe him. I felt him circulating in my lungs. I saw him in the nature that surrounded me, and the faces that smiled at me. I could just barely make out the scent of him in the crisp fall air. He was everything and everywhere.

I no longer had the question "Where is he?". Instead the question became "Where does he end, and I begin?" I was humbled, and continue to be humbled by his grace. Only when my ego was killed, could Jesus offer me salvation. And then, I was born again. To be the best version of myself, I have to surrender all that I am, so that he can become my sculptor. For he is my Creator, my Father, and my Lord. Only when I am nothing in his presence can I begin to become something. Only when I begin to become something, can I truly begin to grow. And only when I have grown can I become an awe-inspiring instrument of the kingdom of heaven.



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