

I

I is for Intelligence —Artificial of course.  
We used to eschew it, and with no remorse.  
But times they have changed us, and now we embrace  
AI as our own —but of course with good taste.

CS at Cornell was not into AI in the 60's and 70's. We didn't have the computers necessary to do AI, enticing excellent AI faculty to our department was difficult, AI was a bit soft at the time, and we limited our scope in order to do justice to the areas of most interest to us. Also, not having AI gave us a reason to feel superior. In the late 80's and 90's, we gradually moved into AI, and AI is now our largest group. AI has been crucial to our move into multidisciplinary work.

Joe Halpern is well known for his work on logics of knowledge —he got a Gödel prize for some of it. Claire Cardie's and Lillian Lee's research in sentiment classification and extraction has, in large part, been responsible for a surge of interest in that field. Rich Caruana and Thorsten Joachims, our machine-learning experts, have leading roles in the KDD area. Carla Gomes and Bart Selman are known for their work in constraint languages, logic formalisms, fast reasoning methods, analysis of large linked networks, and the like; they do computational complexity as well, and Selman and his colleagues have found a link between computational complexity and phase transitions, as in water freezing. Dan Huttenlocher and Ramin Zabih are our vision experts: Huttenlocher has made fundamental contributions in object recognition, including Hausdorff-based methods, and Zabih is helping the folks in medicine with vision problems. Bob Constable, of course, is known 30 years of work in automated reasoning.



J is for the Junto that's gen'rally called Cornell.  
We've honed the spirit academic to a fare-thee-well.  
Except for mis'rable weather, it's the opposite of hell,  
So for those who end their studies here, it's hard to say farewell.

A junto is supposed to be a small, often secret, group united for a common interest. However, when he was 21, Ben Franklin formed The Junto, a discussion group with a "spirit of inquiry and a desire for self improvement". Members were expected to love truth for truth's sake and to endeavor impartially to find and receive truth themselves and communicate it to others. Members sincerely declared that they loved mankind in general, regardless of profession or religion.

In that spirit, Cornell is a junto —but a large one. Started in 1865 as a place where "any person can find instruction in any study", Cornell now has seven undergrad colleges and four grad and professional colleges, and you can indeed find courses in just about anything, from wine making to mushroom picking to computing in the arts. Cornell was one of the first universities to admit women (1870) and build a residence for women (Sage Hall, 1875). Today, "Cornell is committed to act responsibly and forthrightly to maintain an environment that opens doors, opens hearts, and open minds." The open-minded spirit of inquiry does indeed flourish here.

The graduate-field structure has made it easy to engage in multidisciplinary work, and you'll find more of it than in any other place. CS itself gives degrees in three colleges and has research connections with more, and all CS students will find it easy to learn about multidisciplinary areas.

It's a pretty perfect place.  
And the weather is great in the summer.

J

