

C is Collegial CS at Cornell

Without it, our workplace would simply be hell.
To those who play mean, we bid a farewell,
For we want the place to be synergic-el.

Want a contented, cheerful environment, in which synergistic cooperation thrives? Then strive to eliminate politics, remove cliques, and give everyone, young and old alike, respect and the chance to voice their opinion. And make sure that all the right hands in the department know what the left ones are doing. From the beginning in 1965, we worked to develop and maintain such an environment, with the whole faculty going to lunch and coffee together every day. And we still work at it.

Of course, we have significant arguments —thank goodness, we don't all think alike. But these arguments generally remain technical and impersonal, and afterward the opposing parties can drink a beer together.

We are human, so there is sometimes some behind-the-back talking and gossip. And, there have been periods where ill feelings came out and hurt us. But we overcame those periods. For we know that the department that convives together thrives together.

Collegial: Characterized by equal sharing of authority. Marked by camaraderie among colleagues.

D is for Databases and Digital Lib'es.

In CS at Cornell, our D's have good vibes.
The groups are not big, but their projects are,
For their data has reached the petabyte bar.

Our database/datamining group — Alan Demers, Johannes Gehrke, Jay Shanmugasundaram, and researchers Mirek Riedewald and Walker White — is doing neat things:

Demers and Gehrke collaborate with Astronomer Jim Cordes on data gathering and managing a new petabyte-sized database of pulsars in the Milky Way. Riedewald and machine-learning expert Rich Caruana are helping Cornell's renowned Lab of Ornithology with the database of volunteer-reported bird sightings, the largest and longest-running resource of environmental time-series data in existence. Gehrke, Demers, and Shanmugasundaram, along with Bill Arms, Dan Huttenlocher, and Jon Kleinberg, are working with the Internet Archive to manage and study the 40-billion Web pages archived by the Wayback Machine, the time machine of the internet. As you can see, we're big on humongous, petabyte database problems.

The database people naturally talk to the digital library and Web people —Bill Arms and researchers Dean Krafft and Carl Lagoze. These guys have been heavily involved in work on digital publishing for years and are now main cogs in the NSF National Science Digital Library (NSDL) project. See letter **K** for mention of their work on electronic publishing.