Q

a Quadragenarian's what this dept is,
Forty to just before fiftyish.
Few CS depts are older than us,
But age is no reason to make a fuss.
More important is that others do see
Wisdom not boredom in our repartee.

What's wisdom, you ask? Here's an example. The data, the information, is that the tomato is the ovary of the flowering plant, the pulpy mass that contains the seeds. Knowledge then explains that the tomato is a fruit. Wisdom tells you not to put it in a fruit salad.

In 1965, Cornell showed wisdom in placing the CS budget with the provost instead of Engineering or Arts & Sciences, because CS had elements of both engineering and science (and now, arguably, art). In 1999, Cornell showed wisdom again, by creating a college-level (but without students) Faculty for Computing & Information Science, with CS at its core, and with the mission to integrate computing and information science —its ideas, technology, and modes of thought— into every academic discipline.

As a result, computing now thrives at Cornell, with undergrad degrees in three colleges and with ties to well over 30 Cornell units. Come to Cornell for exciting research and education in CS, computational biology, cognitive science, computational science, computer graphics, computing in the arts, digital libraries, game design, info sci, intelligent systems, and more.

Cornell is rather special. It has been called "the first American university" because of its founders' revolutionarily egalitarian and practical vision of higher education.

Did you know: The South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato is Arkansas's state fruit and state vegetable. In 1893, the US Supreme Court defined the tomato to be a vegetable (for trade purposes), going by its use rather than biological classification.

R

R is for Reasoning —I got all your votes
For (instead of long poem) some reasoning quotes.

Tired mothers find that spanking takes less time than reasoning and penetrates sooner to the seat of the memory.

~ Will Durant

Man is a reasoning rather than a reasonable animal.

~ Alexander Hamilton

The difference between science and the fuzzy subjects is that science requires reasoning while those other subjects merely require scholarship.

~ Robert A. Heinlein

CS at Cornell is a leader in various aspects of reasoning.

First, there is the automated kind, exemplified by Bob Constable's 30 years of work on the mathematical reasoning system NuPrl, aided by Christoph Kreitz, which helped establish that computers can automate many intellectual processes. Because of Bob's and other's work, proofs of over 50,000 theorem are accessible on the Web, many of them in NuPrl. His thirty-five PhD students will tell you that Bob's a great PhD advisor.

Then there's the work on reasoning about the development of programs (see the letter M) and the development of calculational logic as a formalization of how mathematicians express many proofs. Gries and Schneider show in their text *A Logical Approach to Discrete Math* that various proof-development principles and strategies can actually be taught to freshmen.

Finally, Joe Halpern reasons about knowledge. Joe and his former student Yoram Moses received the 1997 Gödel Prize for their paper that showed that common knowledge is a necessary and sufficient condition for coordination among people. Cornell is at the forefront of AI work on reasoning about knowledge because of Joe.