Jonathan Rauchway (’94) rowed varsity crew at Cornell and, through Cornell’s externship program, worked in a law firm where he saw litigation at first hand. Three years of law school later he became a litigator in the firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. In a case covered by The New York Times, he was able to win political asylum for a woman from Ghana who had fled her country because it sanctioned female genital mutilation. Before Jonathan adopted the “hopeless case,” the woman had languished in a U.S. immigration service prison for more than two years.

Lori Solomon (’96) was a member of Impact Dance Troupe and Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority at Cornell. Inspired by an American Studies course on American popular culture, she spent a summer interning for Dateline NBC. After graduating she moved to New York City and worked her way up in television news production. Her big break came in 1998 when she was hired as an associate producer for Fox Files. She traveled all over the country with camera crews to shoot segments of the show. She is now a producer for Good Morning America. “Through American Studies,” she says, “I learned about the concepts behind journalism and the media. I also learned how to write.”
The Program in American Studies offers an interdisciplinary study of diversity in the United States and the many ways to interpret the American experience as reflected in everything from popular culture, film, literature, and art, to history and politics.

**Why American Studies?**
Cornell students who major in American Studies go on to careers in law, journalism, medicine, business, filmmaking, and teaching. The education received through an American Studies major at Cornell develops critical thinking and writing skills that are essential to success in any career as well as in personal life.

**What Does American Studies Include?**
Students can take courses taught by more than forty affiliated program faculty drawn from:
- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Civil and Electrical Engineering
- English
- Theatre, Film, and Dance
- Government
- History
- History of Art
- Human Development
- Industrial and Labor Relations
- Sociology

American Studies is among the fastest-growing majors at Cornell because it is rigorous yet flexible, providing structure and community for students with wide-ranging, interdisciplinary interests.

**About the Major**

- **Individually designed:** Working closely with a faculty advisor, students choose twelve courses, six of which define an area of concentration (for example, visual studies, cultural studies, race and ethnicity, American institutions). The courses span American history from the colonial period until the twentieth century and balance a range of disciplines.
- **Writing intensive:** The program encourages students to select courses that emphasize writing, including seminars specially designed for American Studies majors.
- **Off-campus opportunities:** Many American Studies majors participate in the Cornell in Washington program or study abroad.
- **Honors:** the honors program allows interested seniors to pursue their own independent research projects.