Welcomes and Salutes

David R. Harris, Deputy Provost

David R. Harris is deputy provost, a new post established in the Office of the Provost. The provost’s office is responsible for strategic planning and budgeting, tenure and promotion, academic and research initiatives, and general academic and budgetary supervision of the Ithaca campus. Harris will focus initially on several key priorities, including diversity and the social sciences, and will help coordinate the work of the vice provosts. He will retain his position as Cornell’s vice provost for social sciences for which his charge is to provide leadership for defining and achieving goals for the social sciences on campus and to provide a social science perspective on Cornell policies and priorities. Harris also co-chairs the University Diversity Council’s working group, established last year to create and sustain an inclusive campus community.

Harris joined the Cornell faculty in 2003 from the faculty of the University of Michigan. His research focuses on race and ethnicity, stratification, and public policy. Harris is a member of the board of overseers for the national General Social Survey and was a consultant for the National Research Council Committee to Evaluate the 2000 Census. Harris says he is prepared to address key areas outside the social sciences and has been well briefed on matters affecting all academic units, thanks to two years of weekly meetings with deans and other vice provosts. Harris says, “That has given me a good sense of what is going on in myriad areas, such as the humanities, the life and physical sciences, and engineering, in addition to the areas for which I already have responsibility. Nevertheless, I will work closely with the provost and others to ensure that my new role serves to advance, not alter or impede, the provost’s priorities.”

Robert A. Buhrman, Vice Provost for Research

Robert A. Buhrman, formerly director of Cornell’s Center for Nanoscale Systems (CNS), is vice provost for research. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research coordinates universitywide research efforts and steers local, national, and international...
outreach for Cornell research. Buhrman oversees the four national research centers and 12 Cornell research centers that report directly to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Buhrman is also responsible for the Cornell Center for Technology, Enterprise, and Commercialization, the Center for Animal Resources and Education, and several other research administrative offices.

Buhrman, the John Edson Sweet Professor of Engineering in Cornell’s School of Applied and Engineering Physics, joined the faculty in 1973. His current research interests include nanomagnetics, condensed matter physics at the nanometer scale, and thin film materials and device physics. Buhrman is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, fellow of the American Physical Society, and a member of the Materials Research Society. He plans to continue his research while juggling his duties as vice provost. Buhrman says, “Continuing my research interests is going to be a major challenge, but it is something that I am absolutely committed to doing. It’s important to have the exposure of a researcher while you are trying to help other researchers. Working with graduate students, undergraduates, and other collaborators on challenging research problems remains my greatest pleasure as a faculty member at Cornell.”
Thank you, Bob,

for your distinguished leadership of Cornell’s research enterprise as Vice Provost for Research, 1998-2007.