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Any Person, Any Study, Any Country

It all seems normal. As I look out at the Arts quad, the students are crisscrossing the not-yet-green field, plugged in as usual. The Baker Real Estate students have just returned from South Korea; the art students are preparing for their study trip to Berlin. Classes are in session; studios have kicked off with the always impressive array of conceptually challenging topics for sites and societies across the globe. Many are taught by distinguished international faculty who cycle in and out of the studios over the course of the semester.

But behind the scenes it is anything but normal. On January 27, 2017, the White House issued Executive Order 13769 that temporarily banned immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries, and expanded the authority of federal immigration officers within the United States. I immediately had to do what I have never done before; check the nationality of our students and faculty. Would any of our Cornell in Rome students be prevented from returning? Would those in travelling studios holding valid J-1 or F-1 student visas face difficulties at the airports? Would any visiting faculty member not be able – or willing – to come to Ithaca? Would any of our Ithaca faculty with permanent residency status, or dual citizenship, not be able to travel for scholarly events? Are our Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students in danger of deportation? Would any lectures need to be cancelled? Would 2017 admissions offers be affected?

To state the obvious: we are a globally connected institution. Our faculty and students come from all corners of the world, and we travel to all corners to share and gain knowledge. Our diversity – geographic and otherwise – is not supplemental to our identity but central to our mission and critical to our excellence. Targeting entire countries and stereotyping individuals based on national origin is simply not the way we think or operate at AAP.

Cornell has taken a strong stance in defense of international scholarly exchange and global connectedness. In February, we joined 16 other colleges and universities in filing a friends-of-the-court (*amici curiae*) brief to the class action case brought by the People of the State New York. This powerful document reaffirms not only the centrality of global exchange in the life and work of research universities, but the reciprocal benefits that come with open doors and minds:

Amici's ability to foster rich educational environments depends in large part on their ability to attract students, faculty, and scholars from around the globe. The international members of amici's communities contribute to the vibrant campus life, world-class educational offerings, and research and discoveries for which amici are well known. The contributions of these individuals redound to the benefit

not only of the other members of amici's campus communities, but also to the United States, and the world, more generally.

Higher education in the United States is a national treasure. Nowhere are the values of fact-based knowledge, self-discovery, critical inquiry, and academic freedom more fully embraced and nourished than in our finest institutions of higher learning. Keeping our classrooms, studios, and laboratories open to the world's most talented and motivated academics is part of what makes our system of education strong. Any person. Any study. Any country.

Kent Kleinman
Gale and Ira Drukier Dean