**CONCERTO KING**

Pianist Eric Tan ’14 won the eighth annual Cornell Concerto Competition, held Dec. 3 in Barnes Hall Auditorium. Tan performed the first movement of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, accompanied by Tiffany Tung ’13, a computer science major in the College of Engineering, studies piano with associate professor of music Xab Bjorken and is a member of C.U. Winds. A native of Toronto, he has won top prizes at music festivals and competitions at the national, provincial, and local levels.

Student musicians, with student and faculty accomplishments, participated earlier in the day in preliminary rounds of the 2011 competition. Judges chose five students to compete in the final round.

As the winner, Tan performed a concerto as a featured soloist with the Cornell Symphony Orchestra, March 18. The other finalists were soprano Marybeth Keiser ’13, a voice student at the Manhattan School of Music, studying voice in the College of Arts and Sciences; and violists Eliza Higashi ’12, a music student at the College of Engineering; Nicole Park ’14, a psychology major in the College of Arts and Sciences; and Mohan Tan ’14, an environmental engineering major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**Flying High**

Two Cornell faculty members—Gregory Fucks ’83 and A. Kevin Tang—were among this year’s 48 winners of the Air Force Young Investigator Research Program.

**Flying High**

**NASA CHIEF**

Mason Peck, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, has been named NASA chief technological officer, effective January 2012. Peck will serve as the agency’s principal advisor and advocate on matters of technology policy and programs.

Peck leads several Cornell spacecraft research programs including CUSAT, an orbiting inspection system consisting of a pair of twin satellites designed and built at Cornell CUSAT is scheduled to launch in 2013 on a Falcon 9 rocket through the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory’s University Nanosatellite Program. Peck also is a principal investigator of the Voilet satellite experiment, also a Cornell built system that will provide an orbiting test bed for investigating better commercial Earth-imaging satellites. Violet carries an ultra violet spectrometer that will be used as a precursor to understanding exoplanet atmospheres.

In his NASA role, Peck will help communicate how NASA technologies benefit space missions and the day-to-day lives of Americans. The office coordinates, tracks, and integrates technology investments across the agency and works to infuse innovative discoveries into future missions. In addition, Peck will lead NASA technology transfer and technology commercialization efforts, facilitate internal creativity and innovation, and work directly with other government agencies, the commercial aerospace community, and academia.

Peck viewed his appointment through an intergovernmental personnel agreement with Cornell, which will continue as a faculty member.

At Cornell, his research focuses on spacecraft dynamics, control and mission architectures. His research includes: Inviscid flight dynamics, gyroscopic robustness, and mechanically controlled spacecraft, most of which whose mission is to empower women to succeed and advance in engineering fields.

At the NASA annual conference, held Oct. 19–25 in Chicago, Cornell SWE took home a Gold Award for Outstanding Collegiate Section. The award is the highest honor to be bestowed on a collegiate section. Collegiate awards are determined by such activities as diversity, effectiveness of communications among chapter members, the chapter’s role in member recruitment activities, and regional and national participation. In addition, two Cornell SWE alumnae were recognized with top awards for professional achievements.

Alison Goodwin ’93 received the Distinguished Engineering Achievement Award for creative and effective team leadership in her career and in her contributions to SWE and the community. She received her bachelor’s degree in electrical and computer engineering from Cornell, and is now a senior engineer and validation program manager in the Non-Novel Memory Solutions Group at Intel. Goodwin serves on the Cornell SWE advisory board and is also former president of Cornell SWE. Stephanie Tong ’08 was awarded the emerging Leader Award for “striving personal leadership that balances environmental stewardship, professional accomplishments and dedication to technology.” She received her bachelor’s degree in civil and environmental engineering from the Cornell University and is an environmental engineer in the environmental and safety department at Intel Corp.

**SWE Success**

Cornell’s chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has been recognized as a top collegiate section by the national organization whose mission is to empower women to succeed and advance in engineering fields.