President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Will Speak at Cornell

On Friday, November 21, 2014, at 4:00pm in Schwartz Auditorium, Rockefeller Hall, the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, will present a lecture entitled “Iceland’s Clean Energy Economy- A Roadmap to Sustainability and Good Business” as part of the Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series. The event is organized in collaboration with the Cornell Energy Institute, the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs.

Please note that admission is by ticket only. Free tickets are available at the Einaudi Center (170 Uris Hall). The event will be live streamed on Cornell’s website. There will be also special security. All attendees may be subject to search. Bags may not be allowed in the auditorium.

President Grimsson studied economics and political science at the University of Manchester, and in 1970, became the first person in Iceland to earn a PhD in political science. In 1973, he became a Professor of Political Science at the University of Iceland. He was the University of Iceland’s first Political Science professor. He served as a Member of Althing (Iceland’s Parliament) from 1978 to 1983. He served as the Chairman of the People's Alliance executive committee from 1983 to 1987. From 1987 to 1995, he was Leader of the People's Alliance; during this time, he served as Minister of Finance from 1988 to 1991 and as a Member of Althing from 1991 to 1996. He assumed office in 1996, ran unopposed in 2000, was re-elected in 2004, ran unopposed in 2008, and was elected for a record fifth term in 2012. In 2013, he announced the formation of the Arctic Circle, an organization designed for the facilitation of dialogue among political and business leaders, environmental experts, scientists, indigenous representatives, and other international stakeholders to address issues facing the Arctic as a result of climate change and melting sea ice. He is Iceland’s fifth President.

The Foreign Policy Distinguished Speaker Series features prominent leaders in international affairs who can address topical issues from a variety of perspectives. The Speaker Series is part
of the Foreign Policy Forum at Cornell University led by the Einaudi Center to maximize the intellectual impact of Cornell’s outstanding resources in this area.