

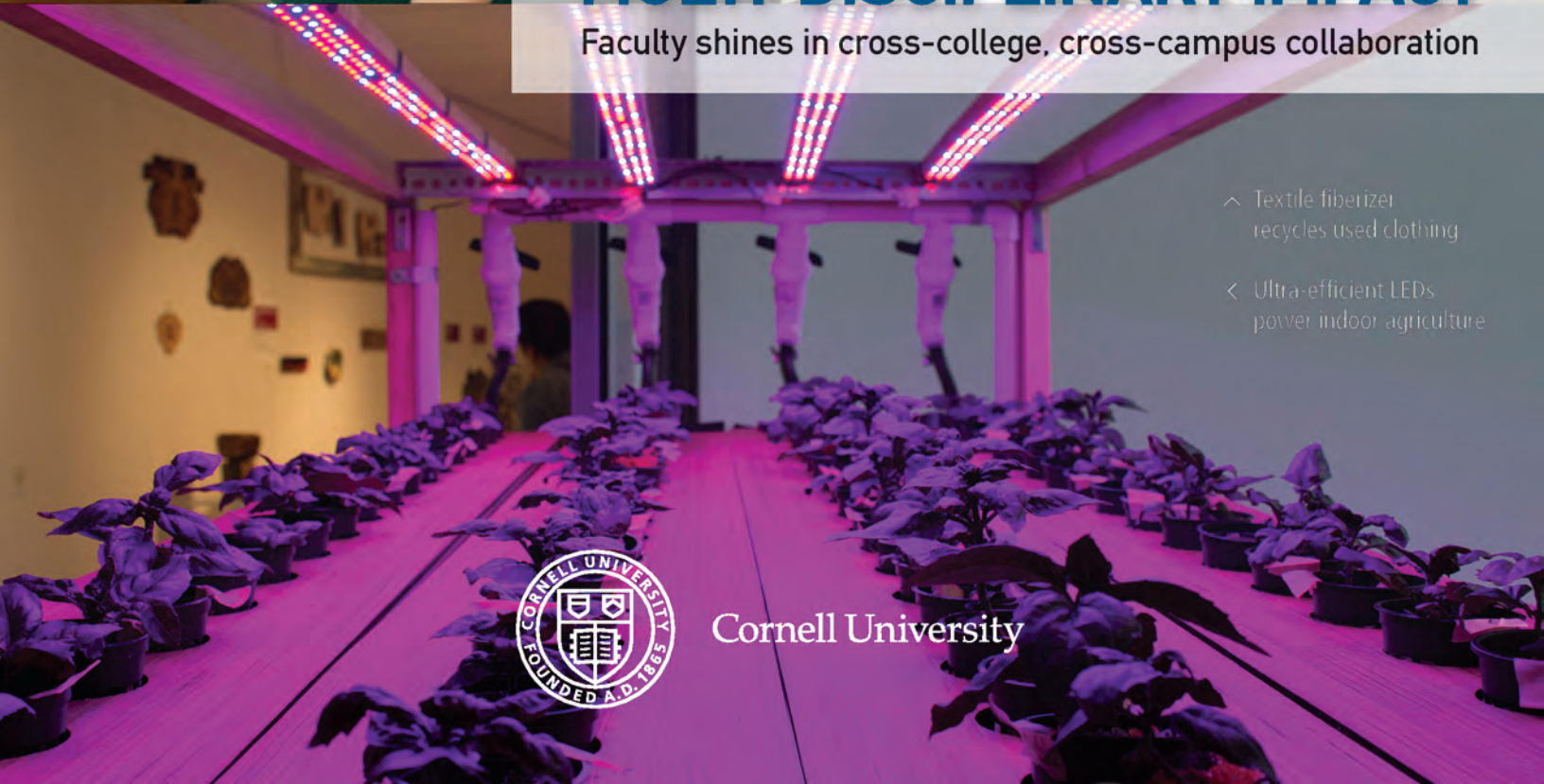
# HumanEcology

COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY · CORNELL UNIVERSITY · VOLUME 45 · NUMBER 1 · SPRING 2017



## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IMPACT

Faculty shines in cross-college, cross-campus collaboration



- ^ Textile fiberizer  
recycles used clothing
- < Ultra-efficient LEDs  
power indoor agriculture



Cornell University



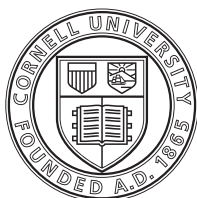
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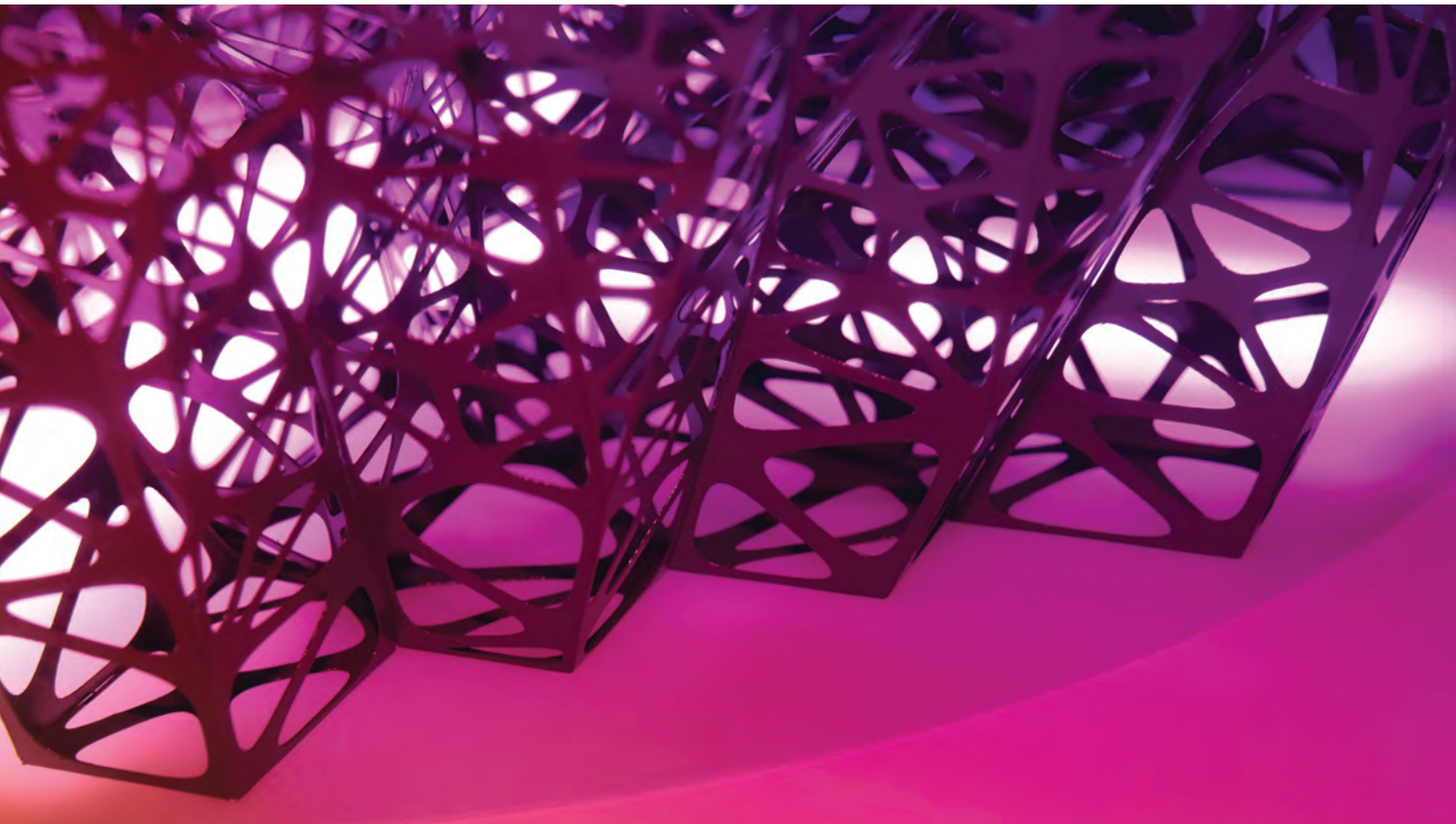
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# CONTENTS



2

Message from the Dean

3

Inside CHE

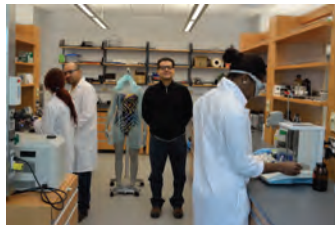


## Features

16

### Multi-Disciplinary Impact

Faculty shines in cross-college, cross-campus collaboration



22

### Human Ecology's "Polyform"

A new sculpture embodies the mission of the college



26

Alumni

40

Domains



On the cover:



Top: Sarah Portway and Tasha Lewis collaborate on a fiberizer to recycle used textiles.  
Bottom: Schuyler Duffy uses ultra-efficient LEDs for sustainable indoor agriculture.

Cover design by Soontira Sutanont

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## Human Ecology

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IMPROVING LIVES BY  
EXPLORING AND SHAPING  
HUMAN CONNECTIONS TO  
NATURAL, SOCIAL, AND  
BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

This time of year brings with it a swell of pride and emotion as we celebrate the great accomplishments of our graduating Human Ecology students. They have bright futures, I tell them, in large part because of what I know about the alumni I have met and worked with over the years. As you see by the alumni featured in *Human Ecology* magazine, I get to learn so much about the amazing lives of those who have graduated from the College of Human Ecology.

Inside this issue, you will also read about the faculty and students in our vast Human Ecology community. We feature multi-disciplinary research collaboration in the areas of social sciences, sustainability, design and engineering, neuroscience, and genome biology, to name a few, and we highlight the generous support we receive for our work. The College of Human Ecology has a long history of, and a clear vision for, cross-college, cross-campus research, and the stories within only scratch the surface.

In addition, we showcase an art installation that embodies the mission of the College and continue to tell the story of our efforts to promote environmental stewardship at Cornell. I am delighted that the magazine also includes a special message from Human Ecology Alumni Association Board President Reginald White '80.

Nine years ago, former Cornell President David J. Skorton and Provost Carolyn A. "Biddy" Martin invited me to serve as Dean of the College of Human Ecology. At this time next year, my second term will come to a close, and I will pass the torch to a successor. While my last academic year as Dean will inspire special reflections and a unique intensity with each milestone, I am, as always, simply excited to empower the College of Human Ecology community to do what we do best – improve lives by exploring and shaping human connections to natural, social, and built environments. This is the mission that propels us on a trajectory to a bright future, just as it does our students.

I hope you enjoy the spring issue of *Human Ecology*, and please stay in touch.



Alan Mathios  
Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean





# Engaged LEARNING

Human Ecology faculty receive grants for research and curriculum development

Human Ecology faculty members have been awarded Engaged Cornell grants for curricular and research work that furthers the university's mission through community-engaged learning. Showcasing the breadth of the College's disciplines, the projects range from design to public health and from innovative departmental curricula to cross-disciplinary international partnerships.



Tim DeVoogd



Kate Dickin



David Erickson



Gary Evans



Rebecca Seguin



Mardelle Shepley



Jeanne Moseley



David Pelletier



Valerie Reyna



Saurabh Mehta



Nancy Wells



So-Yeon Yoon



Julia Finkelstein



Allison Hermann

## Global and Public Health Partnerships

A Division of Nutritional Sciences team led by David Pelletier, Professor of Nutrition Policy, received an extension of its Engaged Curriculum Grant, intended to help faculty enrich Cornell curricula by integrating elements of community engagement.

Pelletier is working with Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition Julia Finkelstein, Lecturer Jeanne Moseley, Assistant Professor Rebecca Seguin, and Research Scientist Kate Dickin to develop domestic, sustainable, and mutually beneficial research partnerships for the new Global and Public Health Sciences (GPHS) major.

The supervised engaged learning experience connects the theory and practice of addressing public health issues and the well-being of communities. Students working with the Skorton Health Center at Cornell, for example, will participate in ongoing initiatives in mental health, alcohol and drug use, sexual violence, and hazing.

"Establishing such partnerships is a major hurdle that departments face when embarking on experiential learning," says Pelletier. "The Engaged Curriculum Grant helps us prime the pump."

## Design + Environmental Analysis Applications

With an Engaged Curriculum Advancement Grant, Professor Nancy Wells, Associate Professor So-Yeon Yoon, Elizabeth Lee Vincent Professor Gary Evans, and Professor Mardelle Shepley – all in the Department

of Design + Environmental Analysis (DEA) – are expanding the Department's engaged learning programs.

"DEA has a long tradition of community-engaged projects," says Wells. "I think they bring academic content to life – literally and figuratively. They allow students to apply their knowledge to real issues."

Last year's grant supports four courses in which DEA majors explore the power of design and environment to improve people's health, functioning, and well-being. While Wells has her students conducting a health impact assessment in anticipation of the 15-month shutdown of the New York City L-Train planned for 2019, Yoon has had her Designing User Experience Studio class outline a plan to help Ithaca Community Recovery provide a warm, inspiring meeting environment for people in recovery and their families.

Local organizations will also benefit from the work Evans has planned with Tompkins County Action, where students will evaluate a Head Start Center, and Finger Lakes ReUse, where they will explore factors influencing reuse behavior.

Shepley's Health and Healing Studio course will generate designs for prefabricated building modules for school clinics in Westchester County as well as for the Cancer Resource Center in Ithaca.

## Risky Decision Making Research

Student learning through community engagement is also at the heart of the

Undergraduate Engaged Research Program Grant, one of which went to Valerie Reyna, Professor of Human Development, and Allison Hermann, Research and Outreach Manager in Human Ecology.

Over the past year, four undergraduates have been conducting a study on why student athletes under-report sports-related concussions, making them vulnerable to the lifelong effects of brain damage. By interviewing coaches and 155 youth in Colorado, Minnesota, and New York, they found support for a hypothesis based in fuzzy-trace theory research: Adolescents tend to weigh pros (large benefit of playing time) and cons (small risk from a single hit), whereas adults make a "gist" decision based on their experience, concluding that the possibility of getting a concussion that could result in permanent brain damage is unacceptable.

"Our ultimate goal is to help those who work with young people implement evidence-based strategies that promote realistic risk assessments and healthy decision-making," says Reyna.

## Community Health in Ecuador and Ithaca

A faculty team with expertise in public health, infectious diseases, engineering, psychology, and Latin American Studies was awarded an Undergraduate Engaged Research Program Grant to help improve community health in Ecuador.

Julia Finkelstein; Saurabh Mehta, Associate Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology, and Nutrition in the Division of Nutritional Sciences; David Erickson, Sibley College Professor in the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; and Tim DeVoogd, Professor of Psychology, are building on an established partnership with Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), Ecuador's premier academic institution.

Students will spend ten weeks immersed in the community to work in multi-disciplinary teams with their Ecuadorian counterparts on analyzing epidemiological data, conducting household surveys, and assisting in primary data collection.

Once the program is up and running, the faculty team hopes that it will be able to extend the opportunity to Ecuadorian students to conduct global health research at Cornell and in the Ithaca community, bringing the university's full-circle engagement back home.

– Olivia M. Hall

# Growing LEADERSHIP

CHE's Urban Semester Program turns 25



The Urban Semester Program immerses Cornell students in New York City life.



The College of Human Ecology's Urban Semester Program (USP) is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. This unique, academic field-based experience draws students from across the University to explore their career interests in New York City.

"When the program was founded, it was felt that students needed exposure to the real world, the world of work and the world that poor working people of color inhabit," says anthropologist Sam Beck, Senior Lecturer and Urban Semester's director since 1993. "It was an opportunity for students to think about who they are and why they are studying their chosen major."

While the Urban Semester – which grew out of the Field and International Studies Program of the 1970s – began with a pre-professional focus, it has constantly evolved to

meet the changing needs of its students. Over the past few years, its health track has moved to the forefront as more pre-med students have joined to participate in medical rotations. With some 70 students per year, the intensive summer option has overtaken the academic semester in numbers of participants.

What has stayed the same is an integrated learning experience rooted in research and ethnographic fieldwork – and Human Ecology's long history of connecting theory and practice. "Human Ecology has had a commitment to experiential learning since its founding as a women's college, educating strong, well prepared women for the work of professions," Beck explains. "I take particular pride in supporting this effort."

Students spend four days a week at internships in various

companies or shadowing medical professionals at NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, in addition to completing coursework on professional perspectives and practices, participating in community service, and simply living in the city itself.

Such outside engagement is by no means an afterthought. It connects students directly to Cornell and CHE's public engagement mission.

Nutritional Sciences major Sarah Lam '17 spent her spring 2016 Urban Semester volunteering with the non-profit organization Churches United for Fair Housing, conducting health outreach through the Diana Jones Senior Center, and taping interviews for the podcast Cafecito Break. She also found time to take cooking, improv, and dance classes and explore the city's museums,

restaurants, and nightlife.

"I was excited to become a New Yorker – whatever that meant – and grow as a person," says Lam, whose older brother Hansen Lam is a USP alumnus finishing medical school this year. "I loved the holistic and flexible nature of the program. It's quite rare on campus that you get to make your own schedule or find time to yourself to reflect on experiences."

These confirmed her desire to attend medical school: "Even if my profile doesn't fit the typical pre-med, I am now more determined than ever to achieve my goals," Lam says.

Beck frequently witnesses such personal transformations in his students, who he says are treated as responsible adults in the program. "I want each student to become a *mensch*, a human being," he says. "By this, I mean that students are well-informed about the world they are entering and have the capacity to reflect on themselves to understand who they are and why they think, believe, and act the way they do – that they interact with others in an ethical manner to bring about change in society to improve their own lives and the lives of others, especially those who are the most vulnerable."

"We want our students to see that they are leaders," he adds, "and that they will continue to build on their leadership skills."

– Olivia M. Hall



# Life CLASS

## Students connect to the science of Human Bonding

For Kavitha Lobo '16, as well as countless Cornellians, Human Bonding is one of those classes every undergraduate should take, perhaps on the same list as Wines, the First American University, Intro to Psychology, Oceanography, and Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds for the lasting impression they make.

"When my peers ask for recommended classes, Human Bonding is always one I mention because not only is the material vital to anyone, regardless of academic or career interest, but also it is delivered in such a memorable way by Professor Hazan," Lobo says. "I tell fellow students that Human Bonding is a class for everyone because it will be useful in our ongoing life development to learn how to be the best partners and parents we can be."

Students who have taken the class leave with an understanding of the science of interpersonal relationships, including attachment theory and John Bowlby's model of infant-caregiver bonds, both foundational lessons of the course. From tips on responsive parenting to the "magical" 5:1 ratio of positive vs. negative interactions with a partner, to avoidance of the infamous "four horsemen of the apocalypse" predictors of divorce, the content of Human Bonding sticks with students well beyond graduation.

"I get a lot of credit for the popularity of the course, but I think what is underestimated is the popularity of the topics," says Cindy Hazan, Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development, whose syllabus covers interpersonal attraction and mate selection, intimacy and commitment, love and sex, jealousy and loneliness, the neurobiology of affiliation and attachment, and the role of relationships in physical and psychological health. "A recent student said to me, 'It is great to be getting credit for thinking about the things I am thinking about all the time already.' And that says it all."

Throughout her teaching, bonding with students about intimate subjects is a natural result. "I have a huge family of former students," Hazan says. "Some of them have really become like family, which is a big perk for me."

Sometimes in Human Bonding, Cupid's arrow actually strikes. Charles Winslow '13 and Monet Winslow '14 (née Bell) met in the class and recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary. "It was kind of funny that we were studying the experiences we

were going through," says Charles. "We bonded through the Human Bonding class. We studied together, we looked at the content together – tried to analyze the content – and it actually helped us do well in the course in the end, and also within our relationship."

Hazan got to know Charles because he often came to her office hours. Shortly before the final exam, he brought Monet under the guise that they had similar questions about course material. "I noticed sparks flying," Hazan says. "I knew what was going on between them."

Not long after, Charles and Monet revealed themselves to Hazan as a couple. Monet worked in Hazan's lab for a year before becoming engaged to Charles.

Currently living in Orlando, Monet is in medical school at the University of Central Florida and Charles is a consultant and client development manager for Educational Development Associates and co-founder of WellTraveled, an organization whose mission is to educate and empower youth through cultural awareness.

Whenever they are in Ithaca, they get together with Hazan. "She's just a great person, one of those genuine individuals who cares," says Charles.

Bonding was also in the air between two

teaching assistants, Yang Yang and Yue Yu, who attended each lecture together, proctored exams together, discussed course material together, and spent many hours grading exams together.

Yang and Yue believe their relationship started with Hazan's facilitation. In grand fashion, Yue considered asking Yang to be his girlfriend in front of the Human Bonding class. According to Yue, Hazan was encouraging and helped him with the planning. To hear his in-class speech to the class, search "Cornell Human Bonding Question" on YouTube. Yang and Yue married in September 2015, with Hazan as a special guest at their wedding on the Cornell campus.

Did you take Human Bonding with Professor Hazan? Did it leave a lasting impression? What do you remember most? How has it affected your life? Look for our post on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and let us know. #CHEhumanbonding – *Stephen D'Angelo*



For Professor Cindy Hazan and her students, building connections is a natural outcome of learning about human bonding.

# A Family AFFAIR

## Sloan hosts its inaugural Visit Day

For “Sloanies,” the program is much more than just a top 20 curriculum in health administration. To them, it means being part of the “Sloan Family.” So when the first annual Sloan Visit Day took place last November, current students, alumni, faculty, and staff came out in full force to welcome prospective enrollees.

Prospective students traveled from as far away as Texas and California to participate in a packed schedule of events, including the Percy Allen II '75 Sloan Lecture in Urban Healthcare Leadership, hosted breakfasts, themed campus tours, alumni lunches, student panels, the Black Health Legends exhibit, and class discussions.

“Our goal is to boost applications and increase the matriculation rate of the most qualified applicants, who often apply to many programs and get in to all of them,” says Sloan Director Sean Nicholson. “We often lose some of these students early in the admissions process.”

Indeed, Visit Day appears to have made an exceedingly positive impression on the students it targeted: All six previously admitted students who attended decided to matriculate, while two more applied and were accepted afterward. Daniel Jean-Philippe '15, who currently works as a physician office assistant for Atrius Health in Boston, was among several others who were planning to submit their paperwork. “I’d heard about the family feeling, but it’s not one of those things you can say in words. You have to experience it,” he says. “After Visit Day, I became 200 percent sure I would apply and matriculate.”

Not least among the factors that impressed Jean-Philippe and other prospective Sloanies was the enthusiasm on display from current students. In fact, the entire event was organized and run by five students in Sloan Associate Director Julie Carmalt’s newly created Event Planning and Leadership class and supported by a team of 44 student volunteers. Admitted student Joseph De Los Santos from Los Angeles noted the close relationship between students and faculty, as well as the participation of a dozen alumni. “The strong alumni presence was very reassuring to me,” he says.

The opportunity to network informally with alumni, including former and current high-ranking executives in the health care field, was also an important component in Visit Day’s efforts to attract underrepresented minorities and increase diversity among the Sloan student body. “This is why we specifically paired Visit Day with the second biennial Percy Allen II lecture and the Black Health Legends exhibit,” Carmalt explains. The Black Health Legends Exhibit, which was opened in the Human Ecology Commons



Gilbert Agyeman '17, left, Sloan Program in Health Administration student; Cynthia Taueg, Vice President of Community-Based Health Services at St. John Providence Health System; and Nicole Stolze of Ascension Healthcare take part in the first Sloan Visit Day.

by André Lee '72, DPA, FACHE, President of the Leeway Health Education Foundation, tells the story of pioneering Black health professionals and institutions in the United States. “By combining these events, we brought to campus key alumni of color who connect with visiting students on many more levels than just position and title.”

Jean-Philippe, for one, was thrilled at receiving personal advice from Percy Allen II, whose classmates, led by Clifford Barnes '74 and Lee, established the lecture series in honor of Allen’s far-reaching contributions to the health

care industry. This year’s invited speaker was Patricia A. Maryland, Chief Operating Officer at Ascension Health, the health care delivery subsidiary of the largest non-profit health system in the United States.

As Jean-Philippe listened to Maryland describe her organization’s creative, non-traditional solutions for bringing better health to communities, he caught a glimpse of his potential future: “Representation matters, and seeing so much diversity makes me – and I know it will make other people of color – cast away doubt that we cannot have long and successful careers in health care,” he says. “Seeing minority CEOs made me realize I can definitely be one, too, someday.”

Such positive feedback convinces Carmalt that Visit Day will play an important role in shaping the Sloan family for years to come. “It was a pleasure observing our thoughtful, enthusiastic, caring, and welcoming students and alumni representing Sloan and so graciously engaging our visiting students, and I’m thrilled with the result,” she says. “We have never before had such strong early matriculation numbers, and the quality and diversity of our growing cohort blows me away. I’m so grateful, and I can’t wait until next year’s event.”

– Olivia M. Hall



Malvika Majitha '18, and Danielle Wiggins, '18.



# Professional DEVELOPMENT

## Schlichting launches Sloan Women in Healthcare Leadership Symposium

During her keynote address, “Unconventional Leadership,” at the inaugural Sloan Women in Healthcare Leadership Symposium on March 3, Nancy M. Schlichting, MBA/Sloan ’79 and retired Chief Executive Officer of Henry Ford Health System, asked, “Do we want to be disrupted or do we want to be the disruptors?”

“Because when [health care] quality is still not where it should be, or cost is too high, or the patient experience is not where it needs to be, think of how many of you might be the disrupters in the room to try and figure out how you can do it better and how you can make all of those aspects of health care improve.”

Organized by Sloan Women in Leadership, the two-day symposium offered students, alumni, and members of the Cornell community insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by women leaders in health care, according to co-chairs Samantha Castillo-Davis ’00, MHA ’17, and Colleen A. Sullivan ’16, MHA ’17.

According to organizers, the goals of the symposium were to offer students opportunities for professional development and for supplementing classroom knowledge with real-world context in the form of alumnae panels, roundtable discussions, and a working group session.

Speaking to a largely student audience, Schlichting admitted her career has been unconventional. She said that learning lessons in ageism when she had responsibility and power at a relatively young age and being a closeted, then openly gay woman in a male-dominated industry, have shaped the way she has led throughout her career. “I don’t think like everyone else,” she said attributing this to her parents who, fearing the impact of peer pressure, taught her not to worry about what other people thought. “As a result, I had the courage, frankly, to not worry about the naysayers. I had the courage to really do what I thought was right.”

“I think the individual thought, the ability to think for yourself and the ability to push forward your ideas is incredibly important in an environment where there is so much of a tendency to do what everyone else does,” she said.

A pioneer in bringing hospitality and design into health care, a LGBTQ leader and the author of the book *Unconventional*



For the first Sloan Women in Healthcare Leadership Symposium, Nancy M. Schlichting provided a keynote address (above) and led a working group session (below).



*Leadership*, Schlichting is a highly regarded expert on strategic leadership, quality, cultural transformation, community-engagement innovation, and diversity. She was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. Schlichting also led the Henry Ford Health System, a \$5 billion health care organization with an estimated 27,000 employees, when it received the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

In June 2015, Schlichting was appointed by President Barack Obama to chair the Commission on Care. She testified before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans

Affairs on the findings and recommendations of the Commission Report in September 2016.

“We all have stories about why we’re doing this work,” Schlichting said. “How we bring that forward in our leadership in a way that is passionate, authentic, and inspiring to people is incredibly important.”

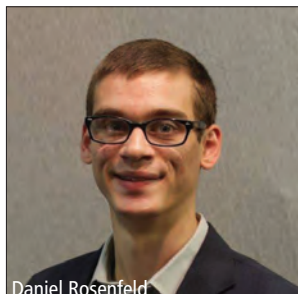
Schlichting encouraged her audience to “face the future, create the future, and make sure that you’re focused on what you want to see happen and then thinking through how best to achieve that – we have an incredible opportunity to really change the game.”

– Stephen D’Angelo

# Herbivorous SELF

Undergraduate student delves into the construct of vegetarian identity

Human Development undergraduate Daniel Rosenfeld '18 recently published a paper in the research journal *Appetite* with



Daniel Rosenfeld

faculty advisor Anthony Burrow, Assistant Professor of Human Development, which is the first of its kind to apply psychological theories of social identity to vegetarianism in an extensive manner.

"In recent years, a significant body of psychological research on vegetarianism has emerged, as plant-based diets are becoming increasingly prevalent," says Rosenfeld. "Ultimately, we argue that vegetarianism is not a diet but rather a self-perception – a way of understanding oneself."

Within this line of academia, researchers typically examine phenomena such as why people shift toward a plant-based diet or how vegetarianism affects people's social interactions. "This is the first paper to propose a thorough framework of vegetarianism as a social identity," says Rosenfeld. "Other works have alluded to the fact that vegetarianism contains certain components of what social identities are but have never provided this thorough framework. In our paper, Professor Burrow and I first propose a construct called 'Vegetarian Identity,' which captures the psychological sense in which people think, feel, and behave regarding being vegetarian."

Burrow and Rosenfeld's research proposes a Unified Model of Vegetarian Identity, which encompasses ten dimensions organized into three levels – contextual, internalized,

and externalized – that capture the role of vegetarianism in how people think about, evaluate, and perceive themselves. Together, these dimensions form a coherent vegetarian identity, characterizing one's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors regarding being vegetarian.

"This is a theoretical piece, and in psychology, theoretical pieces are meant to inform future research of approaching new research questions with new perspectives," says Rosenfeld. "We conclude by highlighting many ways in which future research can utilize this framework to address knowledge gaps. We hope that this theory can give researchers new questions to ask and new variables to study, including new ways of being able to organize what they've already been studying, into these organized variables."

Rosenfeld's research and publication journey began in the fall of his sophomore year, when he took a course taught by Burrow on racial and ethnic identity development. In that course, he learned what social identity is and how race fits into it.

"We learned that race is not simply a product of your biology, but rather that it has many socially constructed aspects," says Rosenfeld. "Given those theories of social identity and the frameworks for studying race as an identity, I started to notice parallels between the study of race identity and how I hear myself, my family, and my friends reflect on being vegetarian."

When Rosenfeld decided to become a vegetarian two-years prior, he thought it would be an insignificant thing. Quickly, he realized that many others in his life believed that choice had larger significance.

"What inspired a lot of the paper and my own research now is the stigma I hear about from so many of my friends and family who

are vegetarian," he says. "Stories about a colleague or a friend on the receiving end of a remark or little jab that happens every day – these can really lead people to feel as if their food choices define them."

Intrigued by the subject of social identity and personality, Rosenfeld decided to join Burrow's lab as an opportunity to be introduced to conducting research, learn what cutting-edge work was ongoing in the field, and see how vegetarianism could fit into the lab's arena of study.

From an academic and research perspective, he began applying to vegetarianism some of the frameworks for studying race he had learned in Burrow's class and started to form a theory. One afternoon, he met with Burrow to discuss the vegetarianism as an identity.

"Dr. Burrow was supportive and encouraged me to apply for a Human Ecology Summer Research Stipend," Rosenfeld says. "He was incredible throughout the process and was there whenever I needed him, as well as the Human Ecology community, the lab's graduate students, and senior undergrads who provided feedback that helped me put it all together."

Rosenfeld's application was successful. Upon receiving the stipend, he was able to spend the summer pursuing this project and ultimately producing his first published research paper. Now, Rosenfeld has taken on a leadership role as a manager in Burrow's lab, furthering his own work as well as that of his peers. He hopes to make progress toward "turning this theory into actual empirical evidence with Dr. Burrow before I graduate next year, spending the summer here doing research."

– Stephen D'Angelo







Human Ecology students, staff, and faculty continue setting the pace for sustainability efforts across the University.

# Leaner and GREENER

CHE's Ambassadors lead sustainability at Cornell

Almost three years ago, Human Ecology students, staff, and faculty launched a grass roots campaign to conserve campus resources. Since then, Green Ambassadors have led multiple endeavors to promote a culture of sustainability across the College and University through projects that impact environmental sustainability.

## Food Sustainers

The lights in the lab cast a purple glow around the closed hallway door and out the windows of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall. The luminosity comes from an indoor agriculture lab where Schuyler Duffy, a graduate student in Design + Environmental Analysis, is prototyping computational control systems, sustainable materials, and form factors for indoor agriculture – a joint venture with his peers in Fiber Science & Apparel Design.

The lights are ultra-efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), the life source of Duffy's thesis project examining the creation of viable food production systems in the confined space of a tractor trailer. The test crop is basil and was enjoyed as fresh pesto during the Winter Blues and Greens sessions sponsored by Human Ecology's

Green Ambassadors, which includes Duffy, as part of the College of Human Ecology Food Sustainers (CHEF) series.

The CHEF series, which features "recipes to tempt your palate and research to engage your mind," is one homegrown example of how the Green Ambassadors continue to lead sustainability efforts in the Cornell community. According to CHEF organizer, Marianne Arcangeli, "The presenters are faculty or staff who see the bigger picture when it comes to food, nutrition, and sustainability."

## Water Conservation

In response to Ithaca's drought last summer, activities during the fall semester included taking steps to save water. According to Jeff Surine, facilities coordinator at Human Ecology, "Our water usage analysis led us to the research labs where every day we produce a couple of hundred gallons of processed water for use in experiments. We worked with the researchers to fine-tune their usage, and we have also recommissioned two pieces of mechanical equipment to improve efficiency. Both efforts have delivered savings at a time when the University needed it."

In addition to these improvements, the College rolled out rain barrel water collection in the spring for use in the natural dye garden. "Using rain water helps lower the College's water demand and makes the natural dye garden even more sustainable," says Denise Green, Professor of Fiber Science & Apparel Design.

## Green Initiative

When the Green Labs & Office initiative was rolled out at Cornell in 2014, CHE was responsible for 28 of the 75 new certifications across the entire university, with 24 Green Offices and four Green Labs. Three years later, says Kristie Mahoney, Director of Facilities in Human Ecology, "It's time to recertify 18 of the 24 Green Offices in Human Ecology. We're partnering with Plant Science to offer each unit a live plant that will help clean the air. The plants look good, improve air quality, and support certification by earning an additional point."

According to Kim Anderson, Cornell's Sustainability Engagement Manager, the initiative "is the kind of continued innovation that makes Human Ecology a leader in sustainability on the campus."

## Saving Energy

Last December, the College participated in the University's energy-saving competition. "The Energy Smack-Down has led to a greater awareness around the College of how to do more with less," says Trudy Radcliff, Green Ambassador. "As a result, we've reduced our overall year-over-year electrical use by almost 14 percent since 2014!"

## Upcycle Recycle

"Second Life," an exhibit of upcycled and recycled art and clothing, was held for the first time this spring.

"We chose to open up the exhibit to both upcycled clothing and upcycled art after the success of last year's sustainability and clothing exhibit," says Karen Steffy, a Green Ambassador and PhD candidate in Fiber Science & Apparel Design. Students, staff, faculty, and local artists contributed pieces to the exhibit.

– Stephen D'Angelo

# Career MILESTONES

FSAD faculty are honored by international trade association



Susan Ashdown

Fifteen years ago, Susan Ashdown MA '89 received a gift from an alumna that would change the trajectory of her research: a donation to help purchase a 3-D scanner for Cornell.

Until then, Ashdown, the Helen G. Canoyer Professor of Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD), had been using a tape measure, taking at least 45 minutes to get information about a person's size and shape. A 3-D scanner, however, could generate a measurable full

image of the body within 12 seconds.

"Having a body scanner really made a difference," says Ashdown, adding that Cornell was the second university in the country to purchase one for apparel research. "We developed an international reputation, and it's grown from that one instrument."

Ashdown, an expert on using technology to create better sizing options in apparel, was honored for 25 years of work when she was named an International Textile and Apparel Association Fellow at the ITAA's annual conference in November. The honor is the highest award given by the ITAA, a professional and educational association for the textile, apparel, and merchandising disciplines in higher education.

At the same conference, Jooyoung Shin, an Assistant Professor of Fiber Science & Apparel Design at Cornell, received the 2016 ITAA Award for Innovative Design Scholarship for her work "Oneness," a dress that combines Eastern and Western cultural perspectives toward fashion.

"I was very proud because this was my first achievement after joining Fiber Science & Apparel Design," says Shin, who was participating in the ITAA competition for the first time. "I was thrilled to have my work recognized by peers from all over the world."

Shin, who began teaching at Cornell last year, has conducted research on fashion and the concept of beauty, contemporary fashion trends, and the study of different cultural perspectives on dress. In addition to her academic research, Shin is a lifelong fashion designer and has had two solo exhibitions of her work.

"Oneness" examines how differing perspectives in Eastern and Western cultures have affected fashion design. The black-and-white dress, which reflects the complementary relationship between yin and yang, features a two-dimensional, one-legged trouser and a three-dimensional gathered skirt.

Ashdown, who has taught at Cornell since 1991, has recently begun pioneering the use of half-scale dress forms that allow manufacturers to use smaller models for clothing design. While teaching an apparel class, Ashdown found it was effective for students to develop patterns using a mannequin that was half as tall and half as wide as the typical dress form, saving material and development time. Patterns can then be scaled up using a CAD system.

Recently she has been working with Alvanon, a Hong Kong-based dress form and consulting company, on adopting the half-scale dress forms for use by the apparel industry. "In a busy apparel company, you just don't have the luxury of using full dress forms," Ashton says. "These half-scale forms could be very useful."

Ashdown, who is retiring in two years, says she was pleased that at the same ITAA conference where she was named an ITAA Fellow, her new colleague received a major award. "It is always hard to leave a job and a department that you love," she says, "but I am confident that the wonderful young faculty joining the department will develop great programs and research in their own way."

— Sherrie Negrea



Jooyoung Shin

# Courting SUCCESS

Dual degree combines law and psychology

For two Human Ecology students, an important judicial anniversary offered the chance to meet some of the top legal minds in the nation.

Amelia Hritz and Caisa Royer, students in the PhD/JD program in Developmental Psychology and Law, worked on the team that published a special issue of the *Cornell Law Review* commemorating the 125th anniversary of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit.

"It was a fascinating opportunity to learn how these famous legal minds made their careers and came to have such influence over legal policy," says Royer, who supervised work on the issue as special projects editor.

The court is considered one of the most influential in the United States, offering

the final decision on hundreds of federal cases each year and setting precedent that influences policy nationwide. The commemorative issue of the *Cornell Law Review* included an in-depth biography of every judge who has served on the court, including three who went on to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hritz and Royer also met current and former judges, having dinner with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "She was incredibly gracious," Hritz says.

The PhD/JD dual-degree program brings together Cornell's top researchers in psychology and law to train the next generation of legal scholars. Over the course of six years, students conduct research and earn their joint degrees. Since its inception

five years ago, about a dozen students have entered the program.

They experience a unique education in a rapidly growing field, according to Charles Brainerd, Professor and Chair of Human Development and the program's lead creator. "By having a law degree, students are able to do research in psychology that is very deeply informed and connected to the law," he says. In addition, a robust understanding of the psychology of memory, judgment, and decision-making enhances their ability to practice law.

"Working at the intersection of psychology and law requires training in both areas," says Stephen Ceci, the Helen L. Carr Professor of Developmental Psychology and one of the founders of the program. "In order to ask and



# Cool and COMFORTABLE

Park and Donelan publish their work on thermal design

Just a few months after graduation, Caroline Donelan '16 celebrated another important achievement. The Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD) student published her first academic paper, which appeared in the September/October issue of *AATCC Journal of Research*, issued by the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC). The article, "Evaluation of Cooling Garments for Improved Design and Thermal Comfort Based on Thermal Manikin Tests," draws on research conducted in the summer following her sophomore year under the guidance of co-author and FSAD Assistant Professor Huiju Park.

While Donelan's focus is on apparel design, a passion she has been nurturing since second grade, she knew coming into Cornell that she wanted to take advantage of everything the department had to offer. "A big draw for me to the FSAD program was that it's not just an art school," she says. "We also have opportunities to do research and learn more about the materials we work with."

She successfully applied for a Human Ecology Undergraduate Research Program summer stipend and turned to FSAD's thermal manikin, Walter, to analyze how three types of passive cooling vests – evaporative, conductive, and phase change – perform over time and under different environmental conditions. Invented by department chair Jintu Fan, Vincent V.C. Woo Professor in Fiber Science & Apparel Design and Director of Cornell Institute of Fashion and Fiber Innovation, the manikin uses heaters and pumps to circulate water under a sweating skin of breathable fabric, simulating the human body's thermal regulatory function.

Walter provided Donelan and Park with data on evaporative resistance (how garments transport moisture through the fabric surface) and thermal insulation (how warm or cool the garment is) that allow for an objective rating of cooling technologies frequently

used in protective clothing. "There are many claims about cooling effects and perception, but until now there hasn't been a way for consumers to rate or compare different technologies without depending totally on human perception," Park says.

Donelan continued to analyze data and work on a formal paper throughout the following year, setting aside time from her regular coursework. "Writing a research paper as an undergraduate is tough stuff, and it's rare," Park acknowledges. "During the review process, we sometimes got very challenging questions, but I was very impressed with Caroline's positive attitude, patience, and persistence." Her effort was rewarded not only with the paper's acceptance for publication but also with a fourth place finish in the AATCC's Herman & Myrtle Goldstein Student Paper Competition.

Donelan's work with Park also piqued her interest in sportswear, which culminated in a senior thesis project designing more comfortable track uniforms and, most recently, in a position as a technical developer at Nike in Beaverton, Oregon. "The research that I've done helps me think differently about the materials we use and all the features that go into the apparel that we wear," Donelan says.

Park considers such a full-picture perspective a major strength in his former student – and the department from which she graduated. "Caroline always wants to understand scientifically why a design impacts the wearer in a certain way," says Park. "That's what makes Cornell FSAD strong – this very active collaboration between the two areas within the department. It's very meaningful to see an undergraduate design student publish a paper in a scientific journal. Caroline shows our strength through her work."

– Olivia M. Hall



Caroline Donelan



Huiju Park

answer a legally important research question, you must understand the inner workings of the judicial system."

The exposure to world-class researchers in the Department of Human Development and Cornell Law School provides an education like no other, explains John Blume, the Samuel F. Leibowitz Professor of Trial Techniques and Director of Clinical, Advocacy, and Skills Program at Cornell Law.

"Caixa and Amelia have had the opportunity to work with faculty in both departments on a number of groundbreaking projects at the intersection of law and psychology, the results of which have been published in top law journals," he says. "The program prepares students to be engaged legal scholars."

Hritz, who served as editor-in-chief of the *Law Review* this year, believes the program uniquely prepares students to focus on publishing, requiring them to complete two years of study toward a doctorate degree in psychology before starting law school full-time.

"The experience of working first on my PhD gave me a leg up when I started law school because I had already collaborated with faculty members and published in journals on these topics," she says. "I love the idea of doing research that has practical applications in the law because there is the opportunity for the research to influence what is happening in courts."

– Sheri Hall



Hritz, Sotamayor, and Royer

# Fashion FORWARD

FSAD undergrad wins coveted industry scholarship

“When I won, I felt like the wind was knocked out of me. I could barely stand,” said Joanne Kim ’17 upon hearing she had received the \$10,000 Geoffrey Beene National Scholarship as part of the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund. “I immediately shared the news with my mom and then reveled in the moment with everyone who helped me along the way.”

The YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, established nearly 80 years ago, strives to advance the fashion industry by encouraging talented, creative young people to pursue careers in the field. The 2017 Geoffrey Beene Scholarship case studies focused on the fashion industry’s impact on the environment and required students to create a sustainability program that not only fit the objectives of a mass retailer but also impacted the greater fashion industry.

“I chose to work off Walmart’s sustainability program by rebranding their women’s clothing line, ‘No Boundaries,’ and ultimately creating a program that could be integrated into the rest of the retailer’s production,” Kim says. “It was also important for me to address the company’s business plan, as they were seeking a shift in their brand perception and looking to focus on revenue coming in from their clothing sector. As a result, the plan I created addressed the strict regulations needed to be considered environmentally sustainable while capturing the market share needed to stay sustainable within the competitive landscape.”

Kim took her place within the glitz and glamor of the fashion world at the Fashion Scholarship Fund’s 2017 Awards Gala, which took place on Jan. 12 at New York City’s Grand Hyatt Hotel, with over 1,300 people in attendance, including celebrities and leading apparel industry executives.

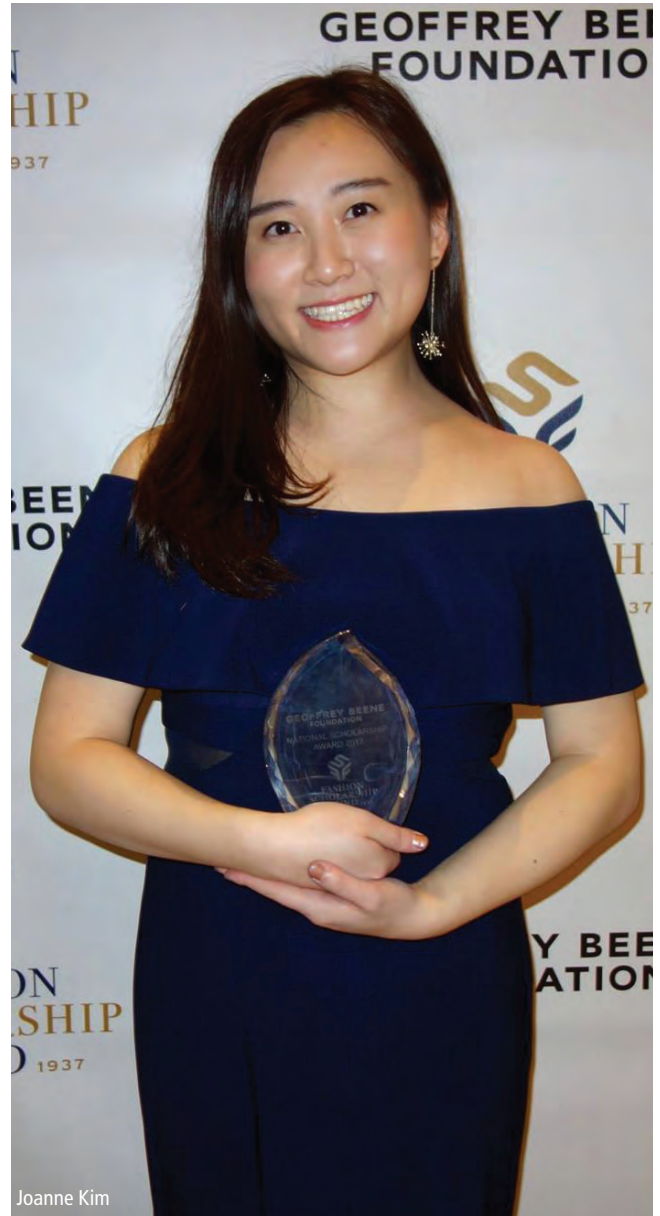
“It was frankly unreal to be able to share such a serendipitous night with both the current leaders of the fashion industry as well as the future leaders,” Kim says. “Although most of the scholars and I only met that week, we quickly got close after sharing stories of our hard work and unavoidable stress. What we had thought was a lonely and difficult road was being shared with seven others who knew exactly how we were feeling – it was an honor to

share that stage with those women and a blessing to now call them my friends.”

Those in attendance included Professor Tasha Lewis from Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD), who was Kim’s advisor during the project. “These events bring visibility to our students’ talent and to the FSAD program,” says Lewis, who serves as co-advisor to the FSAD students in the case competition. “FSAD students have been successfully competing and winning awards from the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund in the past and hopefully will continue to do so into the future, as Cornell’s FSAD is consistently ranked as one of the top-winning universities out of over 200 schools.”

Along with Kim’s achievement, eight of her FSAD peers were awarded \$5,000 scholarships at the ceremony for their winning case study submissions analyzing the recent partnership between Etsy and Macy’s. “YMA is very high-profile and this event is well attended by leaders in fashion industry,” says Lewis. “It also offers a very strong mentorship program for students throughout the year and allows them to network with potential employers.”

According to Kim, who will join the Estée Lauder Companies in their Presidential Associates Program, her time at both FSAD and CHE have provided her with the knowledge and experience for a future in fashion. “When I first applied to CHE for the FSAD program, I made it clear that I needed to be in this program because it uniquely offers its students the education, tools, and expectation to become the next leaders of the fashion industry,” she says.



Joanne Kim

“I knew that I wanted exposure, not only to the fashion industry but to every living and stationary part that would impact the market’s fluctuations. Cornell was the only university to offer me that opportunity and diversity, and it’s Cornell that has prepared me to enter the industry today.

“There were many schools represented at the YMA FSF Gala, and fewer chosen for the Geoffrey Beene Scholarship,” continues Kim. “It was an honor to represent Cornell.”

– Stephen D’Angelo



# Real World EXPERIENCE

CIPA capstone projects foster change near and far

Students and faculty packed the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA) capstone reception on Dec. 5 to view poster presentations by graduate students who spent the semester developing recommendations for real-world clients.

The projects are made possible through Cornell's relationships with domestic and international NGOs and governmental organizations. Each student group chose a client, and through in-depth interviews, field studies, and survey data, collaborated to create meaningful solutions.

"Our client provided a wide array of resources that the CIPA capstone team took full advantage of when we initiated our research," said Michael Foley, MPA '17. The collaboration allowed students to join ongoing efforts and help in the process of figuring out what is most needed in the communities they aim to serve.

Projects ranged from developing reintegration strategies for child soldiers in Uganda to improving funding for

the Ithaca Health Alliance, a community-based health care cooperative. Some of the international projects involved agricultural communities facing economic and environmental challenges, and students worked to find solutions to revitalize development and growth. Others focused on analyzing policies already in place, such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program in New York City, to provide recommendations for further implementation. While the subject matter spanned government and environmental policy to nonprofit management, the projects all displayed an in-depth understanding of their focus populations and the issues at hand.

Capstone students repeatedly remarked on how much they enjoyed working on real-world problems and spoke of the satisfaction they gained from being engaged in current



policy issues. "Since it's a professional masters, this type of applied work experience is very important to us," said Ana Alvarez Vijil, a teaching assistant for the capstone course.

The capstone experience epitomizes CIPA's goal of complementing students' solid academic preparation with hands-on, practical experiences. "CIPA courses give you more of a holistic perspective," said Arpit Chaturvedi, MPA '18. "It's basically training your brain to approach different policy issues."

— Rebecca Jackson

## Applied LEARNING

CIPA launches an infrastructure fellows program

This past fall, CIPA launched a new Infrastructure Project Management and Finance (IPMF) Fellows Program for CIPA students. Spearheaded by CIPA Core Faculty member Rick Geddes, Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and by CIPA Visiting Lecturer John Foote, the program is modeled after CIPA's existing Environmental Finance and Impact Investment (EFII) Fellows Program.

Following several years of teaching courses on infrastructure management, regulation, and finance, Foote and Geddes proposed an applied experience for CIPA students to focus their MPA intensively on current and emerging infrastructure and transportation issues.

Developed and taught by Foote, the first practicum for IPMF was launched over winter break. It focused on the Brooklyn Queens Connector (BQX), a proposed \$2.5 billion streetcar line that would operate on a north-south route along the East River between Queens and Brooklyn. Eleven students spent a week in New York City in early January

learning more about the project. Their schedule included a mix of presentations by speakers across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, as well as field visits to key sites in the BQX project.

"It was a great opportunity for our students to see a complex project that is still in the planning stage and to think about the challenges associated with and strategies needed to implement the project," said Foote.

Students enrolled in the practicum spent spring semester looking back on the field study experience, critically analyzing the inputs involved in the planning process, and developing a report that offers recommendations for the project moving forward.

"This type of engaged learning experience exemplifies where I believe CIPA and the College of Human Ecology are headed, in terms of connecting students to real projects



that improve people's lives," said CIPA Executive Director Tom O'Toole. "The older pedagogical model of having students wait until they've entered the workforce to solve real problems is increasingly falling by the wayside. Practicums like this provide students with the opportunity to leverage each other's strengths, as well as the strengths of CIPA and the College, to positively impact their communities."

— Lisa Jervey Lennox

# A Colorful FUTURE

The Cornell Natural Dye Garden promotes a greener fashion supply chain

After a successful crowdfunding campaign that ended this past fall, efforts to develop sustainable approaches to textile and fashion design have led to the development of the Cornell Natural Dye Garden.

With a goal of \$8,500, the project raised \$10,365 for the garden, which will produce a variety of colors for textiles and have a lower environmental impact than synthetic dyes.

"We know that synthetic dyes cause incredible environmental harm and pollute waterways," says Denise Green, Assistant Professor of Fiber Science & Design Apparel (FSAD). "Human health is also impacted, particularly for laborers in the textile dyeing industries."

According to organizers, up to 200,000 tons of synthetic dyes are discharged into waterways around the globe every year, making textile dye plants the second largest polluter of water.

In many developing nations where textiles are produced, workers may not be properly protected from the toxic chemicals used to dye fibers and fabrics, making synthetic dyes hazardous to both environmental and human health, Green says.

By contrast, natural dyes are non-toxic to the environment, though it is recommended by experts to never use a dye plant until users have done their research and know that it is non-poisonous to humans or animals.

Some of these dye plants also have the ability to grow well without herbicides or fungicides. "We believe natural dyes are an opportunity to make a sustainable intervention in the apparel supply chain," says



After a successful test planting in 2015, the Cornell Natural Dye Garden moved to its new home in the courtyard between Martha Van Rensselaer Hall and the Human Ecology Building in 2016. The plants from the dye garden have been used by students and members of the community alike. From fashion design projects to paint gallery exhibitions, the garden has produced everyday plants that have created incredible colors and transformations.

Green.

In May 2015, Green, in collaboration with fellow FSAD

faculty and students, as well as Human Ecology Facilities Services and Cornell Plantations

staff, planted a test garden of natural dye plants within garden beds at the northeast corner of the Human Ecology building overlooking Beebe Lake.

"That success led us to the idea to put the garden in a place that's more accessible for students and more visible in terms of our college life," says Green.

In Spring 2016, Green and her students moved the garden to a plot located in the courtyard between Martha Van Rensselaer Hall and the Human Ecology Building. The relocation of the garden allows students and faculty to grow a wider array of dye plants to be used in teaching and research.

"The new location is highly visible," says Green, adding that further plans are in place to add educational signage for the Summer 2017 growing season.

"Signage means that the garden won't just be beautiful to look at and valuable as a natural dye resource, but it will also be an opportunity to educate students, staff, and the public about the plants we are growing and the range of colors they yield."

Beyond working on projects, Green hopes that the garden will have deep and long-lasting impacts on FSAD students when they graduate and begin their careers in the manufacturing and fashion industries.

"Our hope is they become conscientious citizens of the world who think about the impact that their design will have on the environment, on human health, and on many people that we don't often think about when we consume fashion," she says.

— Stephen D'Angelo



# Smart FOOD

Anabel's Grocery strives to create food equity on campus



**"We ran through a lot of ideas, such as food pantries, subsidized meal swipe programs, and meal-sharing programs that have worked well in other schools."**

—Adam Shelepak '17,  
Sloan MHA '18

"The core Human Ecology mission is problem-solving and really engaging with the world," says Adam Shelepak '17, Sloan MHA '18. "That is the framework for how we are applying our work to Anabel's Grocery."

The mission of Anabel's, according to Shelepak, who acts as co-director of the project, is to operate a student-run grocery store on the Cornell campus, addressing the issue of student food insecurity by providing healthy, affordable food and improved food literacy.

The student team behind Anabel's Grocery, representing all seven of Cornell's schools, envisions a campus where all students have access to affordable and high-quality food without having to sacrifice their studies due to hunger or lack of nutrition.

"From an academic perspective, CHE has taught me about social inequality and community health," says Shelepak. "Classes

such as Population Health with Professor [Julie] Carmalt really got me thinking about how the world interacts with health and nutrition. Simultaneously, we were observing issues with the food pantries on campus, learning about peers using them more and more, and hearing anecdotes about students skipping meals. From there, the idea of the grocery store came out."

Food insecurity is a very real issue at campuses across the country, evidenced by more than 20 percent of students skipping meals due to financial constraints, according to a Cornell Perceptions of Undergraduate Life and Student Experiences (PULSE) survey.

The team behind Anabel's hopes to curb this trend through low-cost options and subsidies for those who qualify.

"We ran through a lot of ideas, such as food pantries, subsidized meal swipe programs, and meal-sharing programs that have worked well in other schools,"

Shelepak says. "Ultimately, we decided on this model." At Anabel's, students who demonstrate the highest need, whether through access or finances, will be able to apply a subsidy at checkout, receiving an estimated 8 to 10 percent discount on their purchases.

"A fund for the subsidy will be generated and sustained through a small mark-up across a basket of goods for non-subsidized customers," he says. "This fits into the equity aspect of the store."

Anabel's, which is scheduled to open this summer, prides itself on being more than just a grocery store. According to Shelepak, the team understands that food access is only one barrier. Other barriers, such as a lack of access to adequate cookware and knowledge about cooking, budgeting, or nutrition, can impact a student's diet.

"We wanted to ensure we had an impact outside of just being a grocery store," he says. "During the time we've been planning and waiting for the store to be completed, the team has been able to make an impact through programming, with roundtables on food security, cooking classes at the MVR cooking labs, and meal kit builds for when dining halls are closed over breaks. This programming, education, and subsidy components of Anabel's are innovative compared to what is currently going on with solutions on campuses nationally. If we can set a precedent, that would be good."

Anabel's, which is a project of the Center for Transformative Action, is also in Cornell's course curriculum for applied learning.

In the new Applied Economics and Management course "Social Entrepreneurship Practicum: Anabel's Grocery," students learn social entrepreneurship by working with grocers, taking lessons taught in the classroom and applying them directly to Anabel's. From concepts in food insecurity and social ventures to supply chains and financial management, students are immersed in applied learning.

"We're trying to advocate for a better system," says Shelepak, "a system that students can access more efficiently and effectively."

—Stephen D'Angelo

# MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IMPACT



Dan Lichter

## Faculty shines in cross-college, cross- campus collaboration

By Sheri Hall, Wendy Hankle,  
and H. Roger Segelken

**“Y**ou know what they say?” asks Dan Lichter. “They say innovation occurs at the intersection – the blurry space – between different disciplines.”

“They” being all the faculty researchers and students Lichter has worked with over the years, spread across the constellation of centers and institutes he’s headed. Like the original Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center (now the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research), the Cornell Population Center, and lately, the Institute for Social Sciences.

“At Cornell, centers are where you

draw in information and ideas from other disciplines,” says Lichter, Human Ecology’s Ferris Family Professor of Policy Analysis and Management, with a Sociology appointment in the College of Arts and Sciences. “You might express ideas in the language of your own discipline. But you’re building bridges across different parts of the sciences. Collaborative research is how we learn from each other, how we draw on our comparative strengths in research and teaching so that we produce a better product.”

“Product” being both innovations and well-rounded students. One innovative





example comes from the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), where a cross-section of faculty researchers and MPA students are collaborating with Bassett Healthcare to investigate a question: Can school-based health centers in rural districts educate and serve parents, students, and pre-schoolers?

In addition to centers and institutes, the college's laboratory groups and research programs are important nodes in the ever-growing network of collaboration, according to Rachel Dunifon, Human Ecology's Associate Dean for Research and Outreach. A Professor of Policy Analysis and Management with a collaborative research program of her own, Dunifon points to studies like John Cawley's investigation of risky health behaviors and Keith Green's exploration of interactive and adaptive environments.

"If you think nanotechnology belongs in Engineering," Dunifon continues, "you should see the work of Human Ecology faculty researchers like Juan Hinestroza, Anil Netravali, Margaret Frey, and Jintu Fan. Paul Soloway is a biologist in Nutritional Sciences, but his innovative work wouldn't be possible without engineering collaborators in nanobiotechnology."

Then there are the university-wide opportunities for collaboration. Tasha Lewis' home department might be Fiber Science & Apparel Design (FSAD), but her research interest in sustainability depends on connections she makes through Cornell's Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future.

Eve De Rosa, a faculty member in Human Development, almost turned down a Big Red recruiting pitch. Luckily, she remembered a first impression of Cornell while guest-

lecturing here from another university. "There was so much palpable, collaborative energy and creativity here," De Rosa says. "That's what attracted me to Cornell."

## Rural Matters

No one was more surprised than Dan Lichter, a sociologist in Policy Analysis and Management (PAM) with a lifelong scholarly interest in rural America, when Donald J. Trump's Electoral College edge came from rural America.

Surprised – not because the populist candidate's message resonated with so many dissatisfied voters – but that it took pollsters, pundits, and political strategists so long to recognize that rural America still matters.

"Rural America came out to bite urban America in this last election," says Lichter, PAM's Ferris Family Professor and Director of the Institute for Social Sciences (ISS), "because we ignored rural people and communities for so long."

Rural America is made up primarily of older, white, religious, working class people, who often view themselves as "real Americans," adds Lichter, whose observations come from studying poor communities in Appalachia and the farm belt. "It was overwhelmingly a Trump base that even the pollsters missed."

So it was with some satisfaction, as Congressional committees reorganized in January, for Lichter to get a call from the House Ways and Means Committee. The committee has a new chairman, Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the caller explained, and in light of election results and where their chairman calls home, they needed to bone up on "rural issues."

Lichter had just returned from a conference where economists, political scientists, sociologists, and demographers discussed the "new urban-rural interface," and he gave the staffer some sense of the urgent problems facing many rural communities. It was a rare chance for a policy-oriented academic to be heard in Washington – with extra points to the staffer whose congressional district, stretching from Houston to the Great Piney Wood, is a textbook example of rural-meets-urban.

Lichter says he came to Cornell because this Land Grant institution takes rural matters more seriously than most other universities – not just in Human Ecology, which began as Home Economics to help farm wives and families, but in Cornell social scientists' concern with rural development and the agricultural and environmental scientists who are stewards of the nation's natural resources. That's where Lichter finds his inspiration and collaborators.

He thinks the thematic projects of the Institute for Social Sciences – including the fate of the deferred-action DREAMers, effects of mass incarceration on minority communities, and the economic transformation of China – would never have gotten off the ground without multidisciplinary involvement from every corner of the campus.

Students from multiple majors take Lichter's "tool-kit course" on population issues and public policy, Demographic Techniques. They might be excused for regarding the 2016 election, with its so-called white backlash, as ancient history when they hear his projection: "Today, the majority of births in the United States are

to minorities. By 2043, whites will be in the minority. What does that mean for politics? What does that mean for what it means to be an American?"

## Second Acts

We've all been there. That favorite pair of old jeans. Your first concert T-shirt. Proudly worn 10 years ago, but now skulking around in the back of the closet. It's painful to think of parting with a beloved piece of personal history, and those of us who send those clothes off to new horizons might be surprised to learn that the majority are not being worn proudly by a new owner – they're adorning a landfill.

"We're only recycling or converting about 16 percent of our unwanted clothing and textiles," says Tasha Lewis, Assistant Professor in FSAD. "Not everything has a life as another wearable garment."

Enter the "fiberizer," a machine conceptualized by Lewis and her Fiber Science colleague, Anil Netravali, as part of their broader effort to turn post-consumer textile waste into new products. The fiberizer does just what it sounds like: chews up fabric and reduces it to a refined fiber product. Lewis' work explores ways to repurpose this material to create new things: a mattress; a chair; floor tiles; a growing medium for hydroponic plants; a piece of art.

"It's a little more thoughtful in terms of the sensitivity to the attachment that we have to our clothing," she says. "People can have an idea that their clothing still has value even though they're done with it."

Lewis took a prototype fiberizer to Washington, D.C., in 2014. She'd already received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to build it and was vying for funds to expand her work. She came up empty, but two years later landed a one-year grant from the Walmart Foundation, which provided funding for a bigger, better fiberizer along with resources to fold more students into the effort to create meaningful outcomes for meaningful garments.

"I'd love to see this as a full-on manufacturing process," Lewis says. "You'd bring us all your old clothes, and we make you something on demand. Your clothing has a second life because it still has value to you."

Collaboration has marked Lewis's research, which involves students from areas including mechanical engineering, design and environmental analysis, and fashion design.

"Everybody complements one another and brings knowledge that helps all of us go further," she says.

## Disaster Recovery

When the headlines fade, emergency



responders return home, and the water-wielding celebrities move on, victims of natural disasters and their impoverished communities are all too often forgotten.

At the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), people remember the lessons learned when university students and staffers tried to foster sustainable recovery in the neglected 9th Ward of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. "We had another chance in Nepal," says CIPA Director and Professor of Policy Analysis Sharon Tennyson, referring to the April 2015 Gorkha earthquake that killed and injured thousands. "We're trying to develop a social mobilization model for sustainable recovery in the months and years after natural disasters, wherever they may occur."

Tennyson envisions ever-changing partnerships between Cornell experts and students, depending on the needs of different stricken communities. Cornell involvement in recovery efforts for Nepal's remote ridge communities, where earthquake survivors struggled in desperate isolation while the eyes of the world were on Kathmandu, has become a pilot for such partnerships.

Decades of anthropological fieldwork had given Kathryn March a deep understanding of Nepali culture. The earthquake gave the scholar, now a Professor Emerita in the College of Arts and Sciences, a reason to act. She returned to Nepal, working closely with one ridge community to determine their needs and capabilities to gather resources and move forward.

March assembled students from CIPA and City and Regional Planning (CRP) to form the Cornell-Nepal Earthquake Recovery Partnership (CNERP). The university offered specialized coursework to support student planning of recovery projects, and Nepali community representatives traveled to Cornell to consult. Last summer, when March returned to Nepal, she brought along a cadre of well-prepared Cornell students.

When the students identified a need for sustainable income-generating projects, March organized training for community members in earthquake-resistant rebuilding. Community members said they needed to restore water irrigation systems, so Monroe Weber-Shirk, Senior Lecturer in Cornell's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was recruited to the recovery





Phyukhri Ridge, Nepal, community members with Cornell-Nepal Earthquake Recovery Partnership (CNERP) graduate student group members, CIPA Director Sharon Tennyson, and Professor Emerita Kathryn March.

partnership. To reinforce the roof of one community center, March turned to the “Triakonta” structural systems of Design + Environmental Analysis Associate Professor Jack Elliott, and now one of Elliott’s PhD students has Nepal on her radar.

With the vast and varied academic expertise at Cornell – from historic preservation to civil and structural engineering, disaster-vulnerability assessment and resilience analysis, anthropology, area studies, community engagement, and policy analysis – Tennyson imagines great possibilities for assembling Cornell dream teams in the future. To promote the concept, CIPA has supported the work in Nepal and is developing other engagement opportunities in disaster management. Coursework is being revamped to teach public policy, project-management, and community-engagement problems around disasters. Tennyson and Keith Tidball, Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, are revitalizing a faculty working group on disaster-recovery partnerships.

“The recovery phase is a big gap in disaster response,” Tennyson says. “The sustainable recovery model we’re proposing creates partnerships to help communities organize themselves to rebuild and to become even more resilient to disasters in the future.”

## Dwelling in Possibility

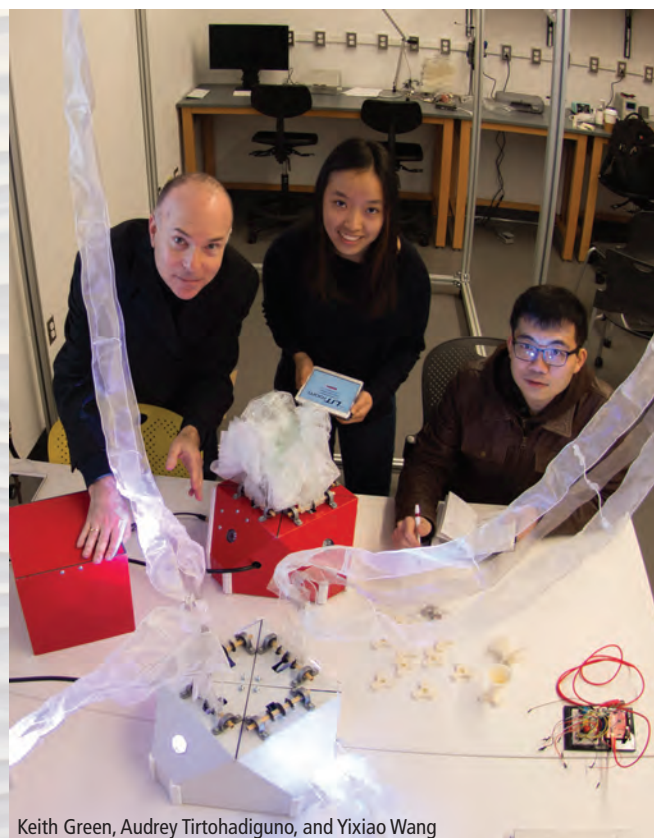
Keith Green often feels like he’s working in a foreign land – and that’s the way he likes it.

The Design + Environmental Analysis (DEA) faculty member is pioneering a new field called architectural robotics that combines the disciplines of engineering, architecture, and psychology to design and build interactive environments. The idea is to create rooms and furnishings that physically reconfigure to accommodate the dynamics of human beings.

Green, who joined the College of Human

“I’m basically designing spaces that can change with people to enable them to do things or to reduce their suffering. They are places of possibility.”

– Keith Green



Keith Green, Audrey Tirtohadiguno, and Yixiao Wang

Ecology in August, holds a joint appointment in Cornell’s Sibley School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (MAE). Last year, he also wrote a book, *Architectural Robotics* (MIT Press) documenting this next frontier in technology.

Forging collaborations with researchers from this broad range of disciplines, Green has helped develop groundbreaking spaces and tools, many with funding from the National Science Foundation. His major projects include an animated work environment that supports teamwork, a robotic room that helps kids engage with picture books, and a living space that allows older adults and health care patients to function with more independence.

Green was drawn to the interdisciplinary nature of DEA, as well as to the opportunity to build a team of researchers focused on the intersection between design, technology and psychology. This year, his classes – Human Centered Design Methods and Interactive and Adaptive Environments – have attracted a broad mix of students from engineering, computer and information sciences, design, and more.

Green holds degrees in design, architecture, and psychology, but he has forged key collaborations and built a knowledge base in robotics and computer science. “When I started down this path years ago, I had done enough sitting in my office on my own. I wanted to explore

something new and keep learning,” he says. “Over time, you become something of the other disciplines. I’ve absorbed a lot of robotics and human factors psychology. When I show up to certain conferences, they don’t have any idea I have an architecture degree. They think I have training in engineering and computer science.”

The key, he says, is to be willing to take risks and learn from your collaborators. “To collaborate in this way, you have to be comfortable in your own skin, and you have to find partners who are willing to work on something that is a little blurry, a project that you can’t quite predict the outcome.”

Green prefers to work on projects where each collaborator breaks new ground in his or her own field. “It’s not that other researchers are just helping out,” he says. “I want everyone’s contributions to hold up in their specific domains. We don’t want to find the lowest common denominator. We want to find something that propels us forward.”

Prominently on the desktop of Green’s laptop is the poem “I dwell in Possibility” by Emily Dickinson. It reminds him that true innovation comes from keeping an open mind.

“The idea at the end of it all is that you need to be able to take a risk, to go somewhere you didn’t expect,” Green says. “I’m basically designing spaces that can change with people to enable them to do things or to reduce their suffering. They are places of possibility.”

## A Culture of Collaboration

Eve De Rosa, Associate Professor of Human Development and an expert in the neurochemistry of cognition, knows precisely what’s coursing through her students’ multi-tasking brains: the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

“My research considers the neurochemistry of processes like attention, learning, and memory,” explains De Rosa. “I look at acetylcholine for its role in early-stage Alzheimer’s disease, but we’re learning more about the neurochemical’s function in people of all ages. And in our animal model, the rat.”

“The guiding hypothesis for the work I do,” she adds, “is asking whether something like Alzheimer’s, generally thought to be a memory disorder, is actually an encoding disorder, with information not getting ‘packaged’ and not reaching memory centers of the brain in the first place.”

One task for De Rosa’s lab rats is to use their paws or noses to choose particular symbols on a touch screen. They learn this trick quickly and efficiently – unless their brains are short on acetylcholine.

De Rosa came to Cornell in 2013, and, from the start, she could sense a culture of collaboration. “I’d been at University of Toronto for a decade when I guest-lectured about my rat work to researchers in Neurobiology and Behavior,” she recalls. “After the talk, people asked about acetylcholine in human cognition, so I continued to speak about data on my work with children and the elderly. A few weeks later, faculty from Human Development contacted me and said, ‘Hey, have you ever thought of moving?’” Happily ensconced in Toronto, De Rosa was reluctant – until she remembered conversations with Cornellians the day she visited and the many different perspectives she’d heard.

Four years later, De Rosa is teaching pre-med courses in neurochemistry and starting a research collaboration with spouse Adam Anderson, an Associate Professor of Human Development and a neuroscientist specializing in the role of emotion in all human faculties, to understand how the heart and mind are connected through chemistry.

## Epigenetic Epiphany

Biologist Paul Soloway, Professor of Nutritional Sciences, didn’t come here to work with engineers. The specialist in molecular genetics figured there was plenty of multidisciplinary diversity in his home department’s headquarters, Savage Hall. Nearby, in Clark Hall, was the lab of Harold Craighead, Professor of Applied and Engineering Physics and a pioneer in nanobiotechnology, making ultra-tiny devices to help biologists answer complex questions.

“Our collaboration was catalyzed when a Craighead post-doc, Stephen Levy, showed me videos of single molecules of DNA going through submicron-diameter channels,” Soloway recalls, remembering his curiosity and tempered excitement. “You could actually see individual DNA molecules being elongated and drawn through, then exiting the channels! He asked me if that could be a potentially useful technology for epigenomic analysis.”

(Epigenetics, in Soloway’s succinct explanation, goes like this: “You get half your DNA from mom and half from dad. The DNA sequences they give you dictate many of your traits – but not all your traits. There’s another layer of information, from the chemical modifications of the DNA and of proteins intimately associated with the DNA that strongly regulate how the underlying DNA sequences may be used. That’s where nature meets nurture, and that is epigenetics, at the molecular level.”)

Still doubtful, Soloway spent a week pondering: How could biologists and engineers use single-molecule analysis to interrogate the epigenome? Then he had an epiphany and started writing grant applications. Reviewers liked the idea, which took “a lot of crosstalk and cross training, a lot of interdisciplinary, mutual understanding of what each other’s work entails” to develop what became a powerful new technique for epigenomic analysis of single molecules of DNA, even from tumor cells.

A research university “with low administrative barriers is a perfect place to make collegial connections,” Soloway tells graduate students and faculty he tries to recruit. “We run into each other in the grocery store and on campus. We think nothing about knocking on colleagues’ doors – even those we don’t know yet – to engage in discussions that lead to collaborations like these.”

Next, the Soloway lab wants to put epigenetic tools to work on a question of interest to neuroscientists and the nutritionists: If choline supplementation



Eve De Rosa



during pregnancy has cognitive and emotional benefits to the offspring, as collaborator Barbara Strupp, Professor of Nutritional Sciences, has demonstrated in mice, exactly how does that happen?

"We're trying to understand the molecular mechanisms by which a fairly simple dietary intervention can potentially lead to cognitive benefits both in normal mice and in mice that serve as models for Down syndrome.

"Of all the organ systems," Soloway continues, "the brain is probably the most complicated and the least understood. It's the object of some of the most vital questions for modern biology in the 21st century: How is it that we think and feel emotions? How can diet impact these fundamentally important processes for our health, longevity, and happiness?"

One biologist expects he'll need a lot of help with those questions.

## Grant Development

One way to round up likely research collaborators is to bring the germ of a bright idea to a mission-oriented Cornell center – and ask for help.

The Cornell Population Center (CPC) can do that and more, says Director Kelly Musick, Professor of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM). "CPC's fundamental mission is to support the demographic research of faculty, students, and post-docs across campus. Our new grant-development program guides faculty fellows through the development and submission of grant proposals to population-related external funding agencies."

The yearly grant-development cycle begins with training seminars, adding plenty of brain-storming, mentorship, and get-togethers along the way. By the end of the cycle, the principal investigators should have a fully formed grant proposal ready for submission to external funding sources, which CPC has helped identify.

The process can also foster collaborations across colleges. Matthew Hall, Associate Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, for instance, is working with two researchers in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Shannon Gleeson and Kate Griffith, for a study they're calling "Immigration Status, Occupational Risk, and Health and Safety Standards Enforcement." Co-mentors on that proposal are PAM professors Dan Lichter and Sharon Sassler.

Joining PAM in 2016, Assistant Professor Peter Rich promptly took advantage of the grant-development program to ready a proposal on "Household Sorting, Segregation, and Health Disparities" with

mentoring help from Vida Maralani in the Department of Sociology.

CPC supports collaborations that extend beyond Cornell to the Upstate Population Seed Grant Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The joint program between the Cornell Population Center and Syracuse University's Center for Aging and Policy Studies supports projects like "SNAP and Labor Market Decisions over the Life Course." That project connects Warren Brown of the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER) and Sarah Hamersma, a faculty member in Syracuse's Maxwell School.

Another Upstate Program grantee is Rachel Dunifon, Human Ecology's Associate Dean for Research and Outreach, who worked with Merrill Silverstein in the Maxwell School in their collaborative project, "Religiosity as a Health-Promoting Resource for Custodial Grandparents."

"In this region, as everywhere in the country these days, many grandparents are caring for very young children," Dunifon explains. "Whatever we can learn about resources for this difficult, unexpected task will help older adults and the kids, too."

The Cornell Population Center is something of an adolescent itself, established about 10 years ago with a theme project award from Cornell's Institute for Social Sciences and then a development grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

According to Musick, who has headed CPC since April of 2016, the new grant development and seed grant programs provide support and mentorship to faculty seeking external funding for research: "It's a tough funding climate," she says, "and I don't anticipate it will get any better in the near term."

## Counting Calories

You dust off your shoes, press your slacks, and head out to eat. When the server hands you a menu, you notice a number beside each item. Not the price – the estimated calories. Are you swayed to swap your favorite deep-fried camembert for the steamed edamame, or do you stay the course?

John Cawley wants to know.

Cawley is a professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management and in the Department of Economics at Cornell. He's joined forces with Alex Susskind, Associate Professor at the School of Hotel Administration, to explore the effect of including calorie counts on the menus of full-service restaurants. So far, the early research has shown there's one place where



John Cawley

it might make a difference: appetizers.

"It's one of the first decisions people make," Cawley says, explaining a possible reason for the finding. "If the information is salient and new to them, they might take it into account initially, but with subsequent decisions, they can't be bothered."

Cawley's calorie-counting is one of many projects related to his overarching research interest: to better understand the effects of commonly proposed policies intended to improve diet, increase physical activity, and reduce obesity. "What I believe in is evidence-based policy-making," he says. "Let's find out what's true, and based on what's true, let's craft policy."

Another place Cawley is exploring this push-and-pull is his analysis of so-called "soda taxes." He worked with David Frisvold, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Iowa, to examine the effects of contrasting soda taxes in Berkeley, Calif., and Philadelphia, Pa. It's still early in the game to get a true understanding of their impact, but Cawley doesn't mind. "That's the fun thing about working in this area," he says. "Nobody knows what the answers are going to be." ❖





Sabin's rendering of "Polyform" in its future home outside Martha Van Rensselaer Hall



# Human Ecology's "Polyform"

By Sherrie Negrea

A new sculpture embodies the mission of the College

**Imagine walking on campus and entering a 34-foot-wide kaleidoscope of folded, laser-cut steel cellular components framed by responsive glass walls. As you move through the structure, the colors, transparency, and geometric patterns shift in the sunlight.**

By the start of the fall semester, pedestrians hurrying through the College of Human Ecology will be able to step into "Polyform," a shimmering sculpture designed by Jenny Sabin, the Arthur L. and Isabel B. Wiesenberger Assistant Professor of Architecture at Cornell. The installation will be constructed on the Terrace Plaza behind the Human Ecology Building and will move to a pathway at the south end of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall after the building is renovated.

The project was initiated four years ago by Alan Mathios, the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean, who asked Kay Obendorf, MS '74, PhD '76, Professor Emerita of Fiber Science, to work with Sabin on a design that would visually express the College's mission and impact.

Once the decision was made to create a public art installation, college officials felt that Sabin, an internationally recognized architect known for her use of innovative materials and computational design, would be an obvious choice, says Kristine Mahoney, the College's Director of Facilities and Operations, who helped plan the project.

"I think Jenny is a wonderful embodiment of what the college represents – knitting together the art of science and design with human engagement," Mahoney says. "It is such a perfect collaboration."

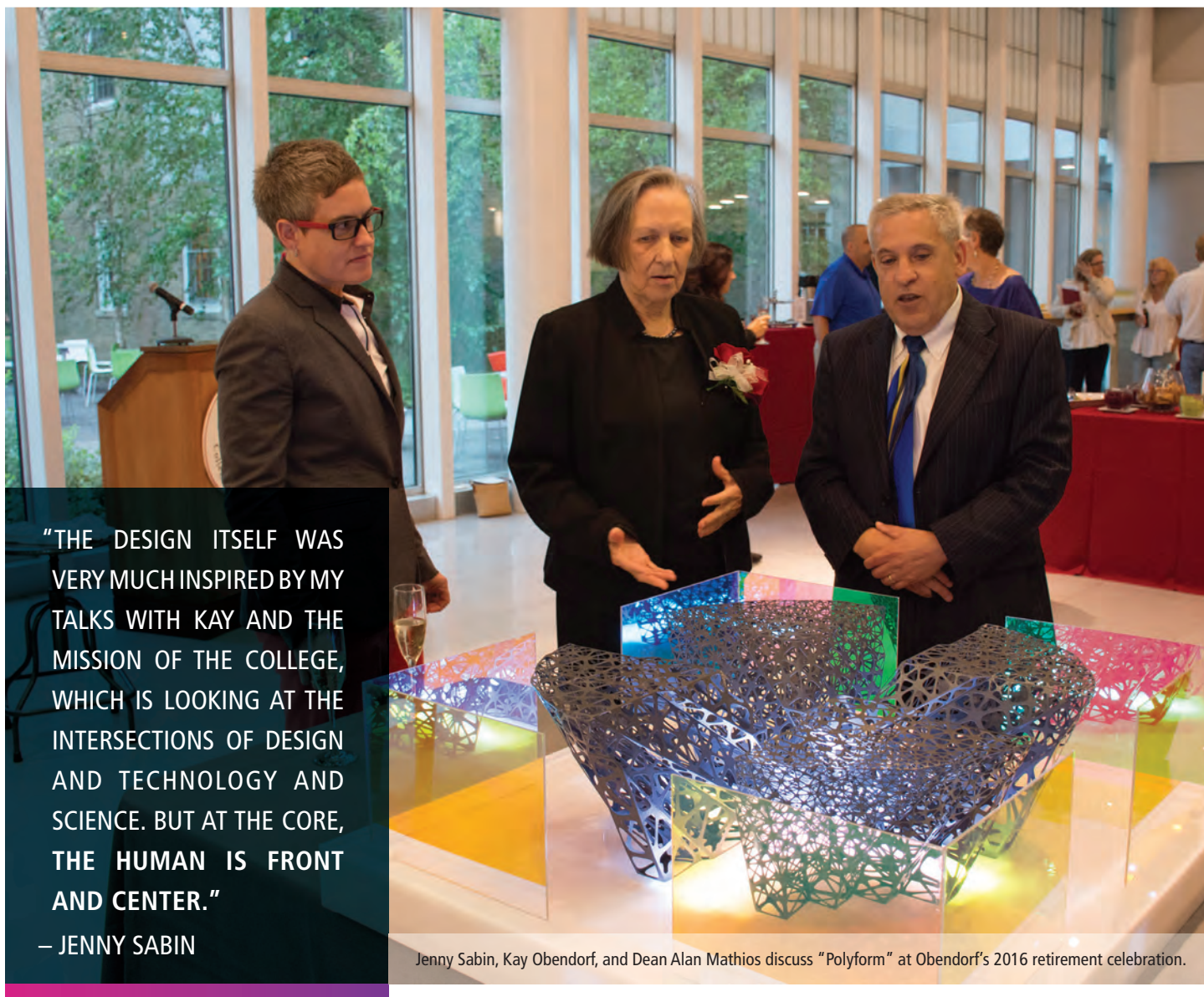
Before starting her design, Sabin immersed herself in learning everything she could about the College by visiting labs and interviewing administrators. What influenced her most, Sabin says, were her conversations with Obendorf.

"The design itself was very much inspired by my talks with Kay and the mission of the College, which is looking at the intersections of design and technology and science," Sabin says. "But at the core, the human is front and center."

"I think Jenny's use of materials, her use of the structure, and the scale that she used allowed her to really capture the spirit and movement of Human Ecology without being literal," says Obendorf, who served as the College's Associate and Senior Associate Dean for nearly two decades. "It's living, it's vibrant, and it expresses all those things that are about human ecology and the ways people go about their lives."







**"THE DESIGN ITSELF WAS VERY MUCH INSPIRED BY MY TALKS WITH KAY AND THE MISSION OF THE COLLEGE, WHICH IS LOOKING AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE. BUT AT THE CORE, THE HUMAN IS FRONT AND CENTER."**

**— JENNY SABIN**

Jenny Sabin, Kay Obendorf, and Dean Alan Mathios discuss "Polyform" at Obendorf's 2016 retirement celebration.

Describing the piece as a "glass jewel," Sabin translated the mission of the college in her use of responsive materials that enable their color and transparency to change depending on the orientation of the viewer. Another key link to the college is the way the sculpture is affected by the landscape.

"It changes from day to night," Obendorf says. "It's not static. It's interactive with the environment."

The color spectrum of the material transforms from warm to cool hues because of the dichroic film sandwiched between the glass frames. At a micron scale, the material changes its geometric patterns as light is reflected and refracted onto the film.

"The whole thing is envisaged to be like a crystal," Sabin says. "On the interior are a series of digitally fabricated metal cells. Every single fragment of the crystal

is different."

The project was unanimously approved last September by the Committee on Outdoor Art at Cornell, which oversees public art on campus. A group of architecture students and alumni helped Sabin develop the design and produce a scale model of the structure, including Jordan Berta, M.Arch '16; Charles Cupples, M.Arch '15; Madeleine Eggers, B.Arch '19; Charisse Tsien Mei Foo, B.Arch '18; Dillon Pranger, M.Arch '14; and David Rosenwasser, B.Arch '18. The next step is the fabrication of the sculpture, which will be done by Smucker Laser Cutting and Metal Fabrication in Lancaster, Pa., with Arup as the design engineers and 3M providing the dichroic film.

The project is the first permanent art installation Sabin has designed, though her work has appeared in museums and

outside buildings around the world. In February, Sabin's installation, "Lumen," composed of responsive cellular and tubular fabric structures, was named the winner of the 2017 Museum of Modern Art PS1 Young Architects Program competition. Her architectural installation will be on view in the courtyards of MoMA PS1, a contemporary art center in Long Island City, from June through August.

Stephanie Wiles, the Richard J. Schwartz Director of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art and a member of the committee that reviewed the project, says the installation will be a major addition to the array of public art on campus.

"It's an intriguing project that's science- and technology-based but visually captivating," Wiles says. "We are all very enthusiastic about the impact it will have on that area of campus."





## Cornell Reorganizes its Committee to Review Public Art

Ever since the early twentieth century, when bronze statues of Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White were installed on the Arts Quad, Cornell's campus has had a long tradition of public art. When the College of Human Ecology proposed an art installation designed by Jenny Sabin, however, the process for proceeding was unclear.

The Committee on Outdoor Art at Cornell, which had been on hiatus for nearly a decade, was reconfigured and unanimously approved plans for Sabin's "Polyform" last September. "That was a really good early test case for us," says Stephanie Wiles, the Richard J. Schwartz Director of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art and co-chair of the committee. "The committee had recently been reorganized, and Sabin's project was a great opportunity to work with a faculty artist."

The mission of the 13-member committee is to facilitate the review of public art on campus, develop a set of policies that will



support appropriate choices of public art, and ensure that art on campus is properly installed and maintained, says David Cutter '85, University Landscape Architect and co-chair of the committee. "In the past, it had been difficult for artists, students, and faculty to break through the process to get pieces installed on campus. Part of our role is to help guide projects and installations through the formal review and approval process."

Now that the committee has been revitalized and a clear-cut process for project review has been developed, Wiles believes more public art will be proposed for campus. "The Cornell campus has such incredible natural beauty that there have been over the years many artists who have wanted to work with the landscape," she says. "We just want to do it the right way and be careful about the type of artwork that will eventually be commissioned for the campus."

— Sherrie Negrea



# HEAA President's CORNER



Reginald White '80  
HEAA President



Angel Khuu '17  
Outstanding Senior Award



Lindsay Dower '17  
Outstanding Senior Award

Greetings Alumni Association Members,

In the fall, you should have received our newsletter concerning the Human Ecology Alumni Association (HEAA) and the HEAA Board. The HEAA Board comprises thirty alumni volunteers from around the country who are working on your behalf to support the interests of our alumni association and the College. As a graduate of Human Ecology, you are a member of the College's Alumni Association, and we are excited to work on your behalf! Since my last update in the fall, our HEAA Board committees have been busy on a variety of initiatives.

On behalf of the Board, the Development Team (which works to support fundraising efforts and alumni recognition) is pleased to announce the recipients of our annual awards, honoring outstanding alumni and students who have demonstrated commitment and success in their professional life, research, or volunteerism.

Harry Cho '02, has been awarded the Recent Alumni Achievement Award, which is presented to a graduate of the College within the past fifteen years. Harry is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and a Senior Fellow at the Lown Institute. The Outstanding Senior Award, presented to a graduating senior for outstanding service to the College, academic achievement, and demonstrated potential as an alumni leader, was given to two students this year, Angel Khuu '17 and Lindsay Dower '17. Finally, Neysa Etienne '94 received the Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the HEAA, recognizing alumni who have demonstrated the qualities exemplified by the late Helen Bull Vandervort '26. Maj. Etienne is a military psychologist with Survival Evasion Resistance Escape in Landstuhl, Germany. These awards will be presented at this year's Reunion.

If you are considering returning to campus for Reunion, please let us know. During this time, there are activities planned that will give you an opportunity to reconnect with the College and celebrate the achievements of alumni.

The Career Networking Team has continued its efforts to advance relationships among alumni, students, and the College for the purpose of utilizing and expanding our strong Human Ecology professional network. In January, we hope you received an email from the Team inviting you to consider hosting an internship or externship for a Human Ecology student this spring or summer. We are also seeking individuals who wish to mentor a Human Ecology student.



Human Ecology Alumni Association Board members with Dean Alan Mathios



This program is still open – you can post an internship opportunity or sign up to be a mentor at [careereexperience.human.cornell.edu](https://careereexperience.human.cornell.edu). This team also administers research funding during a fall and spring grant cycle. We expect to disburse approximately \$12,000 in grant funding to students across various majors by the end of this academic year.

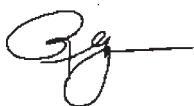
There are many ways for you to stay in touch with the College and all of the amazing things going on with Human Ecology. In addition to the College alumni website, [human.cornell.edu/alumni](https://human.cornell.edu/alumni), CHE has regular feeds on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.

We want to hear from you. What's new and exciting in your experience? How would you like to get involved? What insights and messages might you share with current students and fellow alumni? Reach out to us at [head@cornell.edu](mailto:head@cornell.edu).

Finally, as you consider a gift to Cornell's Annual Fund, please do not forget to check the box for Human Ecology. When you earmark your contribution to Human Ecology, it provides the College with additional financial support that improves the undergraduate experience, strengthens its masters and doctorate programs, and contributes to faculty excellence.

The HEAA Board thanks you for your loyalty and generosity in support of the College, its leadership, students, and faculty.

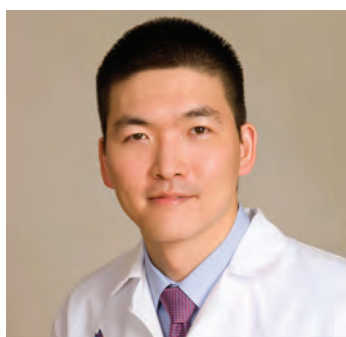
Sincerely,



Reginald H. White '80, President  
Human Ecology Alumni Association Board  
[head@cornell.edu](mailto:head@cornell.edu)



Neysa Etienne '94  
Helen Bull Vandervort  
Alumni Achievement Award



Harry Cho '02  
Recent Alumni  
Achievement Award

## In Memoriam

Ludmilla (Uher) Jenkins '37, Honolulu, HI  
Marian (Flink) Leyden '41, Lebanon, NH  
Vivian (Kasden) Woods '41, Tinton Falls, NJ  
June (Dukinfield) Darfler '42, Ithaca, NY  
Jean (Quick) Bryant '43, Tampa, FL  
Frances (Petertyl) Lee '44, York, PA  
Evelyn Call Brumsted '46, Ithaca, NY  
Eloise Shapero '46, Watertown, NY  
Joan (O'Herron) Crawford '47, Owings Mills, MD  
Frances (Corbally) Damico '47, Evanston, IL  
Miss Mary E. Kilby '47, Seminole, FL  
Grace (Gray) Werner '47, Carlinville, IL  
Beverly (Pratt) Schaufler '48, Ithaca, NY  
Eleanor (Flemings) Munch '49, Gaithersburg, MD  
Rose Steidl, MS '49, PhD '57, Ithaca, NY  
Jeanette (Gordon) Rosenberger '50, Concord, NH  
Mary Louise (Alstein) Van Allen '50, Watkinsville, GA  
Philip Aines Jr., MNS '51, PhD CALS '54  
Virginia (Deuell) Chamberlain '51, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Margaret (Healy) McNulty '51, Red Bank, NJ  
Lois (Schumacher) Lantz '52, Rockdale, TX  
Ann Molleson, MNS '52, Upper Arlington, OH  
Nancy Barner Reynolds '52, Danville, PA  
Virginia (McHugh) Beach '53, Alexandria, VA  
Arlene (Traub) Karo '53, Los Angeles, CA  
Barbara Fraser Csavinsky '56, Old Town, ME  
Allison Parker '57, Salem, MA  
Marylou (Fleming) Veit '57, Clifton Park, NY  
Nancy Sterling Brown '59, Dallas, TX  
Gail (Oglee) Hathaway '59, Yarmouth Port, MA  
Sandra Foote Nichols '59, La Jolla, CA  
Mary Dean (Holle) Apel, MS '60, Manhattan, KS  
Jill Weber '60, Brookline, MA  
Sandra Perrott '61, Kennebunk, ME  
Grace Spivey Smith EDD '63, Austin, TX  
Virginia (Dunne) Ahrens '64, MS '66, Kennett Square, PA  
Carol (Winne) Griffin '66, Schenectady, NY  
Toni (Peckham) Olshan '66, Ithaca, NY  
Marjorie (Mealey) Devine, PhD '67, Foxcroft, ME  
Ann (Bradley) Donigan '71, Torrance, CA  
Robert O'Neal, MA '73, Rehoboth, MA  
Ruth Kent '75, Clay, NY  
Pamela (Rappleeye) Vredenburg '79, Chenango Forks, NY  
Joan Colleyacme Dyer '82, Hesperus, CO  
David Lustick '85, Nashua, NH  
Nicholas Theodoss '09, Shrewsbury, MA  
Professor Emerita Mary A. Morrison, Ithaca, NY

# The Jacobs CHALLENGE

Fundraising inspiration creates four endowed professorships

Every day, 91 Americans die of opioid overdose from prescription drugs or heroin.

While this national epidemic seems to be spiraling out of control, Valerie Reyna, Professor of Human Development, has been working with other scholars on a federal panel to apply scientific strategies to address the crisis.

Reyna's research examines the most vulnerable period for developing addictions and other unhealthy behaviors – adolescence. Her new focus on the mechanisms that drive addiction will become easier to explore since receiving one of four faculty endowments created through a three-year fundraising challenge for the college.

"This will allow me to innovate more, take risks with my work, and know that I have stable support for my research," says Reyna, a neuroscientist who was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, which appointed the Committee on Prescription Opioid Abuse last year.

The endowed professorships were established through a challenge grant initiated by longtime Cornell supporters Joan Klein Jacobs '54 and Irwin Mark Jacobs '54, founding chairman and CEO emeritus of Qualcomm, as part of their \$10 million donation to the College. The gift – the largest in the College's history – included a \$6 million commitment for four faculty endowments that would be matched by other donors.

The Jacobs Challenge, announced in 2014, inspired three donors to establish named professorships: Janet K. Lankton '53 and Gordon B. Lankton, M.Eng. '53, former chairman of Nypro; Lois M. Tukman '62 and Melvin Tukman, president and director of Tukman Grossman Capital Management; and Lee Cheung ("LC") Lau, founder and



The Jacobs Challenge helped provide named professorships for Donald Kenkel, Patrick Stover, and Valerie Reyna, shown here with Dean Alan Mathios. Ross Hammond, who joins the faculty this summer, is not shown.

chairman of EPRO Development Group and founding member of the Cornell Institute of Fashion and Fiber Innovation.

"The Jacobs Challenge afforded us the opportunity to endow a professorship, which was something we hadn't considered," says Lois Tukman, who earned her degree in child development at Cornell. "They made us stretch. The challenge was a brilliant strategy to leverage their gift."

The Tukmans will endow the professorship for Reyna, whose research focuses on healthy decision-making from childhood to adulthood. The Lanktons' gift will support two faculty members in public health and nutrition – Patrick Stover, Director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences, and

Ross Hammond, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, who will join the faculty this summer. Lau's donation will fund a professor in fashion and technology who will be hired later this year.

"Endowed professorships to me are the gold standard in philanthropy because they allow us to retain and recruit top faculty, which drives student success, research success, and the success of the college," says Alan Mathios, the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean. "The College could not have this level of faculty without this type of support."

In addition to the \$6 million in matching funds, the Jacobs donated \$4 million to endow the Joan K. and Irwin M. Jacobs

Professorship in the College of Human Ecology, held by Donald Kenkel, a health economist who studies the regulation and taxation of tobacco products. The Jacobs also funded a fellowship to support a graduate student to work with Kenkel.

Because of the funding, Kenkel has been able to expand his research into a new area – the health impact and regulation of electronic cigarettes. "The big advantage is the availability of the support to explore new ideas, like electronic cigarettes, without the time delays and other things that happen if the resources from the department aren't available," he says.

– Sherrie Negrea



# Life in FANTASYLAND

Tager finds his dream job at Walt Disney Imagineering

Some Design + Environmental Analysis (DEA) graduates from the College of Human Ecology design spaces that make people feel reinvigorated – coffee shops, for instance. Others aspire to make people feel comfortable – surrounded by new information. Matt Tager '83, a principal interior designer on the Walt Disney Imagineering team that launched Shanghai Disneyland park in June 2016, is delighted if his spaces simply make people happy.

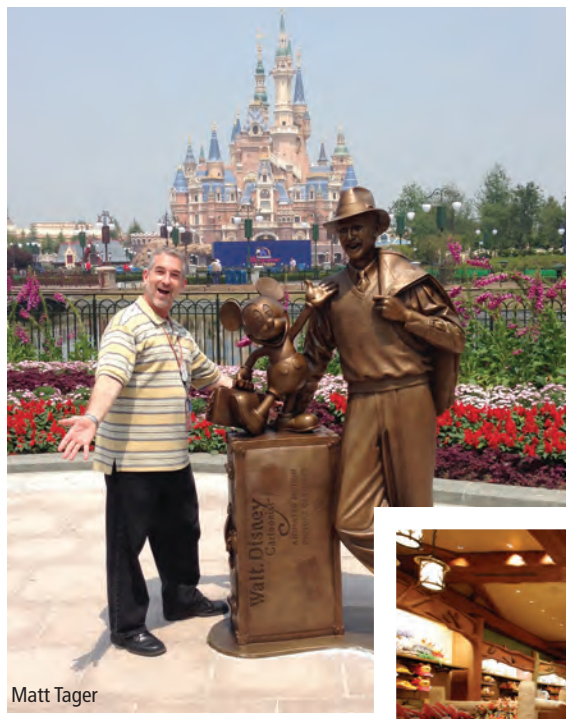
This is not so simple, as it turns out, especially when you're creating a multi-billion dollar resort, Disney's first in mainland China, in a challenging business environment.

Tager's role as lead interior designer was just a part of the Fantasyland team for the 963-acre park, which kept him in Shanghai for "three years, nine months – enough to get another undergraduate degree," he muses on the way to work in Burbank. Walt Disney Imagineering is the division of The Walt Disney Company that designs and builds all of Disney's theme parks, attractions, hotels, cruise ships, and resort businesses. One of the things that drew Tager to Imagineering, he says, was the opportunity to work "as part of a large, multi-disciplinary team of artists and technical experts in a variety of fields to bring immersive stories to life."

For Tager, the most challenging part of the Shanghai project was not imagining things that never existed before – he's demonstrably good at that. Rather, it was working with a Chinese construction industry that's more accustomed to erecting skyscrapers than theme park castles. Nevertheless, he says, "We worked with our Chinese general contractor to help them better understand what our expectations were for this complex project."

They could have built a Disney replica park, cookie-cutter style, but the American company and its Chinese partner (the state-run Shanghai Shendi Group) wanted something special, Tager recalls. He cites Disney CEO Bob Iger's promise, "authentically Disney, distinctively Chinese," and he thinks they've made that happen. "We wanted to bring Disney stories to life in a way that was relatable to our Chinese guests."

Equally gratifying to Tager is the social-media feedback, gleaming praise-filled



Matt Tager

"We wanted to bring Disney stories to life in a way that was relatable to our Chinese guests."

– Matt Tager '83



reviews and realizing, "I was part of that!"

He didn't always have such a wide-ranging dream job. For years, Tager's assignment was interiors for a regional chain of coffee shops (Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf), trying to make people feel better about their steamy brews. He's done his share of freelancing and worked for Disney Imagineering on several projects, including Disney California Adventure and Tokyo DisneySea theme parks.

Once upon a dream he actually tried to make people feel smarter. That was a junior year project at Cornell, figuring out an interior for an unreconstructed Mann Library that was showing its age in the 1980s. Tager had transferred from SUNY Binghamton as a sophomore, drawn to DEA for its the emphasis on reality-based projects, "something on campus or something in the community."

Old Mann Libe, as it came to be called when the rejuvenation finally began in 2003, was as real as it gets for a DEA student in search of a design project.

Tager knew the formidable, Art Deco-demic exterior was untouchable by a young interiors type. Inside, he was charmed by the period details – like the generous stairways with their sleek, metal railings – and he came to cherish the green marble columns at Mann's main entrance to the Ag Quad.

"It was one of the most interesting and rewarding school projects I've ever worked on," Tager says now of his Mann Library proposals. "I wanted, basically to bust out the whole back of the building and open up a view of the woods."

Imagine Tager's surprise, returning a few years ago for reunion. He headed for Mann Library, which had reopened in 2007.

Almost as if his thesis project had come true – there was that mind-stimulating view of the woods, from floor after airy floor of study space. The Art Deco handrails, carved stone detailing and green marble columns were still intact, too.

– Wendy Hankle

# Bridal WAVE

Hayley Paige helms three lines of wedding gowns

Before you ask, the answer is “five.”

When Hayley Paige '07 tied the knot in 2015, she wore not one, not two, but five wedding gowns over the course of her nuptial weekend. Excessive? Maybe. Until you know the name of the gowns' designer: Hayley Paige.

“If I'd had more time, I would've worn more dresses,” Paige says.

Paige isn't the only one wearing her gowns. With a bachelor's degree in Fiber Science and Apparel Design, Paige has enjoyed success as a bridal designer and currently sits at the helm of three lines for JLM Couture: Hayley Paige, Blush by Hayley Paige, and most recently, Jim Hjelm.

“I've always been very attracted to the romantic side and the emotional value of the wedding dress,” Paige says. “I like the specialness of it.”

Paige started with JLM Couture in 2011. That year, David's Bridal shut down its Priscilla of Boston line. Paige saw a void in the market and decided she was going to fill it. She brought her Hayley Paige line to JLM and got the job.

“Timing is so important in life,” she says. “When you see an opportunity, and the timing feels right, it's something you should absolutely capitalize on.”

Four years earlier, Paige was presented with a similar pivotal opportunity. It was her senior year at Cornell, and she was showing a 10-piece bridal collection in the Cornell Design League fashion show. At the end of the show, she was offered a job by a member of the audience. After graduation, Paige moved to New York City, and started working on the floor in the pattern room of a fashion house. She realized quickly that wasn't where she wanted to be.

“It was a great experience, though, because it tested me,” she says. “It gave me a tough skin for New York City.”

From there, Paige started shopping her resume to bridal houses in the city and got a job at Priscilla of Boston as an assistant and associate designer for the Melissa Sweet team. She was there for four years before approaching JLM in 2011. That time at Melissa Sweet was valuable – not only for sharpening her design skills but for learning about the business side of the field.

“In bridal, when somebody knows a dress is selling, the first thing they want to



Hayley Paige's millennial savvy helps her stay “ten steps ahead” of the competition.

do is copy it,” Paige says. “You have to stay ten steps ahead.”

To Paige, at least one of those steps has to do with social media, and she brings more than a bit of millennial savvy to her work – not just in the designs, but in the buzz she generates around her brand. Hashtag #justgotpaiged helps customers

share the love on social, and her new line of wedding-themed emojis, called Holy Matrimoji, buoy the brand before, during, and after the big day.

“It's a pretty sparkly and supportive industry,” Paige says. “It's a cool place to be.”

– Wendy Hankle



# Human-CENTERED

Hana Getachew launches her spring textile line

Working for another design company would never have been satisfying for Hana Getachew '03, CEO of Bolé Road Textiles. So she started her own, giving it a name that pays homage to her roots.

"Bole Road is the route my family took on our way to the airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when I was three years old, on our way to Montreal – and eventually to New York," explains Getachew, now a 36-year-old entrepreneur in Brooklyn.

"I didn't return until my sophomore year at Cornell, 18 years later, and it was such life-impacting experience – going back there after so long. That return along Bole Road influenced my remaining years at Cornell and also my career."

As she speaks, one eye is on a dire weather forecast and the other on her seven-month-old daughter who shares the home-studio and Bolé Road Textiles headquarters. The Carroll Street studio is a trek to Manhattan's Pier 92, site of the annual Architectural Digest Design Show, where Getachew needs to preview her new collection. A Nor'easter blizzard named Stella is approaching the metro area.

Seemingly unfazed, the youngster chats cheerfully and so does Getachew, detailing the business plan for a company with the slogan, "Designed in Brooklyn, Handwoven in Ethiopia."

"I design all my textiles, starting with a concept I'd like to explore. For example, the inspiration for designs in the new collection is the mountainscapes of Ethiopia. I was inspired by the mountain ranges and horizons and the landscape – all cues to create patterns and color palettes. Then I begin the sampling process with my Ethiopian artisans."

Typical interior-design products for Bolé Road Textiles are pillows and rugs, table runners, and napkins. One specialty, Getachew's comfy hooded bath towels, were scaled down when her daughter was born and became the inspiration for the Bolé Road Baby line. Skillfully complicit in the baby-oriented wares are the Ethiopian women Getachew does business with.

"Traditionally, Ethiopian weaving was men's work, handed down from father to son through the generations, and they still



dominate the weaving collectives," she says. "Lately a few women run their own weaving studios – although all their weavers are men – and the women have computers and are set up for export. It's easier to communicate with the businesswomen, but I enjoy working with both groups."

The radio blares a further storm warning, now a state of emergency. Only the child seems blissfully unconcerned, and the entrepreneur from Ethiopia remembers winters in Ithaca.

"I started as a fine arts major in Architecture, Art and Planning," Getachew recalls, "and somehow found my way into DEA and the interior design program there."

"Right away, I knew it was the perfect fit. The program let me focus on things I was interested in, creatively – the aesthetics and the art – with a strong foundation for design-thinking and problem-solving. The human-centered focus on design really appealed to me. Of course DEA had an analytical side, a sustainability side. But it was the human-centered approach to design that I found incredibly intriguing."

Getachew was aware of Textiles and Apparel (now Fiber Science & Apparel Design), a popular major among her classmates, but says: "I had no idea textiles was going to be part of my future, so I didn't take classes there. In retrospect, that could have been very helpful."

Getachew started the business "to give back and be more involved with my home country. I saw textiles as an avenue where



Hana Getachew's Bolé Road Textiles balances her experiences in Addis Ababa, Montreal, and Brooklyn.

I could do both – be in the world of design and share something from the Ethiopian culture."

The young child's optimistic burbling must have helped. The worst of Winter Storm Stella missed New York. Installed in time for the design show, the new collection was a hit.

—H. Roger Segelken



# Food CHOICES

Keating leads nutrition at Consumer Reports



For nearly 20 years, Amy Keating '86 has used her nutrition degree to help consumers make informed choices for their health and well-being.

Amy Keating '86 thought she was doing consumers a favor by compiling nutrition labels for a major food company.

In fact, she was keeping her employer in check with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), right about the time she went to work at Kraft General Foods and the 1990 Nutrition Labeling and Education Act went into effect.

It took eight years in the prepared-foods industry to see the light. Now, Keating is a Program Leader and Nutritionist at Consumer Reports (CR), the independent, nonprofit organization with a mission to work “side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer, and healthier world.”

After Ithaca, Keating earned her registered dietitian credentials at Emory University. She served three years as clinical nutritionist at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, until a better-paying job came along. There was plenty of work at Kraft for a nutritionist who was good with numbers.

Twelve grams of fat per serving of macaroni and cheese, with 470 mg of sodium and zero dietary fiber. You can thank Amy Keating for that – the numbers, not the recipe – and in 1997, her diligence won a promotion to senior research scientist. Jell-O desserts were one of her specialties, but within a year, Keating was dissatisfied.

“I wanted my background in nutritional science to help people make better choices,” she says now about her move to CR in 1998. “Mass marketing of packaged foods was not helping consumers make the best decisions for their health and well-being.”

Now, with nearly 20 years of service at CR, Keating enjoys her role in what the organization does best: evidence-based product testing and ratings, rigorous research, public education, and “steadfast policy action on behalf of consumers' interests.”

Like consumers' trending interest in Greek yogurt, for instance. Ever the skeptical label-readers, Keating and a CR colleague (Linda Greene, Cornell Food Science MS '85) found something amiss with the nutrition panel on Whole Foods Fat Free Plain Greek Yogurt, which claimed just two grams of sugar per eight-ounce cup. “That seemed really low,” Keating told a television news show. “Other yogurts we looked at had 5 to 10 grams of sugar per cup.” When CR tested six samples of the Whole Foods product, they found an average of 11 grams of sugar, more than five times what the label claimed.

Her venerable publication, which began in 1936, faces something of marketing-image challenge itself, the program leader acknowledges: “Young people say, ‘Oh,

yeah, my parents had *Consumer Reports*, and they kept back issues in a box in the basement.’”

So CR staffers try to think out of the basement – about what younger readers are buying these days – and to a recent examination of supermarket-prepared meals, now a \$29-billion-a-year industry. Adobo chicken and kale, cranberry and pecan salad sounds delectable, but is it really fresh? Only about half the prepared meals in three different chains in the Northeast were actually made on premises, Keating's secret shoppers revealed. Often the meals were cooked and frozen many zip codes away, then reheated in supermarket kitchens.

And in FDA rules set to take effect in 2017, CR sleuths found a regulatory loophole the adobo chicken could amble through: Nutrition information must be available for items “eaten on the premises, while walking away, or soon after arriving at another location,” the FDA insists.

“It's confusing,” Keating says. “For dishes that are sold at the hot bar or salad bar, the store will have to provide nutrition information. But if you buy the same dish by the pound from the deli counter, it won't.”

–H. Roger Segelken



# Working for GOOD

Smiles adjudicates federal discrimination claims

Jacob Smiles '01 is an Administrative Judge in the Denver office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) – and not the schoolteacher he thought he'd become when he entered Cornell in the 1990s.

A freshman writing seminar changed all that.

"The EEOC enforces a variety of federal civil-rights laws that prohibit discrimination in employment," Smiles explains. "That includes discrimination in employment on a range of bases – such as race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age."

Most people are familiar with the litigation aspects of the EEOC and the high-profile cases in federal court. That's not what Administrative Judge Smiles does, however. Rather, he hears employment discrimination cases from federal employees, millions of whom are covered by the federal civil rights statutes but whose cases are handled through a separate process.

You won't see Smiles' name in the news, because federal employees' cases are confidential at the hearing level. But the human affairs entanglements are no less challenging to adjudicate, Smiles says.

"For example, if a co-worker is treating one of their colleagues of a different race very badly, and that person doesn't treat people of other races that way, we try to figure out: What is the basis of this? Is it racial harassment or just a personality conflict? Or if a person is terminated, was it because of their sex or disability, or simply because of their job performance? One of the most challenging tasks for an administrative judge is evaluating the evidence and witness credibility to determine causation in these situations."

After Cornell, Smiles earned a law degree at Washington University in St. Louis; spent a semester working as a legal fellow for then-Sen. Hillary Clinton; clerked for judges in a U.S. District Court and a Court of Appeals; handled business litigation for a large, international law firm; and served five years as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

His job there was to enforce laws that give students equal access to schools and education – "Education civil rights was always the area where I was most passionate," he

says – but something was missing. The EEOC judgeship "struck me as a unique opportunity, one that was more intellectually challenging, while still allowing me to continue with my passion for civil rights."

The son of schoolteachers, Smiles remembers his best job at Cornell, working as a research assistant in the Early Social Development Laboratory of C. Cybele Raver. "For three years I assisted with social science research on four- and five-year-olds' ability to self-regulate through emotional soothing techniques," explains Smiles, who now has a seven- and eight-year-old of his own to study.

One influential course was Human Bonding, taught by Cindy Hazan, Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development, which covered the science of interpersonal relationships. Another was Family Law and Social Policy, taught by Tracy Mitrano, Cornell's former Director of Internet Culture Policy and Law. Then came a class called Race, Power, and Privilege, co-taught by the late Donald Barr, a Professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and James Turner, Professor Emeritus of African and African American Politics and Social Policy at Cornell. But that's not where Smiles' passion for civil rights began.

"Like a lot of other undergraduates, I had the sense I wanted to help people. I wanted a career that was for the general good of society," he says. So Smiles signed up for



Administrative Judge Jacob Smiles, shown here with his wife, Kate, found a new career path after taking a freshman seminar on the civil rights movement.

a freshman writing seminar on the civil rights movement, one of hundreds of topics available through the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines and was "absolutely blown away and interested and shocked by it. It really got me on the path to where I am."

Today, if a student were to ask advice, the administrative judge might opine: "Make sure whatever career you're doing involves something you are passionate about. You're likely to be happier and successful if what you're doing is something you care about. Human Ecology is a great place to do that – assuming you like people and care about helping others."

–H. Roger Segelken

# Fighting EXPLOITATION

Foster helps coordinate efforts to stop human trafficking



For as far back as she can remember, Rachel Foster '89 has aspired to help the vulnerable.

"I have always been committed to advocating for and empowering individuals who must navigate complex and what can often feel like insurmountable and unjust systems," Foster says. She's certainly accomplished her mission. As a Cornell student, Foster served as an advocate at the Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women. She went on to work as a community organizer, helping elderly tenants at a Settlement House in New York City. After graduating from Brooklyn Law School, she worked as an attorney at South Brooklyn Legal Services.

Now Foster is working to combat human trafficking and help victims of sexual exploitation. She is the campaign director for the New Abolitionists, a national project to raise awareness about human trafficking, and a founding co-chair of World Without Exploitation, a national coalition of survivors of sexual exploitation and anti-trafficking advocates coordinating the fight against human trafficking.

"Human trafficking is not an issue that only exists in other countries" she says. "American-born women and girls, as well as a smaller percentage of boys, are bought, sold, and exploited in the sex trade. It is important to recognize that trafficking victims are often lured or coerced into prostitution as young adolescents."

The vast majority of victims of human trafficking experienced sexual abuse during childhood or adolescence, Foster explains. "The commonly used term 'sex work' fails to capture the majority of experiences individuals have in the sex trade both as minors and as adults," she says.

"The trauma experienced as a result of violence, threats, loss of identity, isolation, and a lack of education, self-determination, and stability, profoundly impact the psyche of a trafficking survivor well beyond the time she is actually enslaved."

Understanding the psychological underpinnings of sex trafficking is an important component of Foster's approach, which began in college.

"Human Ecology gave me a lens that helps me to look at an entire person and

where they fit in society," she says. "Learning about psychology, anthropology, natural sciences, history, political science, and sociology helps me approach my work with a broad focus on the range of factors that influence people's lives. My approach to advocacy is based on a commitment to always seek a deeper understanding of an individual's life circumstances and influences beyond the particular issue I am dealing with at the moment."

In 2012, Foster received the New Yorkers Who Make a Difference Award from United Neighborhood Houses for her work representing disenfranchised New Yorkers. She also served as a member of the Citizens Committee for Children and chair of the Cornell Alumni Network committee in Brooklyn for 10 years.

— Sheri Hall





Lisa Drayer '96 built her love of communications and nutritional counseling into a career as an on-air nutritionist and author.

# Big Time SMALL SCREEN

Lisa Drayer creates her own path as an author and television nutritionist

It was something of a quandary.

Lisa Drayer '96 was at the top of her class in Cornell's Nutritional Sciences program. She was nailing her coursework, digging into the research, and loving every minute of it. She graduated with distinction and headed to Boston for a clinical internship that would give her the skills she needed to pass the registered dietitian exam. But there was a problem.

"Basically, I realized that I loved science but I couldn't stand the sight of blood," Drayer says, with a laugh.

It was a disappointment. After driving through her academic program and working hard, Drayer had to change gears. But she hit upon a way to create her own path – and did it with great success. That early let-down led her to New York University's Science, Health, and Environmental Reporting Program, where she received her master's degree in 2000.

"It really allowed me to combine what I loved in nutrition with communications and learn how to communicate nutritional information in a way that consumers could understand," she says.

Drayer hasn't looked back. She started by offering one-on-one nutrition counseling and building the communications side of her career. Her first full-time job after NYU was as the editorial director of a nutrition-focused website. There, she realized she was talking to people who could help lift her career higher – so she started pitching them.

"CNN would call, and I'd pitch them stories," she says. "One day I pitched 'Breakfast with Daybreak.' They weren't ready for it then, but a year later it became a reality."

"CNN Daybreak" was the network's early morning show, and Drayer's idea was to fold in a nutrition segment. "Breakfast with Daybreak" became a regular spot, and Drayer found herself heading to CNN at 5:00 a.m. to do the show before going to her job at the website.

Today, Drayer has built her brand. She contributes health segments to CNN and its sister network, HLN. She also writes feature articles as a health contributor to CNN.com. She's written two books, *The Beauty Diet: Looking Great Has Never Been So Delicious* (McGraw-Hill) and *Strong, Slim, and 30! Eat Right, Stay Young, Feel Great, and Look FABULOUS* (McGraw-Hill).

In 2005, Drayer was awarded the American Dietetic Association's Media Excellence Award.

Even more than two decades out, Cornell remains a strong presence in her life. "To this day, I call upon the professors that I had 20 years ago, and they remind me of the science they taught me," she says. "They're my go-to experts. Who knows nutrition better than them?"

Drayer stays active as an alumna, currently serving on the board of the Human Ecology Alumni Association. She previously served as a member of the President's Council for Cornell Women and has hosted student-alumni dinners as part of Cornell's Women's Network.

"Cornell is really where my adult life began," Drayer says. "I always say I found my own at Cornell."

– Wendy Hankle



# Capital Ideas



For **Diana Yu Pae '92**, working in human resources allows her to link two of her passions: people and analytics. Pae is the Global Chief Human Capital Officer at Archegos Capital Management, an investment office focused on trading equities in the United States and Asia. Her responsibilities include recruiting, performance management, career development, training, compensation and benefits – aspects of running a company that she first came to appreciate as a Human Development major at Cornell.

"My Human Ecology education taught me the importance of improving and making a difference in people's lives and also bringing out their full potential," she says.

Pae serves on the Human Ecology Dean's Advisory Council and gives talks to Cornell alumni and students. This winter, she presented at Sophomore Summit, a career networking workshop for Human Ecology sophomores.

"This kind of event exemplifies Human Ecology," Pae says. "It's gratifying to help students see the professional world through different lenses so they can be proactive and discerning, thus enhancing their chances for success and happiness." — Sheri Hall

# Turning POINTS

**Amanda Bryans '87** is working to make sure at-risk preschool school children get the foundation they need to become successful in school and life.



Bryans is the Director of Research Analysis and Communication in the Office of Early Childhood Development at the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services, which oversees the Head Start program where she has worked for 27 years. She recently coordinated the development of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework to help programs across the country support children from infancy to age five.

"Head Start has unique attributes that make it a strong program," she says. "We offer a broad range of services including education, health, oral health, nutrition, mental health, services to children with disabilities, and family services. Head Start provides the best child development services available to some of the most at-risk children."

Bryans calls her time studying Human Development a turning point in her life. "It was at Human Ecology where I first heard of Head Start and where I first explored topics like human behavior, sociology, and early childhood education," she says. "It is where I fell in love with research, education, and women's history, and found the connection between them."

There's a second aspect of Head Start program that Bryans is proud of: a focus to encourage higher education among Head Start teachers. "A significant part of Head Start's 51-year history is the professionalization of a mostly female workforce," she says. "More than 97 percent of Head Start teachers now have at least an associate's degree, and 74 percent have at least a bachelor's degree."

— Sheri Hall

# Climate Change

By the time **Colleen Boland '01** arrived in Ithaca, she had traveled to more than 20 countries with the U.S. military and served in the White House's National Space Council.

"Whether I was looking at images of Earth from outer space or noting how water contamination was fueling conflict and making children sick in places like Sri Lanka or the Philippines, I became sensitized to environmental issues and the ways they impact the human condition, specifically our sense of security and belonging," says Boland, a retired veteran of the U.S. Army and Air Force. "These are fundamental issues of human development."

Since graduation, Boland has dedicated herself to advocating for environmental protection. As part of the civil disobedience movement We Are Seneca Lake, she has protested plans by a Houston-based gas company to store natural gas collected from hydraulic fracking in salt caverns along the shoreline of Seneca Lake.

"This gas storage project puts at risk a source of drinking water for 100,000 people," she says. "In fall 2014, I served nine days in jail for my efforts to defend Seneca Lake, and I

was honored to speak about that experience at the Paris Climate Change Conference a year later."

Boland also traveled with fellow veterans to Standing Rock Indian Reservation last December to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline, a proposed plan to move oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

"Along the way, it has become clear to me that climate instability – and the consequent harms done to our water and air through the extraction and burning of fossil fuels – is a serious threat both to human development and to our national security," Boland says. "By becoming a climate activist, I see myself as serving in a new way."

— Sheri Hall





# How Things Work



**Arnaub Chatterjee, MHA '07, MPA '08**, is striving to improve health care. To reach that goal, he has worked in many industries to learn how different parts of the system interact.

"For each of the jobs that I've had, whether it's consulting, working for the Obama administration, working for large pharmaceutical companies, or teaching, I've been really interested in understanding all the levers and the interrelationships," Chatterjee says. "If you want to understand the health care system, you have to understand how insurance companies work, how pharmaceutical companies work, how hospital systems work. They all are interdependent upon each other, and you just don't see it until you get into the weeds."

Chatterjee's deeper understanding began with his time at Cornell, where he studied a wide variety of topics from the business of health care to social policy and the evolution of data. "It gave me a robust foundation in health care and an understanding of how the pieces of a really complicated system fit together," Chatterjee says.

Now a Senior Expert of Pharmaceutical Data and Analysis at McKinsey and Company, Chatterjee analyzes troves of health care data from traditional sources like patient and insurance records alongside data from new, dynamic sources like consumer purchasing and social media. His passion stems from understanding this data, then bringing together tech companies, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, and hospitals to find new ways of thinking about health care issues.

His objective is to use real-world information to create advances in the system, including improvements in billing, pharmaceutical safety, and patient care. It's an evolving field, and Chatterjee is at the epicenter. As possibilities for change emerge, Chatterjee continues to ask the question: "What can you build?"

— Amanda K. Jaros

# Words of Support



**Robin Roe '05** spent 15 years working with kids as a preschool teacher, group therapy leader, mentor, and special education teacher. She has relied on that experience in writing her first book, a critically-acclaimed young adult novel.

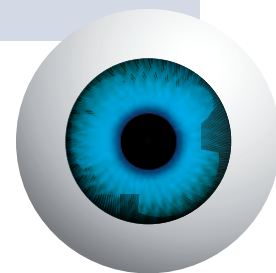
*A List of Cages*, published by Disney Press in January, chronicles the lives of two friends: Julian, who is being abused, and Adam, his friend and former foster brother, who wants to protect him.

"I've been writing since I was a child, but this is the first time I've really shared my work with anyone," Roe says. "I've experienced both sides of this story in my work with children and young adults, so it felt very natural to write their story."

Roe believes her Human Ecology education provided the foundation for her mentoring career. "I had so many encouraging and inspiring professors while I was a Human Ecology student," she says. "Their guidance and support prepared me to work with children."

— Sheri Hall

# EYE TECH



Not long ago, the idea of unlocking a door or logging into a computer using your eyes seemed to be the stuff of sci-fi.

For the past three years, **Marc Levin '95** has helped bring this technology to workplaces around the globe. Levin is the Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel at EyeLock, a technology company that makes iris-based identity authentication products and solutions. Levin is part of the EyeLock management team and leads the finance, legal, human resources, and administrative functions.

Before joining EyeLock, Levin was the Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of Harris Interactive, a global business information and marketing company. He holds business and law degrees from Boston College, but he credits his Human Ecology education with teaching him the analytical skills that have helped him succeed in business.

"Most of the courses I took at the College of Human Ecology had one common objective: to analyze a problem and develop a solution," he says. "This important skill has been invaluable throughout my career. Identifying a problem is relatively easy. Analyzing the problem and coming up with a solution, on the other hand, takes work but presents an opportunity to drive real value to a business."

— Sheri Hall

says. "Additionally, I found that the joy and satisfaction I got from every instance of involvement far surpassed the work and effort I put into it."

For more than 25 years, Rosanna taught Family and Consumer Sciences to high school and middle school students. She was also involved in rewriting the state education curriculum. "The world-class education I received at the College and the University as a whole prepared me with the knowledge base and self-confidence that I feel would have equipped me for success in whichever direction I would have chosen," she says. "I am so proud of the College of Human Ecology and how it has developed over the years to become, in my opinion, the most cutting-edge and best college on the Cornell campus."

— Sheri Hall

# Giving Back



Although **Rosanna Frank '61**, a Food and Nutrition major, and her husband, Marshall Frank, Chem Eng '61, simply began helping plan Cornell reunions to reconnect with friends, over the decades they've broadened their commitment to the University. This year, they received the William "Bill" Vanneman '31 Outstanding Class Leader Award. The couple, who met during their sophomore year, have dedicated years of service to Cornell. Rosanna co-chaired her class's 35th reunion, served as president on the Human Ecology Alumni Association Board, and participated in the Cornell University Council and the President's Council of Cornell Women.

"As a 'Cornell couple,' the University was such a defining factor in our lives that we felt compelled to give back in every way that we could," she

# Building Bridges

**Dr. Marlene Wust-Smith, '85, MD '89**, believes in a family approach to caring for patients. Throughout her career as a pediatrician and as the medical director of the Cole Memorial Medical Group in western Pennsylvania, Wust-Smith has found many ways of bridging the gaps between people of different backgrounds and classes.

From her early days studying Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell, Wust-Smith saw the power of collaboration. "Cornell is its own universe," Wust-Smith says. As a first-generation college student and daughter of immigrant parents, she studied side-by-side with wealthier students and learned the importance of having people from all walks of life work together. Those years "modeled early what kind of life I was going to have," Wust-Smith says.

After graduating from Cornell Medical College, Wust-Smith worked with a leading pediatrician in Manhattan, caring for many high-profile families as well as their nannies and housekeepers. The experience "opened my eyes to practicing across a financial and socio-economic spectrum," she says, and enhanced her desire to work with underserved populations.

In her current position in rural Pennsylvania, Wust-Smith is developing innovative projects to bring people together. One project is the Village Visits model, in which parents with same-aged children gather for their doctor appointments together. Parents and children get to know one another, find support, and share resources. Wust-Smith is also developing an online program called Healthified.org to optimize ways to connect with patients of all ages.

Wust-Smith currently mentors two Cornell students at her hospital. She envisions a full internship program because she understands the value of learning to collaborate in dynamic groups. "If I hadn't been offered those experiences at Cornell," she says, "I don't know if I'd be the pediatrician I am today." — Amanda K. Jaros



# Peer to Peer



A new video entitled "Intervene" aims to teach students how to safely intervene in — and hopefully prevent — sexual assault, sexual harassment, partner violence, hazing, and alcohol emergencies.

Developed by the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives at Cornell Health, the video received a 2017

Silver Telly Award, which honors the best in TV and cable, digital and streaming, and non-broadcast productions. The video and workshop materials, which are grounded in social behavior theories and public health research, have been evaluated to assess their effectiveness in increasing peer bystander intervention.

"The online video and workshop were both effective at increasing students' likelihood to intervene, which is encouraging," says **Laura Santacrose '11**, a health initiatives coordinator at the Skorton Center, who led the 18-month project and is managing its direction into the future. In January, Santacrose presented "Intervene" to college health professionals at the NASPA Strategies Conference, and has received interest in the program from other colleges and administrative boards around the country.

"We developed 'Intervene' with the goal of impacting the Cornell community, but also designed it to be universal, as other universities are dealing with similar topics," says Santacrose, who majored in Human Development. "This is a unique project in terms of it being available for free, as well as its empowering, realistic, and holistic approach grounded in student experiences."

— Stephen D'Angelo



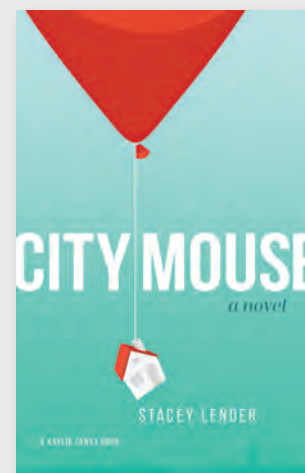
# Writing Life

When **Stacey Lender '91** began writing her debut novel *City Mouse*, she found herself returning to the lessons she learned as a Human Development major.

The novel, published by Akashic Books on June 6, examines the life of a young wife and mother grappling with her identity and where to call home, revealing unspoken truths about marriage, motherhood, and friendship.

"Women face a slew of work-life-family issues as they enter motherhood, and my Human Ecology background gave me the background to write a story that I hope will engage conversation through an entertaining, fictional lens," Lender says. "My education at Cornell taught me to examine what drives people to think and behave the way they do, providing unique interdisciplinary insights into the social, psychological, and cultural motivators of human behavior."

In addition to her new adventure as a novelist, Lender works as a marketing executive in the entertainment industry. Throughout her career, she has promoted a wide range of brands, including Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, Sesame Street Live, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and One World Observatory. She began her marketing career as the student promotions director of the Cornell Concert Commission and currently lives in Manhattan and Connecticut with her husband and two daughters. — Sheri Hall





# STRATEGIC THINKING



As he completes his 28th year of service to the United States, **Colonel Isaiah Wilson III, MPA/MA '98, PhD '04**, remains passionate about his work.

His career in defense and global affairs began when he was an Army Apache helicopter pilot. "I'd been very much involved in national security and public affairs as a practitioner," Wilson says, "particularly with the crises in the years coming out of the Cold War." After seven years immersed in conflict situations, Wilson attended graduate school at Cornell. He learned the policy and theory behind all he had seen first-hand and experienced his "intellectual birth."

Thanks to his studies at CIPA, Wilson is now a sought-out military strategist. His work dramatically shapes military operations. He documented and analyzed the Iraq war and peace plans – and was among the first to publicly speak out about the lack of an exit strategy – and worked as the resident strategist for General David Petraeus. After teaching strategy at Cornell and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Wilson has spent recent years at U.S. Central Command in Florida as Chief of the Commander's Initiatives Group (CIG), designing and implementing plans for Afghanistan.

Wilson doesn't like to call himself an "expert," but when it comes to military strategy, he clearly is one. He notes that his job is to bring people together, "to identify all the key players and to knit these groups together in an effective and winnable way." He likes the idea of "whole of community" and "whole of government" solutions. As he moves into retirement, he intends to continue this work as a specialized strategist.

He credits his Cornell education with setting him on his journey. "It allowed me to be schooled within the prescribed boxes," along with finding "encouragement to endeavor outside the box, and frankly, to move beyond boxes altogether."

— Amanda K. Jaros

# FUNDING Collaboration



As Alan Mathios enters his final year as the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean of the College of Human Ecology, an alumna has established a fund in his honor. **Susan Deitz Milmo '71** established the Mathios Fund for Cross-College Collaboration, which will support interdisciplinary work between the College of Human Ecology and other colleges within Cornell.

Milmo first met Mathios when she was asked to serve on the Dean's Advisory Council. "Alan is a leader, a statesman, a collaborator, a visionary, and a friend," she says. "I admire his ability to dissolve barriers and unite disparate factions in order to realize valuable synergies. Among his many accomplishments, I'm most inspired by his cross-college-collaboration efforts."

Milmo worked in the apparel industry for decades, most recently as the vice president of merchandising and strategic planning for Royce Hosiery Mills. Since her elementary school years, Milmo wanted to work with clothing. She began sewing lessons at age seven and attended classes at a design school in New York City at 13. She earned a bachelor's degree in textile and clothing design from the College of Human Ecology just two years after the university changed its name from the College of Home Economics. Milmo also holds an MBA from New York University.

"As Alan nears the end of his last term as Dean, and I near my 50th reunion, I wanted to show my appreciation for all he has done to define the mission and elevate the reputation of the College both on campus and around the world," Milmo says.

Milmo is a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women and has served on the Cornell University Council, Cornell University Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations, Cornell Adult University Board, and Human Ecology Alumni Association Board.

— Sheri Hall

# By the Numbers

**Nannette Nocon '82** is a 2017 recipient of the internationally recognized ATHENA Award. Nocon, who owns Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, was honored by the Women's Council of Rochester, New York, an affiliate of the Rochester Business Alliance.

The award is presented annually by member organizations of the non-profit ATHENA International to recognize the achievements of women leaders and inspire others through their example. After starting as a nutrition major at Cornell, Nocon launched her career as a dietetic technician in a nursing home but could not shake the feeling that she was not realizing her full potential.

"I started asking around and found that about a third of the people I spoke with studied something different than their job at that time," says Nocon. Armed with this insight and new confidence, she "switched from counting calories to counting money" in 1984.

Although Nocon did not fit the ideal profile of a married, 30-something Ameriprise (then IDS) advisor, her persistence nevertheless landed her a job with the company. Since then, she has used her strengths and love for numbers – Nocon and her



sisters used to work on math workbooks for fun in the summer months – to build a thriving business helping clients achieve their financial goals.

The ATHENA award committee also took into consideration the time and energy Nocon invests to support education and the arts in Rochester, where she settled some forty years ago. "The community has been so good to me, and giving back is my way of thanking them," she says. "I am deeply humbled by the award and feel that it is a call to do even more."

— Olivia M. Hall

# Room for GROWTH

New classrooms flip traditional learning on its head

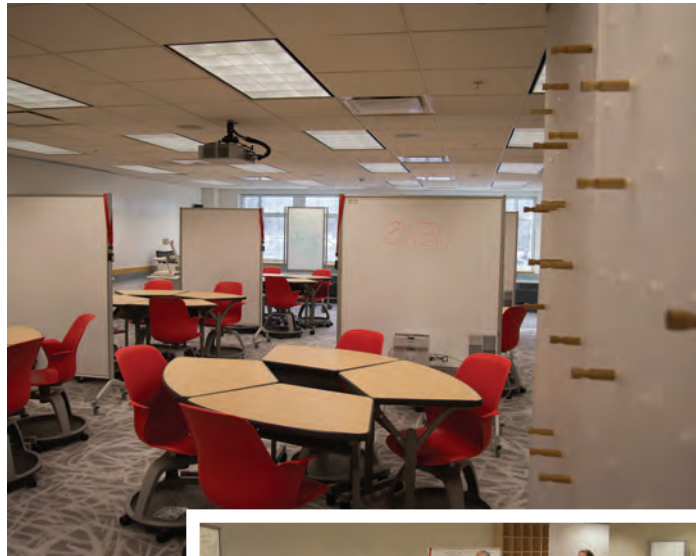
College of Human Ecology Design + Environmental Analysis students, working with professional architects and college administrators, have conceived and built two new classrooms in Martha Van Rensselaer Hall's west wing that can quickly transform from traditional lecture halls into spaces that are ideal for discussions, team presentations, group projects and "flipped" lessons where students take the helm.

"Traditional environments of students seated at tables facing the front, that are difficult for group work and aren't adaptable to different learning styles throughout the course of an hour-long class, don't align with the learning goals that we aspire to have as a college," says Kristine Mahoney, Director of Facilities and Operations at the College.

According to Mahoney, current research on learning environments has shown that more active learning, through increasing student engagement, fosters higher information retention rates and a deeper understanding of course materials than exclusively lecturing in a classroom setting.

"Students are loving the spaces, and faculty are asking to be in them," she says. "The types of disciplines students examine at Human Ecology are really about the engagement and interaction between subject matter, human intervention, and having the courses and lectures model that kind of study just makes sense."

– Stephen D'Angelo



Two new active learning environments, 157 MVR (above) and 166 MVR (left), are moving lectures away from traditional classroom settings and inspiring future designs.





Gogi Gupta '00

**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Science,  
Policy Analysis and Management

**POSITION:** Founder,  
Gupta Media

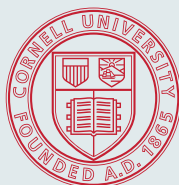


Cornell University  
College of Human Ecology

FROM THE PUBLIC POLICY PORTION  
OF MY CORNELL EDUCATION THE IDEA  
REALLY STUCK THAT YOU CAN PUT A  
PRICE TO RISK AND MAKE DECISIONS  
BASED ON THAT.

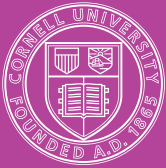
Our goal is to pivot the massive exposure and excitement  
generated by Grammy wins into sales and fans. We're creating  
strategies and building the tools to make that happen.

i am *building new platforms to market music.*  
human ecology



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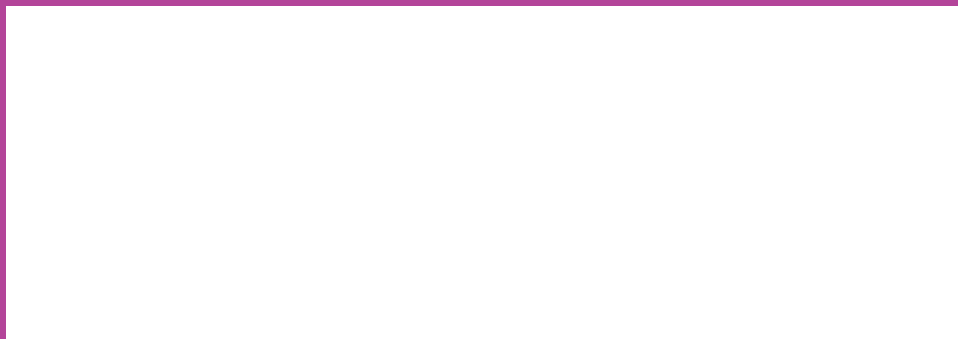
Learn more about the College of Human Ecology at [human.cornell.edu](http://human.cornell.edu)



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As its successor is today, the College of Home Economics was a hub of multi-disciplinary research and real-world impact. This included improving lives through the collaborative Center for Housing and Environmental Studies, which comprised faculty from the School of Architecture, the College of Engineering, the College of Agriculture, and the departments of Housing and Design and Economics of the Household and Household Management.

From 1950-1969, Professor Glenn H. Beyer served as its director, in tandem with faculty appointments in the College of Architecture and the Department of Housing and Design. The Cornell Kitchen was one such project where Beyer assembled a working group of experts in home economics, social psychology, engineering, and design to tackle the challenge of how to improve the kitchen, with new concepts for greater livability and convenience.