

# Human Ecology

## LIGHTING A FIRE

4-H programs spark youth to college—and beyond



Cornell University



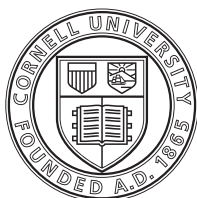
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## Human Ecology

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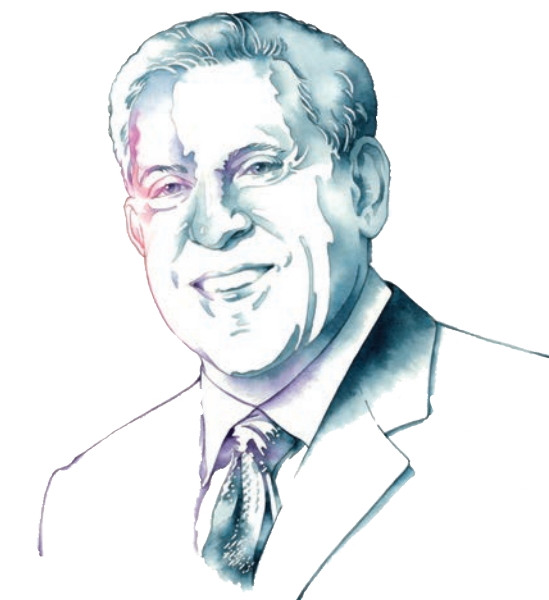
IMPROVING LIVES BY  
EXPLORING AND SHAPING  
HUMAN CONNECTIONS TO  
NATURAL, SOCIAL, AND  
BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

**W**ith the return of students to campus  
and the inauguration of Elizabeth Garrett  
as the university's 13th president, there's  
a powerful reminder of the way a college  
education can transform lives.

"Education is an inspiration, a taking hold  
of a broader life," said President Garrett  
in her inaugural address, quoting Professor  
Liberty Hyde Bailey, who helped pioneer the  
university's extension efforts. "That kind of  
education can be found across our campus  
every day, and around the world as our  
students explore the globe... and wrestle with  
age-old questions of what it means to lead a  
valuable and engaged life."

At Human Ecology, that sense of exploration  
remains central to our mission to improve lives  
as we explore and shape the environments  
around us. In our cover story ("Lighting a  
Fire"), we look at a group of high school  
students who spent the past summer on  
campus, thanks to a deepening partnership  
between 4-H and CHE's Bronfenbrenner Center  
for Translational Research. These students,  
who came from places as different as Brooklyn  
and Bangladesh, arrived with two things in  
common: a dream of higher education and a  
commitment to make the world a better place.  
Five weeks later, they returned home with a  
new understanding of their lives and careers.

A Human Ecology education is a  
transformational experience, and with every  
step we take—as students, faculty, alumni,  
and friends—we leave our mark. Inside this  
issue, you'll see those footprints extending  
into the Dominican Republic ("The DR is In"),  
Ghana ("Protein Power"), Turkey ("Uncommon  
Threads"), and Zambia ("Global Good"),  
as well as leading the way in Washington,  
D.C. ("Washington Wizard"), New York City  
("Brooklyn Bridges," "Gurus of New York"),



and here on campus ("A Bright Future," "Seeds  
of Change").

As we read these pages, we can see many  
reasons to be proud. Our faculty continue  
to conduct cutting-edge research in a broad  
range of disciplines. Our students embrace  
the world's challenges as enthusiastic leaders  
on campus and around the globe. Our alumni  
provide the network that makes all this  
innovation possible, following the example of  
the previous generation as they guide the way  
for those yet to come.

"Because of the experience at Cornell,  
our graduates will have more fulfilling  
opportunities on their journeys," said Garrett.  
"They will have brighter economic futures;  
and, most important, they will experience  
life's adventures more deeply and with greater  
satisfaction. Their education is worthy of their  
own investment, our country's investment,  
and the investment of Cornellians who have  
come before them, because our graduates will  
determine the future."

As we begin this next step of our journey,  
we remain grateful for your support as you  
travel with us into the future.



# A Bright FUTURE

New institute links hospitality, design, and health administration to improve patient care



Above: Verma, Hollis, and Shepley (l-r) lead the new institute, blending their expertise in hospitality, health administration, and design. Right: Cornell design students help Weill Cornell rethink the layout of its neurological intensive care unit.



## To address challenges

of modern health care, the College of Human Ecology and the School of Hotel Administration have launched the Cornell Institute for Healthy Futures. Billed as the first such academic center in the country, IHF combines hospitality, environmental design, and health policy and management into a broad-based platform to improve service in health care, wellness, and senior living through industry partnerships.

“What has never been done before is the integration of these disciplines to promote a holistic view of health care,” says executive director Rohit Verma, who teaches service operations management at the School of Hotel Administration. “The institute will focus not only on clinical care, but will pay close attention to the patient experience, the well-being of the family, and the

long-term emotional needs of patients and their loved ones, all carefully informed by a design perspective. That’s what makes us unique.”

At a Nov. 2 kickoff event, IHF will host panel discussions with speakers from industry and academia on research needs related to health care, hospitality, and design. In April 2016, IHF plans to host an inaugural roundtable on core issues shared by hospitality and health care.

“The institute’s approach is more than interdisciplinary,” says associate director Mardelle McCuskey Shepley, professor of design and environmental analysis. “It’s transdisciplinary, in the sense that it’s generating a whole new field, rather than having different disciplines work in parallel. We hope this venture will broaden perspectives regarding the future of health, and enhance the quality of people’s lives.”

This fall, institute leaders are forming partnerships, establishing fellowships for practitioners and researchers, and identifying potential visiting scholars. Working closely with stakeholders in both colleges, they are investigating research funding opportunities, which will help determine future collaborations. Current projects include studying the role of service and hospitality in patient choice, understanding customer preferences in wellness tourism, and assessing the performance of wellness-themed hotels.

To fulfill its educational mission, the institute has developed a preliminary list of Human Ecology courses to complement Hotel School offerings, and has considered creating an undergraduate concentration and a dual-degree masters program. Directors plan to coordinate support to Cornell instructors teaching courses

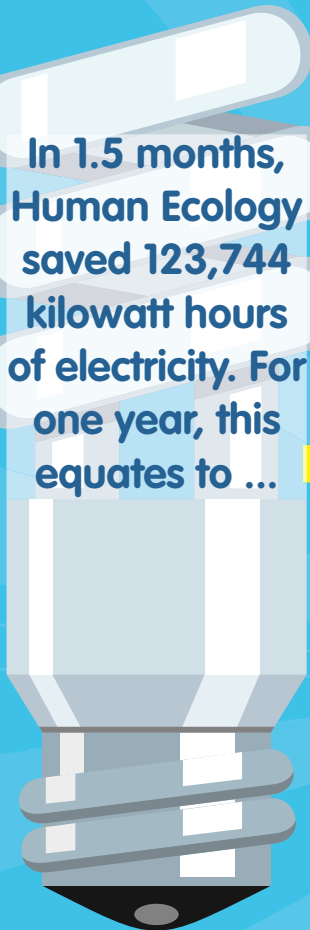
in health care and wellness, and expand outreach efforts to undergrads considering careers in design, hospitality, or health administration.

“There’s a lot of overlap between disciplines,” says Brooke Hollis, Sloan ’78, Sloan Program in Health Administration associate director. “However, historically, health care institutions have not matched the hospitality industry’s effort toward operational and customer-service tasks. Now, as more ideas from hospitality are being considered or adopted by the health care industry, and with more research on effective management and design interventions, we’re beginning to see some promising improvements. It’s an exciting time, and with the new institute, we hope to be innovators and thought leaders in these areas.”

— Kenny Berkowitz

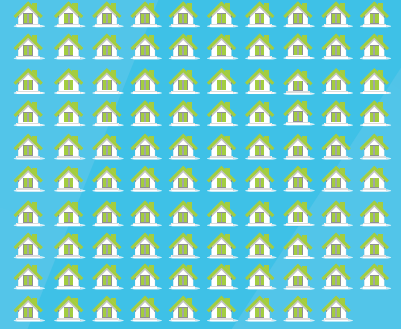
# Green is Good

*Last fall, Human Ecology students, staff, and faculty united to conserve resources, posting winning results in Cornell's Energy Smackdown.*



In 1.5 months, Human Ecology saved 123,744 kilowatt hours of electricity. For one year, this equates to ...

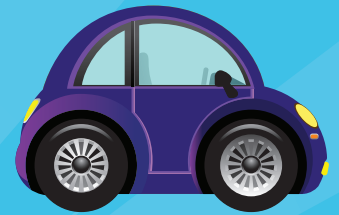
**Powering  
99 homes**



**Planting 4,125  
acres of forests**



**Taking 208 cars  
off the road**



**Driving around  
Earth 113 times**



**Filling 28,443  
propane tanks  
for home BBQs**



**Saving \$118,794**





Above: Kids enjoy extra protein at an Egg-A-Day project started by ENAM. Right: An ENAM researcher surveys families about malnutrition in Ghana.



# Protein POWER

Undergrad tackles malnutrition and health disparities in Ghana

**Edgar Akuffo-Addo '16 is dreaming big** in order to bring health equity to his native Ghana and other developing countries. Last year, his vision came closer to reality when Projects for Peace funded his grassroots program, Enhancing Child Nutrition through Animal Source Food Management (ENAM), helping establish a poultry farm in the Gushegu district of northern Ghana to provide families with affordable meat and eggs and raise funds for community education.

In Gushegu, one-third of all children between one and five years old suffer from protein deficiencies that cause severe physical symptoms and delay motor and cognitive development. Beyond enhancing nutrition, Akuffo-Addo hopes the work can be a powerful catalyst for positive change in an area frequently torn by violence and civil unrest.

"Through my nutrition and humanities classes, I have come to appreciate proper nutrition as a powerful good and a moral obligation," says Akuffo-Addo, pictured at right. "Well-nourished children are more likely to be healthy, productive contributors to national development."

ENAM launched last summer with high hopes, but Akuffo-Addo and his team ran into several obstacles that delayed progress, from nonexistent roads to inflation to fuel shortages. A year later, Akuffo-Addo sees success and wisdom arising from these failures. His team has completed critical baseline research for targeting the specific causes of malnutrition in Gushegu, and added a 1.5 acre legume farm to ENAM's operations. Next, he's hoping to expand the program to other communities threatened by malnutrition.

As ENAM gains momentum, Akuffo-Addo isn't slowing down. He's been accepted to graduate school in Human Ecology's Sloan Program in Health Administration, and the abstract of his senior thesis on ENAM was accepted for presentation at the second International Conference on Global Food Security. With graduation on the horizon, his plans for the future keep growing.

"It is my dream to help create reforms to the health sector in Africa," he says. "I envision pioneering a health care system that is efficient and solves medicine's dilemma of infinite needs versus finite resources."



Akuffo-Addo says he's gotten tremendous support from Cornell and Human Ecology faculty members, especially his mentor Rebecca Seguin, assistant professor of nutritional sciences. He also credits coursework in his human biology, health, and society major for better equipping him to view human health issues from a broad, multidisciplinary perspective.

Akuffo-Addo continues a journey begun as a child in southern Ghana with severe asthma, the youngest of four children whose parents often had to choose between paying rent or medical bills.

"I grew up acutely conscious of the distressing effects of health inequity, and what it means to be underprivileged and underserved," Akuffo-Addo says. "I hope to be among those who can bridge this gap."

— Sarah S. Thompson





# Seeds of CHANGE

Dye garden promotes sustainable fashion

**Denise Green '07, assistant professor** in the Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, was teaching her students about natural dyeing last spring when she noticed *scilla siberica*, a small perennial with blue bell-shaped blooms, growing on campus, around town, and in her front yard. She and her students gathered the plants, put them in glass jars filled with fabric swatches and water, and set them in a sunny spot outside Martha Van Rensselaer Hall. The solar dye bath was the first her class had made with local plant materials.

"After two weeks of incubation, our swatches were a beautiful bright yellow-green," says Green. "To be able to go outside, to harvest right here, was empowering."

Six months later, a new vision is taking root. After a test garden—planted by Green and students on campus with the help of Human Ecology Facilities Services and Cornell Plantations—flourished over the summer, Green is now leading a grassroots campaign to permanently install beds between the Human Ecology Building and Martha Van Rensselaer Hall.

She envisions plants capable of producing a spectrum of colors, including gypsywort (which makes black dye on wool and silk), wild mustard (yellow), double-flowered yellow flag iris (blackish green), bedstraw (red dye from roots, yellow from flowers), dyer's woad (blue), Japanese indigo (blue) madder root (red), and marigold (yellows and oranges). Funds raised will create new beds and pay for soil, tools, and other supplies. To learn more, visit [crowdfunding.cornell.edu/dyegarden](http://crowdfunding.cornell.edu/dyegarden).

"The new location will be highly visible, making it a great space for educational signage in addition to a wonderful, sunny location for growing," Green says.

Green sees working with natural dyes as a way for students to explore the intersection of science, design, and sustainability. "It is important to me to make sustainability relevant to students and integrate it into their design practice. The students really, really got into it," Green says. "They were excited to experiment with dyes that have less environmental impact than harsher chemical dyes."

Synthetic dyes have toxic properties that cause serious health and environmental problems throughout the apparel supply chain,

from water pollution to human health hazards. In contrast, natural dye plants are not toxic and some grow aggressively without herbicides or fungicides; many are weeds that thrive in roadside ditches. "They don't need much help," Green says.

Still, natural dyes come with complications. Fabrics require a mordant, which is a chemical agent that enables the



Mark Vorreuter (3)





### Fabrics to dye for

Opposite page: Students inspect plants in the garden outside HEB before converting them into dyes in the lab.

Above: Green discusses naturally dyed fabrics for a group of summer students.

Left: Rachel Powell '17, continuing education student Daniela Cueva, and Lauryn Smith '18 display their original works from Green's spring course, Color and Surface Design of Textiles.

dye to successfully bond with fiber molecules. Mordants can also be toxic, although less so than synthetic dyes.

Natural dyes are also labor-intensive. It can take several days or weeks for the cloth to be scoured, mordanted, dyed, and cured. After all that work, natural dyes produce a limited palette and unpredictable results. "There are a lot of possibilities with natural dyeing. It's a lot of trial and error," Green says.

Last spring, Green's students made natural dye swatch books with squares of cloths, from linen and rayon to cotton, silk, nylon and wool. The results, says Green, were amazing. Lauryn Smith '18, a fine art major, dyed canvases and then painted self-portraits

that convey how clothing and fibers work to create and remove intimacy from the human form for an exhibit planned for the Jill Stuart Gallery, November 16 – December 4.

The most valuable part of the class was watching everyday plants make incredible colors and transformations, Smith says. "You get so involved in the process and you stay with it to the end, smelling the smells, testing pH, and measuring temperatures. The result is never guaranteed, but it's usually exciting. It creates a sense of ownership and gratification that synthetic dyes never do."

— Susan Kelley

# Washington WIZARD

PAM professor advises the Obama Administration



Matsudaira stands outside the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, a few steps from the White House and home to the Council of Economic Advisers.

**As he walked out of the room** where President Barack Obama had just signed a new executive order, a group of cheering labor activists asked Jordan Matsudaira to take their photo. After he snapped the shot, they asked about his connection to the order, which greatly boosted the minimum wage for federal contractors.

Matsudaira, assistant professor of policy analysis and management, explained that he worked at the White House and had helped craft the order—eliciting hugs and thanks from the group. It was a highlight of Matsudaira's recent two-year term on the Council of Economic Advisers—including one year as chief economist—an executive branch agency that advises the president on economic policy. "Feeling that kind of direct impact your work

has on people is not something you really get to experience as an academic," Matsudaira says.

Now back at Cornell, Matsudaira will share his White House stories with students, teaching them to make research relevant to policymakers. "In the course of two weeks, two days, or sometimes two hours, you're given a question and you have to come up with a really good answer and present evidence of why you think your answer is right," he says of the CEA.

A labor and education economist, Matsudaira has studied programs that foster upward mobility among people with low incomes. In Washington, he handled day-to-day management of CEA's labor and education policy before being promoted to chief economist in his second year, where his attention turned primarily to education policy, a presidential priority.

He presented research findings to Obama on several occasions and provided data showing which policy options were most likely to stimulate the economy. He wrote reports on the impact of the War on Poverty, the benefits of early childhood education and emergency unemployment, and how to close opportunity gaps faced by young men of color. Perhaps his foremost achievement was leading an interagency team to develop the College Scorecard, a new consumer tool to help families assess higher education affordability and value.

"Jordan is one of the top U.S. microeconomists, and brought his intelligence and experience to the White House," says Jennifer Hunt, who worked closely with Matsudaira while she was chief economist at the Department of Labor and deputy assistant secretary for microeconomic analysis at the Department of the Treasury. But knowledge alone is insufficient to develop and implement policy, she adds. "Jordan used his communication skills coupled with patience, persistence, and good humor to persuade non-economists of the right economic policies."

Obama was detail-oriented in several policy meetings Matsudaira attended with Vice President Joe Biden and cabinet members. "He was brilliant on policy and immediately grasped the crux of difficult and complicated issues," says Matsudaira. "He asked a lot of good questions to make sure he understood why his advisers were coming up with the conclusions they did."

Matsudaira returned from Washington more optimistic about how much policymakers base decisions on academic research, rather than on political considerations. Before working for the CEA, he used to compare being an academic to taking on Pascal's Wager, "which is to say that you need to have deep faith that your work is going to matter. Now I have a little more evidence, rather than just faith, to think that's true."

— Susan Kelley





Elliott inspects one of his sculptures on display in his show at CHE's Jill Stuart Gallery.

# Trunk SHOW

Sesquicentennial exhibit branches into nature, architecture, culture

**To artist Jack Elliott**, trees signify relationships among nature, human forms, architecture, and culture. Celebrating Cornell's sesquicentennial, his most recent installation connected these themes with classical plaster casts, contemporary sculpture, and a 150-year-old tree.

Opening on Earth Day, "Carya: Women, Buildings, Nature: Hellenic Themes, Contemporary Works," positioned classical artworks—including a large figure of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, from Cornell's Plaster Cast Collection, and a reproduction of the "Lonely Caryatid" Elgin marble taken from the Parthenon—alongside parts of trees that Elliott sculpted as corresponding forms. "I like the idea of finding statements about the contemporary condition in these ancient forms, and in the myths and origins of architecture," says Elliott, associate professor of design and environmental analysis.

The display incorporated bark and sculpted segments from a massive 150-year-old shagbark hickory tree that fell in a storm near Seneca Falls, N.Y. Elliott and a team of students and workers extracted the tree in sub-zero weather last winter and prepared it at the High Voltage Lab off-campus.

Elliott wanted to connect the hickory tree's species, "carya," to caryatid statues—carvings of draped female figures, used as pillars in classical Greek architecture. Architectural drawings on the gallery walls showed the classical elements of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, constructed in the early 1930s for the then-College of Home Economics. "This ties some of the themes to our own building—intended as a building for young women," Elliott says.



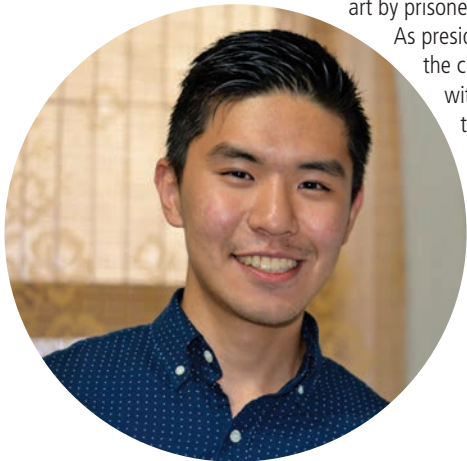
Actor and environmental activist Ted Danson receives a tour from Elliott.

DEA major Katrina Stropkay '17 did archival research for the exhibition's interpretive text. "Ultimately I was trying to strengthen the artistic thesis about the connection between women, nature, mythology, the built environment, and our college itself," Stropkay says. "[The work] was both intellectually and technically very challenging, but I came away with a more holistic perspective on interdisciplinary research, art, and design."

— Daniel Aloï

# Strong in Spirit

For his work with Cornell's Prison Education Program, human biology, health, and society student Owen Lee-Park '15 received the Maribel Garcia Community Spirit Award, which is given each year to a Cornell student who creatively serves the community. Lee-Park served as a CPEP teaching assistant before taking over *Writer's Bloc*, a student-run journal that publishes literature and art by prisoners and Cornell students.



As president, Lee-Park revived the club, provided prisoners with an outlet to express their creativity, and raised awareness about CPEP opportunities in the maximum-security Auburn Correctional Facility in New York.

# HEALTHY THOUGHTS

Sloan Program in Health Administration students Dae-Hee Lee MHA '16 and Elise Pennington MHA '16 (shown below) received national scholarships for their work in health policy and health care management. Lee, who interned this summer at University of Colorado Hospital, won the American College of Healthcare Executives' Albert W. Dent Graduate Student Scholarship, a competitive award for minority students. Pennington, a summer associate at Deloitte Consulting, earned the David A. Winston Health Policy Scholarship, which is given to students interested in state and federal health care policy.



# POSITIVE RESULTS

When faced with life's daily hassles, adults who lack a positive outlook show elevated physiological markers for inflaming cardiovascular and autoimmune disease, according to new research by Anthony Ong, associate professor of human development, published in *Health Psychology*. Surveying nearly 870 midlife and older adults, researchers found that people who experienced greater decreases in positive affect on stressful days showed heightened inflammatory immune responses, with women at particular risk. "This study extends previous research by showing that possessing stable levels of positive affect may be conducive to good health," said Ong.



Joel Lawson '16 models a look from the Irradiance collection.

# FLASHY DRESSERS

Led by fiber science major Eric Beaudette '16, a student team created fashionable smart garments with vivid, luminescent panels that pulse to music for the 2015 Cornell Fashion Collective Runway Show. Their Irradiance collection shimmered with optical fiber cloth illuminated by controllable LEDs and strips of electroluminescent tape, with an Arduino microcontroller sewn into each garment. "These garments depict our vision of fashion of the future, having increased function and compatibility with devices, such as smartphones," said Beaudette.



# An Inside Look

Visiting campus for a meeting of the New York State Assembly, Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton toured the College of Human Ecology with Dean Alan Mathios and Cornell President Elizabeth Garrett, viewing labs and programs and hearing about the college's research on demography and public policy. At a private showing for the group, retired University

Archivist Elaine Engst spoke about artifacts in the Cornell collections related to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, who were instrumental in securing public funding for Martha Van Rensselaer Hall in the 1930s.



Speaker Heastie (left) tours MVR Hall with Dean Mathios, President Garrett, and others.



Alvaro Salas-Castro, MPA '14, looks on as Costa Rican Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications Marcelo Jenkins, CIPA Executive Director Thomas O'Toole, Vice President Chacón, and CIPA Director Sharon Tennyson (l-r) discuss the agreement.

## A Rich Exchange

A new scholarship program established by the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs and Costa Rica's Ministry of Science, Technology, and Telecommunications seeks to attract Costa Rican students interested in science, technology, and infrastructure policy, training them to become leaders in government and public affairs. Under the agreement, Costa Ricans will apply to the CIPA MPA program under Cornell's regular admissions process, with a small number expected to be funded each year. Ana Chacón, Second Vice President of Costa Rica, called the program a "historic alliance."

## Grain Gains

Pearl millet bred with two to four times more iron than conventional varieties could offer a novel solution to anemia—a condition that affects more than 1.6 billion people worldwide—according to a Cornell-led study testing the new grain's efficacy. Publishing in the *Journal of Nutrition*, nutritional sciences professors Julia Finkelstein and Jere Haas found that iron biofortified pearl millet resolved deficiencies in a group of 246 low-income, school-aged children in India within four to six months, compared to a control group fed conventional pearl millet over the same period. Future studies will examine the effects of introducing the millet seeds across a larger population to see how widely the iron-rich grain integrates into the food system, and what long-term effect it has on overall iron deficiency.



Schoolchildren in Maharashtra, India, are served bhakri, a flatbread made from pearl millet.



## SUSTAINING SCHOLARS

Cornell's Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future named design and environmental analysis associate professors Jack Elliott and Ying Hua to its inaugural Fellowship for Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts. Joining a group of 11 faculty fellows, Elliott and Hua will receive resources for teaching leave and research for a semester, freeing them to develop ideas about sustainability into concrete outcomes. Elliott plans to work on a book about environmental thought and continue his series of wood sculpture, while Hua proposes to write a book on sustainability in urban projects and buildings in the U.S., Japan, and China.







“Being open to learning new things—about this country, about health and illness, about each other and ourselves—begins not with the learning itself, but with unlearning. What do we each need to unlearn, to leave behind, so that we can be prepared to take in all that life has to offer us?” — Dr. Angel Pichardo





# The DR is In

Global Health students dive into medicine, policy, and research in Dominican Republic summer program

By Tim Shenk

**A**t an orientation in Samaná, Dominican Republic, two dozen participants sit in a circle while Dr. Angel Pichardo leads a group reflection in Spanish. An overhead fan moves the humid, salty air, and mosquitoes whine at the window screens. It's the first weekend of the 2015 Cornell-CUSLAR Global Health summer service learning program. As he begins to speak, Pichardo appears to absent-mindedly pour water from a pitcher into a full glass. Several students jump up to warn him as the water overflows and spills onto the floor.

"¿Por qué se botó?" he asks, looking around the circle. "Why did it spill?"

"It was full already," one student ventures. "And you poured more water into it."

"Yes," Pichardo says. "This is what can happen when you try to teach something new to a person who thinks they know everything. New knowledge doesn't have any place to go, so it

spills out and is lost. Our conditioning and our assumptions can make new learning more difficult."

As a physician and university professor at la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD), Pichardo brings a broad range of expertise and connections to the summer program—in addition to insatiable energy and a contagious laugh. His holistic medical clinic, Asesoría Nutricional para el Desarrollo Armónico (ANDA), is a hub for Cornell students, located on the same block as their homestay placements.

"One of our goals this summer is to make more space," Pichardo continues as waves crash nearby. "Being open to learning new things—about this country, about health and illness, about each other and ourselves—begins not with the learning itself, but with unlearning. What do we each need to unlearn, to leave behind, so that we can be prepared to take in all that life has to offer us?"

He sends the group out to the beach to reflect on this question. "Let the ocean take everything you want to let go of," he says.





## Learning and Unlearning

The Division of Nutritional Sciences Global Health Program expanded its eight-week summer field offerings in 2014 to include Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic. More than 50 students enrolled in the Global Health minor complete service learning programs abroad each summer, and the DR is its first Spanish-language site, following established programs in India, Tanzania, and Zambia.

“Spanish is one of the most commonly studied or spoken foreign languages among Cornell students, and we wanted to create a language immersive program,” said Rebecca Stoltzfus PhD ’92, professor of nutritional



sciences and director of the Global Health Program, which partnered with the Cornell-based Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations (CUSLAR) to launch the DR program. “Because our current Global Health faculty have more experience in Africa and Asia than Latin America, we couldn’t have done this without a partner that has a strong understanding and set of relationships in a Latin American country.”

CUSLAR board member and Ithaca College professor Alicia Swords ran student programs with Pichardo’s organization from 2007 to 2010, paving the way for a new initiative through Cornell Global Health. When Pichardo and Stoltzfus met in 2013, they discovered mutual interests in experiential learning, strengthening host communities, and long-term partnerships for research and cultural exchange. They agreed on the negative health effects of industrial food systems, and saw health disparities as part of larger structural challenges for students to explore.

“From the start it was clear that Dr. Pichardo could add something distinct to



our program offerings—the influences of Paulo Freire and liberation theology, for example, mixed with Caribbean culture, and his own intensely creative ideas about community health and justice,” said Stoltzfus. “He was eager for the mutual learning that this partnership could provide his Dominican colleagues and students. We just resonated with each other.”

In its first two summers, the program has hosted 15 students from across the university. To qualify, students must be Global Health minors who meet Spanish language requirements. To encourage collaboration, Cornell students who are native Spanish speakers are often paired with peers still learning the language.

Prior to traveling abroad, students take a one-credit spring seminar focused on global citizenship, Dominican history and culture, and the particularities of Dominican Spanish. Once in Santo Domingo, a vibrant, sweltering city of nearly 4 million people, students stay with host families in the Simón Bolívar neighborhood of Santo Domingo Norte. They pursue hospital and







clinic rotations, a research methods class at UASD, and group projects related to public and community health.

During their rotations, students shadow medical personnel at ANDA, as well as at a neighborhood primary care clinic and a top trauma hospital, where they observe patient consultations. In class, Pichardo gives students tools to develop a research project and collect and analyze data.

Last summer, Cornell-UASD research teams tackled a broad range of health-related topics, including approaches to diabetes and cancer treatment, contraceptive use, and violence against women. Eleven Dominican students are raising funds to come to Cornell this fall to present their findings.

Though students don't receive Cornell credit, they take a fall capstone course to reflect on international learning and propose interventions based on their fieldwork and observations.

## Big Red Familia

An important component of Global Health's summer programs is experiential learning, which program leaders hope occurs in informal and unexpected ways.

"Here, the learning is different: it happens everywhere," said Cassandra Palladino '15, a nutritional sciences major who studied in the DR in 2014. "My learning brain never sleeps; it is constantly soaking up any little thing that happens. I am a student on the street, watching how vendors sell their food and where to find the guagua [bus]. It never stops. I would not want it any other way."

Seeking reciprocal learning, Pichardo set up the homestays with mutual benefits for cultural exchange. Multigenerational families with teens, or widows who may lack contact with young people, have been particularly good hosts for Cornell students. One mother confided that she almost told Pichardo not to place students

## Dominican Days

In the program, students visit clinics, attend classes, and mix with Dominican students and families—soaking up knowledge and building relationships in formal and informal settings.

Opposite page (clockwise): Santo Domingo streets and residents; Pichardo sets up camp near UASD; Cornell students tour a Dominican medical clinic; and Pichardo leads a class lecture.

Above (clockwise): Students apply knowledge in hospital settings and take in local culture; one-on-one interviews with local Dominicans support public health research; Cornell-adorned digs; and a gathering of Cornell and UASD students.



at her home again this year. “I couldn’t handle another heartbreak—having my American ‘daughters’ leave last summer was so difficult.”

In addition to relationships in the homes, the Dominican students expressed gratitude, saying they underwent significant personal transformations after spending the summer working with the Cornell Global Health group. Most are medical students at UASD, the country’s largest public university, and are part of a holistic medicine group called *RenaSer*.

Medical student Christopher Guerrero saw his stereotypes of U.S. students challenged from the start. “I was to meet the group at the airport. I thought they would all be tall and blonde and speak only English!” he joked. “But the first Global Health student I met had dark skin like me, and I was so surprised when she greeted me in Spanish. From the day they arrived, my perspective about American students began to change. Now I consider them family.”

Sergio Valenzuela, a music student, didn’t expect such a transformative experience. His research group, which included Cornell human development student Annie Fernández ’17 and UASD pre-med student Arlette Sánchez, studied perceptions of *machismo* and violence against women among adolescents in the Simón Bolívar neighborhood.

The group conducted interviews at a local high school, where young people congregate for basketball and volleyball practice, receiving help from a physical education teacher to set up interviews. Sánchez said, “In my research group, our connection was so strong that with every interview we did together, we learned something new. I would even say it changed our lives.”

Listening to Dominican teens was especially impactful, even painful, for Fernández, who is from New York City and of Cuban heritage. Fernández wrote in her field journal:

“This is what struck me most: in both focus groups we did with girls, a handful of the girls used the word *débil* (weak) in their definition of what it meant to be a woman. It was incredibly disheartening to see, because you could tell that they had internalized the culture of *machismo* that is pervasive throughout Dominican culture. It was incredibly telling of

their own self-esteem, because they would describe men as the complete opposite: ‘strong,’ ‘independent,’ ‘successful’ and ‘powerful.’”

Fernández, Sánchez, and Valenzuela noted in their initial findings that young people in Simón Bolívar tend to be unaware that many of the ways they relate to each other reinforce a sexist culture where women exist in a servile role to men. They also argued that exposure to physical and psychological violence was a source of stress and important indicator of community health. To help address these issues, the group saw a need for organizations to educate youth about the toll of sexism.

“Our group’s initial study is over,” Valenzuela said. “But now I am really interested in following up with more young people about what we found, and to see what they think about how we can go about changing these perceptions together.”

For many of the students, both from Cornell and UASD, the summer program offers a real chance to observe doctors, listen to patients, and see how their impressions of the health field stack up to reality.

Cornell biological sciences student Noemi Plaza-Sánchez ’15 visited in 2014 and returned as this year’s teaching assistant—using her spare time to study for the MCAT medical school entrance exam. She says the program strengthened her drive to go into medicine.

“Being trip leader has led me to take on a caregiver role if our students get sick,” she says. “The feeling I get from helping to prepare the remedies Dr. Pichardo suggests, spending time with the student and making sure she’s as comfortable as she can be, these experiences have reinforced my choice in a career in healing.”

Plaza-Sánchez concluded: “Working under the guidance of Dr. Pichardo and with his holistic approach has made me reflect on the importance of being able to give true care and love to the people I am caring for. I’m so thankful to the program for emphasizing this idea for me, for reminding me of my true goals in a career in health.”

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*Tim Shenk is coordinator of the Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations.*







“In my research group, our connection was so strong that with every interview we did together, we learned something new. It changed our lives.”

— Arlette Sánchez, UASD pre-med

The curriculum provides many opportunities for Cornell and UASD students to work together on research projects.

Provided



**There's learning at every turn in the Dominican Republic—as students navigate clogged city streets, interact with host families and local residents, or conduct public health research. The program, students say, offers a 24/7 education in medicine, research, and health policy, as well as lessons for life and leadership. Here four students share their experiences in the program.**

## ¿Qué es esto?

“¿Qué es esto?” or “What is this?” Dr. Pichardo is standing at the front of the classroom waving around a bottle of water. I'm watching him, eyes squinted and pen in hand, straining to hear his voice over the whir of the air conditioner.

One of the Dominican students responds confidently, “Una botella de agua (A bottle of water).” Dr. Pichardo repeats the question, and more answers flood in.

This class is one of the first lectures of our research methods course at la Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo. Before we begin our research, Dr. Pichardo is orienting us to qualitative research. His inquiries were used to demonstrate the importance of recognizing subjectivity in the process of investigating.

The perception of a simple object, such as a bottle of water, can change from person to person and affect how we approach our research. After I left that day's class, I began to think about how “¿Qué es esto?” applied not only to my research topic, but also to the trip overall. Ever since I stepped off the plane, I had been inundated with rapid bits of Spanish, weaving traffic, new foods, strange faces, and different customs. Initially, it was easy to view everything as a burden, difficulty, barrier, or problem.

I began to rethink how I was viewing my experience and how my subjectivity was influencing my participation. Spanish became a learning opportunity rather than a communication barrier. The traffic became a source of energy and excitement rather than a stress. The different customs prompted me to rethink ones that I considered my own.

The concept of “¿Qué es esto?” is not only important for formal research in the classroom or in a community, but for informal investigation that occurs internally whenever one participates in an experience like the Cornell Global Health Program. Making an effort to take on multiple viewpoints has changed this trip from simply an academic requirement to the opportunity of a lifetime.

— Emily McNeill '16, *anthropology*



## Instituto de diabetes

My team's research dealt with diabetes. Specifically, to what extent people understand disease progression, treatment, and risk factors. One of our research sites was the Instituto Nacional de Diabetes.

Each time it was a little awkward approaching someone to ask if they were diabetic and if they would be willing to participate in an interview. Yet people were more than happy to speak with us. Even if the patient was not diabetic, she often started talking about a daughter or a mother who was.

Many interviews ended with patients showing us pictures of their family or talking about something that was really important to them. We learned when doing our interviews that you cannot adhere to a script. Although we carefully crafted questions, the best interviews were ones where the script was barely used, where questions and answers flowed in genuine conversation.

In ethnographic research I think it is far more important to hear someone's untampered story than to dig for a specific fact. During one interview, a patient started to cry as she mentioned her diabetic daughter who had recently died. Her outpouring of emotion took me by surprise, but it also opened up our conversation to become even more personal.

With each interview, we became more confident as researchers. Our conversations became more fluid and interesting, while our potential findings became even more meaningful.

— Julia Smith '16, *biology and society*



Jensil Brujan (2)





## Los milagros

I started in Asesoría Nutricional para el Desarrollo Armónico (ANDA), which is a beautifully decorated alternative health clinic and community center that our mentor and professor, Dr. Angel Pichardo, created for the barrio.

You're faced with brightly colored walls as you enter. The immediate scent of freshly brewed tea and incense drift from room to room. A lively garden of plants is used directly for treatments.

From the moment I met Dr. Pichardo, I was inspired and intrigued by his work and the positive energy he radiates all around him. He connects the health of the body with a holistic approach, which is mainly connecting your mind, body, and lifestyle into the process of healing.

It's something about the way his voice flows with comfort, the eagerness he triggers through his insight, and this playful sense of humor that drives the room into a surge of laughter.

Through observing Dr. Pichardo's routine, the plants, and the patients' reflections, I considered how different the clinic was and spread a sense of positive energy because it took note of the

from those in the United States. The setting was calming, welcoming, and spread a sense of positive energy because it took note of the importance of environmental health in the healing process.

You walk in the door and almost feel like you enter a new world because it contrasts with the bustle around it. ANDA triggered an extreme curiosity into this type of healing because I could see the wonders these treatments were doing for the patients. I stood with wide eyes at our last patient visit and complimented Dr. Pichardo in how he alleviated a woman's diabetes and hypertension after only three months of treatment in the clinic.

He simply responded by pointing to a sign in the front of the office, which says, "Aquí creemos en los milagros," "We believe in miracles here."

— Jennifer Zahn '15, biology and society

## Vengan acá

It's a rainy day in the barrio, one of the first real rains since we arrived two weeks ago. Not the kind that trickles down stingily but one that floods the streets, drenching everything.

The sound of pouring rain fades into the background as Annie and I walk into our apartment. Our host-mom, Doña Carmen, all smiles, welcomes me with her usual, "Mi hija ¿cómo te fue?" and a warm hug and kiss. I answer "muy bien."

Our host-dad, Don Ciprian, pops his head out of the kitchen and says "Vengan acá," beckoning us with an excited expression on his face. Curious and completely unaware of what awaits, we make our way. He declares, "Tonight you will make 'croquetas' for dinner. I will barely touch the food."

He says this while standing next to a plate of what looks like three big burritos that have already been prepared. Considering my past failures in the kitchen, I am excited to start fresh. I immediately turn to my Spanish translator, looking to confirm that croquetas actually do mean croquettes and that our host-dad isn't kidding. Upon confirmation, we both prepare to learn.

I soon learn that the "burritos" are actually dough mixed with onions and green and red peppers, kneaded and divided into three large chunks. Don Ciprian shows us how to break tiny chunks of the dough and roll them into croquette shapes between our palms.

He yells, "ellas me estan ayudando," or "they are helping me." Laughing in disbelief, Doña Carmen enters the kitchen. While we keep working at the chunks of dough, our teacher is hustling to heat oil, prepare breadcrumbs for the crust, and make juice from papayas, while sharing with us his love for and history with food.

Soon the oil is hot. Before we know it, we are sitting in the cool breeze of the rainy night, eating hot croquetas. For once, thanks to Don Ciprian, I am not wondering how these delicious rolls of happiness were made.

— Shravya Govindgari '17, biological sciences





# Lighting a FIRE

4-H programs spark New York youth to pursue STEM careers and higher education

By Sheri Hall



**U**nder a warm July sun, Diondra Dyer, carrying a backpack and smiling bright, strides across North Campus. Finished with Cornell Summer College classes for the day, she's headed to play volleyball with new friends. It's a completely different experience than staying in her hometown, where she planned to work as a nursing home aide.

Instead, the rising high school senior is spending four weeks of summer vacation at Cornell through 4-H, which Dyer credits with giving her opportunities to explore her interests and confidence to pursue her dreams. "Before 4-H, I was basically the go-to-school-and-come-home kind of kid," says Dyer, who is from Fort Covington, N.Y., a town of 2,000 people near the Canadian border. "Now I'm involved in so much, and I wouldn't change a thing."

She's on campus thanks to a Summer Pipeline Scholarship offered by Cornell's Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives in tandem with the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR). The program aims to put students from low-income or historically underrepresented backgrounds on a path to college and to encourage them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Dyer is enrolled in a

conservation medicine curriculum, studying the health relationships between humans, animals, and the environment. She hopes to become a midwife, although she hasn't ruled out medical school.

"I have always wanted to go into the medical field," she says. "4-H showed me I can help people in so many ways—physically, mentally, emotionally. Growing up, I didn't know how to vocalize my opinions, and I didn't imagine I would have so many choices."

## Linking Research and Real Life

In New York, 4-H reaches 170,000 youth across 62 counties. The state organization is anchored at Human Ecology's Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, where researchers partner with 4-H community educators to develop programs, test new ideas in youth development, and measure outcomes.

Together, BCTR faculty and 4-H leaders are studying the best ways to recruit and retain youth and offering professional development opportunities to 4-H educators, including conferences where faculty share the latest youth development research to educators and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) county leaders.

"BCTR is a natural place for 4-H," says Elaine Wethington, Bronfenbrenner Center acting director. "Part of the process of





“I have always wanted to go into the medical field. 4-H showed me I can help people in so many ways—physically, mentally, emotionally.” — Diondra Dyer

## Bee Student

Above: Dyer and a classmate research honey bee migration patterns as part of a Cornell Summer College course on conservation medicine.

Right: Neurobiology and behavior graduate student Hailey Scofield addresses students as they prepare for hands-on activities related to bee swarming and behavior.



Photos by Lindsay France and Jason Koski





translating research is to have faculty interact with practitioners on the ground to co-develop new projects. Connecting with 4-H and its programs provides opportunities to benefit many more New York youth by allowing our researchers to learn from 4-H and also helping 4-H to improve its programs.”

Andy Turner, New York state 4-H program leader, agrees the partnership is a two-way street that benefits 4-H and the College of Human Ecology.

“There are strong similarities between the positive youth development framework that is guiding 4-H and the work of Urie Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model of human development,” he says. “Bringing 4-H into the BCTR allows us to look for ways to integrate youth development practice with emerging research and evidenced-based practice. It’s clear that 4-H is a major player in the extension and outreach mission of the college”

## **PRYDE and Purpose**

Binghamton teen Tasnia Samana has spent two years in CITIZEN U, a 4-H program in Broome and Monroe counties to help youth become active in their communities and prepare for college careers. Samana has been engaged in numerous community projects, such as using GPS to map potholes in local

neighborhoods, distributing stuffed animals to children suffering from trauma, and working on a campaign to send thank-you notes to public school teachers.

Like Dyer, Samana also earned a scholarship to Cornell Summer College this year, where she studied computer science. She learned how to use MATLAB, a high-level computer language for modeling and data analysis, and how to manage her workload efficiently. In the spring, she plans to attend Binghamton University, where she wants to major in computer science or engineering.

Samana credits CITIZEN U, a program run by CCE and the BCTR, with helping her build self-confidence and develop her interest in technology after she emigrated from Bangladesh in 2013. “The 4-H educators believed in me and inspired confidence in me,” Samana says. “I would have never had the opportunity to take classes at Cornell if it wasn’t for 4-H, and I never would have become so engaged in my community at home.”

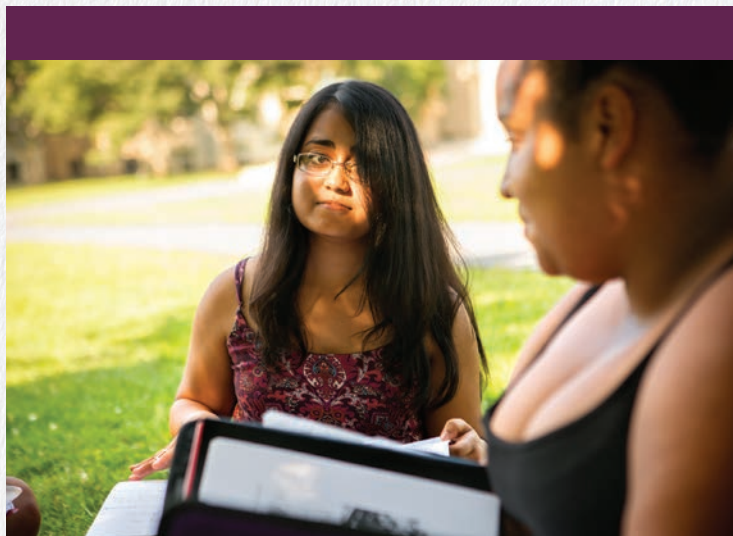
Such sustained involvement in a project is a key component of successful youth development programs, explains Anthony Burrow, Cornell assistant professor of human development. Burrow’s research focuses on how young people develop a sense of purpose, and how purpose can have a positive impact on their lives.

“In 4-H, kids aren’t just learning about government, or STEM, or





“Kids aren’t just learning about government, or STEM, or healthy living; they are learning *why* they should care about these things. 4-H creates citizens who want to contribute to society.” — Prof. Anthony Burrow



### Tech Teen

Far left: Samana, enrolled in The Digital World and You curriculum, takes computer science classes on campus. She plans to major in computer science or engineering in college.

Near left: Samana and Dyer relax on Cornell’s Libe Slope.

healthy living; they are learning *why* they should care about these things,” he says. “That’s the important part. 4-H creates citizens who want to contribute meaningfully to society.”

Burrow leads a new BCTR project, Program for Research on Youth Development and Evaluation, which will link Cornell faculty, campus resources, and 4-H county offices. PRYDE will measure 4-H’s effectiveness and create a model to identify important elements in all youth development programs.

Burrow directs PRYDE’s kickoff research project, a study to evaluate how 4-H instills youth with a sense of purpose. It matters, Burrow says, because research shows that people with a sense of purpose are better able to navigate obstacles and challenges, have a higher quality of life, and tend to live longer.

“These are skills that people use throughout their lives: the ability to master something, to develop confidence, to contribute something to the broader community,” he says. “There are many organizations trying to give youth these positive experiences, but 4-H has such momentum. All of the buzzwords in youth development today—mentorship, competence, independence—have been part of 4-H for decades. There is objective evidence that 4-H prepares youth to become citizens of a broader world.”

### Skills for Success

The same day Dyer joins her friends for volleyball, a midday rain shower soaks everything on campus. Sixteen-year-old John Nguyen dashes for a nearby student center, getting drenched along the way.

A student at Brooklyn Technical High School, Nguyen is also a 4H’er on campus thanks to a pipeline scholarship. In three weeks, he made new friends from across the globe and learned more about conducting research at the college level. After a few weeks in Ithaca, he decided to apply to Cornell, where he hopes to major in biological engineering and complete pre-med requirements.

Last year, Nguyen participated in a 4-H program led by Cornell Cooperative Extension New York City called College Achievement through Urban Science Exploration (CAUSE), which teaches students to develop research projects with hands-on advising from Cornell professors. Nguyen’s team built a model of a bioswale, a landscape element designed to remove pollution from runoff water, and measured its ability to filter chemicals. He says the experience helped him understand the importance of preventing pollution in New York City’s waterways.



“It made me really aware of the problems we are causing in the environment. And I’d never done original research before. It was a really cool opportunity to learn about nature and what it means to do research.” — John Nguyen



### Summer Knowledge

Above: Nguyen takes a break from classes on a warm July afternoon.

Below: Samana, Dyer, and Nguyen walk along Ho Plaza.

Opposite page: Students prepare for an up-close look at bee hives; Nguyen explores his interests in biology and medicine at Summer College.



“It made me really aware of the problems we are causing in the environment,” Nguyen says. “And I’d never done original research before. It was a really cool opportunity to learn about nature and what it means to do research.”

Programs like CAUSE offer a dramatically different experience than many people’s perceptions of 4-H programs, such as raising livestock for a county fair. But it’s not the content that matters as much as the broader goals of the programs, explains Turner.

“We encourage our educators to think about what they’re trying to deliver, no matter what the setting,” he says. “There’s a hands-on learning environment, an opportunity to have a relationship with a caring adult, and the chance for youth to make decisions and become leaders. You can have those experiences through an animal science program that involves showing livestock, at a 4-H overnight camp, or in an after-school program focused on science and technology.”

Research shows that the basic elements of 4-H programs—hands-on learning, mentorship, and leadership opportunities—

help youth thrive. A Tufts University longitudinal study found that 4-H youth are four times more likely to make contributions to their communities, twice as likely to make healthier choices, and twice as likely to participate in STEM programs.

Putting youth on a path to higher education is another one of the organization’s main goals, says Jamila Simon, New York state 4-H citizenship and civic engagement specialist at the BCTR. “We are helping put teens on a trajectory that will get them where they want to go,” she says.

This year, the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives contributed to that goal, thanks to donor support, by offering Summer College scholarships to nine 4-H participants, including Dyer, Samana, and Nguyen. The idea was to provide an Ivy League experience to high school students who may not consider applying to a four-year university, says A.T. Miller, Cornell’s associate vice provost for academic diversity initiatives.

“There is well-documented research that shows many well-qualified students—especially those from rural areas—don’t even





apply to college,” Miller says. “Maybe they are from a high school that doesn’t send a lot of kids to college, or maybe they are focused on an immediate career. We use 4-H to help identify students who could benefit from Summer College.”

Such opportunities help lead students to higher education and also enrich campus life, Miller says.

“We’re in the business of inspiring new ideas, and you get those ideas by having a diverse student population,” he says. “It is to our advantage to have as many voices as possible at the table because then the discussions in class, the brainstorming sessions, the artwork—everything has a different inflection.”

Dyer, the high-schooler from upstate, fits the mold perfectly. She is part African-American, Caucasian, and Native American. At her high school, few of her classmates will go on to four-year college, according to N.Y. Department of Education data.

Dyer first got involved in 4-H through a tribal mentoring program at the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, which borders Fort Covington. Since then, she has participated in statewide team-building retreats, raised money at pancake breakfasts and spaghetti suppers, and served as a leader at 4-H Career Explorations, a three-day Cornell conference to provide youth with hands-on exposure to academic fields and career options.

Her Summer College experience opened her eyes, she says, to the freedoms and responsibilities of going away to school. So far, she has applied to five colleges with the help of her 4-H adviser.

“4-H is everything from STEM to mentoring to livestock,” she says. “Anything you can think about or desire, 4-H can help you do it.”

*Sheri Hall is a freelance writer.*

## CITIZEN U teen earns top 4-H award



Courtesy of National 4-H Council

**A native of South Sudan**, Binghamton teen Nosa Akol recalls how middle school classmates bullied her about her dark skin color, causing her to become insecure and isolated. Through CITIZEN U in Broome County, Akol overcame these challenges by gaining confidence and communication and leadership skills. Now she’s the recipient of the 2015 4-H Youth in Action Award, the organization’s highest honor.

Akol was selected from more than 80 candidates nationwide for creating good in her community, empowering peers, and overcoming personal challenges. Along with a \$10,000 scholarship for college expenses, Akol was honored at National 4-H Council’s sixth annual Legacy Awards April 23 in Washington, D.C., where she shared her story of triumph.

“CITIZEN U 4-H turned all this around and became a light for good in my life,” says Akol, who joined the program as a high school freshman. “The program taught me to accept myself for who I am, to feel good about myself, and helped me to let go of all the hate and anger.”

As a CITIZEN U teen leader, Akol led a Great Pothole Solution Project to fix Binghamton city streets and a Taste the Rainbow nutrition education program to help local kids adopt healthier lifestyles. At 4-H Career Explorations on Cornell’s campus, Akol developed her interest in world hunger and was named a delegate to the 2013 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute.

Akol has researched micro-farming and its potential to empower women and young girls in her home country—ideas that she presented to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in 2014. She’s also used the 4-H award to call attention to fighting poverty and world hunger.

“I have had the unique opportunity of watching Nosa grow both personally and professionally and become a true agent of change,” says Kelly Mabree, CITIZEN U project coordinator and Broome County CCE educator. “She continues to inspire other young people by demonstrating how to become effective community change agents.”

This fall, Akol is enrolled at SUNY Broome Community College and hopes to transfer to Cornell, where she wants to study political science and international agriculture.

“Honestly, I could not imagine where I would be in life without the experiences 4-H has given me,” Akol says. “It undid years of painful bullying, opened new doors and opportunities for me, and set me on a path to be an agent for change.”

— Ted Boscia



# Brooklyn

## Urban Semester places students in low-income NYC neighborhoods to live, learn, and serve

By Ted Boscia

It's nearing noon at the Diana H. Jones Senior Center in Bushwick, a working-class neighborhood in North Brooklyn. The center mostly attracts African-American, Latino, and Chinese community members, and on this warm July day, several dozen seniors are taking their seats for lunch after a morning spent socializing.

But first—a cooking lesson. Ee Khoo '17 and Yvonne Huang '16, enrolled in Cornell's Urban Semester Program, move to the front of the room, where they've set up bowls, utensils, and ingredients. In previous weeks, Khoo, a nutritional sciences major, and Huang, a biological sciences major, demonstrated how to prepare low-cost, healthy salads and appetizers. Now they're serving up a main course: cold buckwheat noodles with

chicken. As Khoo and Huang prepare the meal, they share details of the dish's nutritional components and stress the importance of regulating sugar and salt intake.

"This is exactly the kind of work I want to do in my career as a registered dietitian," says Khoo after plating samples. "We want to correct the misconception that healthy food is not appetizing, and for me personally, it's exciting to take what we're learning in class and apply it to people's lives."

Meanwhile, on the other side of the cafeteria, Nicholas Malchione '18, a pre-med student majoring in food science, dishes out a different form of support. Placing a blood pressure monitor around an older woman's wrist, he waits for a reading while asking about her medical history. A volunteer emergency

medical technician on campus, Malchione will do 15 screenings by morning's end, advising hypertensive seniors to follow up with their doctors, and compiling public health data for New York City's Department for the Aging.

"The patient interaction is the best part," says Malchione. "I like talking to people about their health and just having conversations to find out what's going on in their lives."

As valuable it is for these Urban Semester students to speak about health and nutrition, nothing surpasses the bonds they establish with the 160 or so seniors who drop into the center daily for meals.

"It's hard to describe how powerful the connection is between the students and seniors here," says center director Narcisa Ruiz. "It's a genuine sharing by both sides."

"We want to correct the misconception that healthy food is not appetizing, and for me personally, it's exciting to take what we're learning in class and apply it to people's lives."

— Ee Khoo '17





# Bridges



## Beyond the Comfort Zone

This same spirit persists throughout Urban Semester, a College of Human Ecology experiential learning program that enrolls about 100 Cornell undergraduates pursuing internships, service, and research in New York City across the fall, spring, and summer terms. Directed by anthropologist Sam Beck, a senior lecturer in human development, Urban Semester thrusts undergraduates into low-income neighborhoods of color in Brooklyn and the Bronx, where they aid social justice nonprofits addressing disparities in housing, education, and health. Partners at community-based organizations not only work alongside students, but are embedded in the Urban Semester curriculum, giving lectures on the history of their neighborhoods and the nature of service.

Selecting pre-medicine and pre-professional tracks, students also complete internships with a variety of hospitals, banks, design firms, law practices, entertainment companies, and other institutions across the city. Beck and lecturer Marianne Cocchini assign readings covering professional ethics, community engagement, social and economic inequality, and related topics. Students reflect on their work and service placements in journals and meet weekly to lead a dialogue



Top: A view from Brooklyn into Manhattan and beyond.

Opposite page, from left: Khoo and Huang (l-r) serve a healthy, nutritious meal; Malchione takes a blood pressure reading for a Bushwick resident.

This page, from top: Cocchini leads a dialogue with a group of pre-professional students; anthropological walks through Brooklyn neighborhoods are a regular part of the program curriculum.







on their experiences and the course material. At the end of the term, they are graded on oral reports and term papers.

Importantly, Beck says, students live together in dormitories at Long Island University Brooklyn. Most take mass transit to and from their work and service sites, and they're encouraged to explore New York City culture. "Learning is a social activity," Beck says. "We want our students to grow not just intellectually, but sharpen their communication, teamwork, and relationship-building skills while working with a wide range of

people and organizations and adapting to a range of unknown environments."

In bridging worlds and populations that are often far apart—the Ithaca campus bubble and multicultural urban neighborhoods; mostly suburban middle- and upper-class Cornellians and disadvantaged city dwellers—Beck has designed the program to instill ethical leadership, emotional intelligence, and cultural relativism in students, many of whom are bound for careers in medicine, law, policy, academia, and other influential fields.

"We get undergraduates out



of their comfort zone to where they can experience diversity and achieve greater intimacy with poor people of color," Beck says. "Our students are interacting with people who most likely are very different from themselves, and it pushes students to ask some difficult and uncomfortable questions.

"They begin to wonder," Beck continues, "Why is it that Latino kids from Williamsburg are not going to Cornell? What is it that prevents them from joining the upwardly mobile middle class? Why are there such bad schools here? Why don't they have access to good health facilities? Why can't they get jobs? Why is there a drug culture? Why is there violence in the neighborhood? Often they've heard about these topics in the classroom, but as an experiential learning program, we provide a chance to contend with these issues directly. Our program is right at home with

**"Our students are interacting with people who most likely are very different from themselves, pushing them to ask some difficult and uncomfortable questions."**

— Sam Beck







Human Ecology and its focus on applying knowledge in real-world settings.”

## Into the Streets

Bedford-Stuyvesant's Reconnect Café, near Vernon Avenue, appears to be another sign of gentrification in a neighborhood once riddled with crime. Inside, baristas serve fresh-squeezed juices and specialty coffees, along with breakfast burritos and baked goods. (Its Infamous Bed-Stuy Cookie, billed as “rough on the outside, sweet on the inside,” is a local favorite.) Unlike many of the trendy

shops and restaurants that have moved into the neighborhood, Reconnect Café has deep Brooklyn roots, just like the men who own and operate it.

The business is run by Father Jim O'Shea, a trained social worker and Catholic priest who came to Bed-Stuy in the late 1990s, and Efrain Hernandez, a former neighborhood drug dealer who went straight under O'Shea's guidance. Founded in 2013 under the slogan “working to change lives one cup at a time,” Reconnect offers young men an alternative to violence, crime, and gangs. Since opening, Reconnect has employed about 40 Bed-Stuy males, some of whom have moved on to full-time work or school as the business has grown to include a bakery and graphics shop. “It's a brotherhood,” Hernandez says. “We are a group of guys taking responsibility for each other and modeling how to act professionally and take pride in our work.”

Included in that family atmosphere are Urban Semester students, who visit frequently to talk with the staff and lend a hand around the shop. Some have gone even further,



helping build the Reconnect website and organizing a t-shirt fundraiser. “This is a community where our young people have almost no interaction with the so-called outside world,” O'Shea says. “It's a great benefit for these guys to hang out with Cornell students and see lives different from their own, and Urban Semester students experience issues facing urban environments and learn about shared community responsibilities.”

This mutual exchange is not accidental. In 20 years leading Urban Semester, Beck has become a fixture in North Brooklyn, where he also lives. He serves on four

local nonprofit boards, helping unite Latino and other minority populations in the fight for social justice. Churches United for Fair Housing gave him its 2013 Daisy Lopez Leadership Award for his longstanding service. Where many universities fail at community engagement because they're viewed as outsiders trying to rescue a local population, Urban Semester is a Brooklyn institution with continuous investment in residents' lives.

“Sam lives here, he's one of us,” says Martin Needelman, co-executive director and chief counsel of Brooklyn Legal Services, which advocates for the rights of low-income

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Beck leads a group of students on the subway; outside Save Our Streets Bedford-Stuyvesant, an anti-violence organization and program partner; student-led dialogues tie together internships, readings, and service work.

This page, clockwise from top: Hernandez and O'Shea (l-r) at Reconnect Café; students become pro commuters by program's end; students raise awareness for fair housing outside a Brooklyn pizzeria.





residents and regularly hosts Urban Semester students to help raise awareness for affordable housing and research real estate trends in the borough.

Last summer, Derek Nie '18, a biology and pre-med student aided Brooklyn Legal Services, seeking a clearer picture of how poverty and subpar housing influence health outcomes. "I wanted to do something from a broader ecological perspective," Nie says. "Fair housing really resonated with me because the quality of your home is a key factor in individual and family well-being."

At Save Our Streets Bedford-Stuyvesant, another Urban Semester partner, students see a different influence on community wellness. Located in a row house across from a community park, the organization leads conflict mediation workshops, teaching teens and young adults to resolve their differences without turning to violence. Founded by Juan Ramos, a former gang leader, SOS Bed-Stuy commits to holding rallies within 72 hours of a neighborhood shooting. "Otherwise, people



will forget and move on," says Ramos, who also employs "violence interrupters" in the streets to alleviate conflict.

With the support of Urban Semester students, the group is surveying local residents about the toll of shootings in

their lives. "Society sees our neighborhood as perpetrators of gun violence, but the truth is we are victims as well," Ramos says. Sherry Wang '16, a biology major, helped analyze survey data for Ramos. An aspiring surgeon, she says her work

showed how gun violence threatens communities in the same way as inadequate housing and lack of education. "I grew up in a suburban area with very little crime," she says. "Working here I've seen how shootings are not much different than pollution or other environmental factors that lead to poor health."

Like Needelman and O'Shea, Ramos is another Brooklyn mainstay who's developed close ties with Beck. He aids student discussions on gangs and gun violence—a topic he's spoken on nationally. "Urban Semester is a rich exchange for both sides," Ramos says. "A lot of the students in the program are interested in medicine and health careers. What better prescription for helping someone than to understand them first?"

## Bronx Boosters

An aspiring physician, Taylor Watts '18, a human biology, health, and society major, long thought that medicine relied on all the details a doctor can gather "up close." Examine a patient's physical appearance and symptoms, ask about their family history, diet, exercise, and other lifestyle behaviors, and reach a diagnosis. After a summer in Urban Semester, Watts says outlying factors are just as important in gaining a picture of someone's health.

"You can assess what the person presents up close, but food prices, poor housing, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, environmental pollutions, and other social and cultural factors play a big role in health," she adds.

This page, from top: Wang and Ramos discuss survey data at SOS Bed-Stuy headquarters; Watts visits a public housing unit affiliated with the Bronx Parents Housing Network.

Opposite page, from top: Nayab Mahmood '14 shadows Tessa Cigler, MD, a medical oncologist at Weill Cornell; Engreitz with a t-shirt designed by MacCormick juvenile offenders.





Watts, who grew up in rural New Hampshire, shadowed doctors in the city's busiest emergency department at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx, where she also assisted a research project to aid physicians in detecting bullying in pediatric patients. As a Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research Iscol Summer Scholar, she and Grace Lin '16, a biological sciences student, organized a health fair outside a Bronx taxi base.

Working with a physician, they screened cabbies—many of whom can't make doctor's visits due to irregular hours—for high blood pressure and passed on nutrition information.

"My favorite moments were when I got to tell someone that they had excellent blood pressure," Watts says. "I began to anticipate that little smile that would spread across their face—that glimpse of self-love, belief in oneself to be healthy and thrive. Even when someone had high blood pressure, it was still empowering because I was able to help them realize that it wasn't the end of the world, and that they could begin to eat more of their favorite vegetables, put a little less salt in their food, and get their heart pumping with a brisk walk."

Above all, Watts valued her service with the Bronx Parents Housing Network (BPHN), where she and Lin joined a grassroots research team surveying residents of a geriatric public housing project near 183rd Street. Floor by floor,

Watts, Lin, Rafael Cisneros '16, and Zoe Maisel '17, guided by BPHN staff, knocked on doors and asked about chronic disease and whether they had been admitted to the emergency room in the last six months. That research contributed to an ongoing Healthy Housing, Healthy Lives project that relies on connections Cocchini and Beck have built over many years in the Bronx, mirroring their approach in Brooklyn.

Joined by BPHN and Lincoln Hospital, project leaders hope to document how insufficient housing and other environmental factors contribute to poor health. Ultimately, they hope to organize tenants and lobby policymakers to secure more resources for impoverished areas.

The project is quintessentially Urban Semester—drawing on students' research interests, professional internships, and service projects to make a difference alongside community partners. "For more than 20 years, Urban Semester has been

coming into communities like ours that have next to nothing, and have worked with us to build something," says Yolanda Rivera, a BPHN consultant. "It's amazing to see what can be done when you get different disciplines and groups together to work for a broader cause."

As for Watts, she's now considering a medical career in New York City, where she might make a greater impression than in a rural area. She's imagining a career where she can treat patients up close, while also addressing broader social determinants of health.

"Urban Semester showed me how public service works," Watts says. "I've taken public health classes at Cornell and seen how there's no formula or easy way to solve the problem. To be a team member in an organization like this, you have to see the whole picture."

*Ted Boscia is director of communications and media for the College of Human Ecology.*

## Doing Good by Design

Bridging upstate New York and Brooklyn, Urban Semester students are helping youth to disrupt the cycle of poverty, crime, and incarceration that plagues many urban environments.

Led by Josephine Engreitz '15 (right), a policy analysis and management major in the College of Human Ecology, and Eliza Baird-Daniel '15, a biological sciences major in the College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell volunteers sold "Break the Chain" t-shirts designed by juvenile offenders at MacCormick Secure Center 15 miles east of Ithaca and printed by Reconnect Graphics in North Brooklyn. MacCormick youth chose the slogan and helped to market shirts, learning teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. Proceeds from sales were used to pay fair wages to Reconnect workers and will support future social justice projects focused on inner-city youth.

Engreitz and Baird-Daniel devised the plan following a series of workshops they led at MacCormick teaching inmates about business and entrepreneurship, community involvement, financial responsibility, and self-empowerment. Engreitz had worked with Reconnect in 2014 as an Urban Semester student and recognized a "win-win" opportunity to support young men at both locations.

"We tailored our workshops to issues they were most interested in, such as basic work and life skills that would help



them reenter society," Engreitz says. "It's a way to address the broader systemic issues such as crime and poverty that lead to health disparities and poorer health in low-income communities."



# Uncommon THREADS

*Remembering scholar, fiber artist, and curator  
Charlotte Jirousek*

**Like many of my peers, I moved through** Cornell's apparel design program in awe of Charlotte Jirousek. Her intelligence was obvious and her knowledge infectious, but we were inspired by her: the life she lived, her weaving, textile printing, and dyeing skills, and the dedication she brought to the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection.

She was on the cutting edge of computer technologies in the 1990s, when she digitized the collection catalog records and developed an open-access online textbook that is still widely used today. She brought a unique perspective to fashion studies, and required us to think critically, cross-culturally, and creatively, lessons that have remained with us after her passing in 2014.

Charlotte joined the Peace Corps in 1964, and was among the first group of volunteers sent to rural areas. She was assigned to work in the Turkish village of Çömlekçi, where she learned about weaving, dyeing, and Islamic textiles and dress. Charlotte, shown above with Turkish villagers, remained there until 1969 to work with the Çömlekçi weaving cooperative, known for their production of Milas carpets. It was decades later, in the 1980s, that Charlotte pursued graduate studies and received her master's and PhD. She maintained lifelong ties with Turkish weaving communities, and continued ethnographic research around the world, making her last fieldwork trip in 2013.

Charlotte's unique career path—as a Peace Corps volunteer, a social worker and member of a fiber arts guild in Minnesota, and eventually an associate professor and curator at Cornell—demonstrates her passion for integrating creative arts and public service. While many of Charlotte's students now work in the fashion industry, others have embraced careers we perhaps never expected: as museum curators, textile conservators, educators, anthropologists, fiber artists, and costume designers.

Charlotte was, without a doubt, my greatest mentor. I often recall freshman year, sitting in lectures as her slide carousel moved through visual representations of the principles and elements of design, histories of art, fashion, decorative arts, architecture, and her particular interest: non-Western influences on Euro-American fashion. The following year I began working for her in the Costume Collection, where we spent many hours together examining new donations, planning exhibitions, and debating fashion theory, history, curatorial practice, and cross-cultural analysis.

Even after I graduated, Charlotte and I kept in contact. I vividly remember calling her when I received acceptances to various PhD programs—it was Charlotte's advice I most valued.

We remained in frequent contact by email and letters, and the last note I received from her arrived just two weeks before her death, abuzz from her recent fieldwork with a group of undergraduates. She wrote: "I am back from Ecuador, which was an extraordinary experience. I had my doubts about how much we could actually accomplish in the way of 'service projects' but was surprised and impressed by how much the group actually did do—all small projects, but significant, and useful to the people we were trying to help."

Until the very end, she dedicated herself to scholarly service. As her first Cornell graduate student, Susan Greene, MA '94, reflected, "I shall always think of her as finishing her life with her boots on, encrusted with Ecuadorian mud."

*Denise Green '07 is assistant professor of fiber science and apparel design and director of the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection.*



## in memoriam

Jayne Van Alstyne, professor emerita, Bozeman, Mont.  
Elizabeth (Myers) Martin Slutz '35, Ithaca, N.Y.  
Lillian (Cook) Hunt '38, King Ferry, N.Y.  
Helen (Brew) Rich '38, Venice, Fla.  
Priscilla (Buchholz) Frisbee '39, Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y.  
Dorothy Sennett '39, Marcellus, N.Y.  
Elizabeth (Schmeck) Brown '40, MS '45, Skillman, N.J.  
M. Elizabeth (Holdredge) Paul '40, Jamesville, N.Y.  
June (Woolever) Bigalow '42, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Jane (Sanford) Lewis MS '42, Sacramento, Calif.  
Mildred (Keith) Bohnet '43, Lyndonville, N.Y.  
Margaret (Morse) Thalman '43, West Hartford, Conn.  
Ann (Bode) Jennings '44, Seabrook, Texas  
Margaret (Hallock) Wiggins '44, Green Valley, Ariz.  
Dorothy (Dietrich) Gardner '45, MS '49, Exeter, N.H.  
Jean (Herr) Gehrett '45, Hilton Head Island, S.C.  
Marilla (Oaks) Jenks '45, Santa Fe, N.M.  
Rita (Schoff) Markham '45, Lowville, N.Y.  
Katherine (Stanford) Staples MS '46, Hunker, Pa.  
Virginia (Reagan) Thompson '46, Silver Spring, Md.  
Helen (Murphy) Zabinski '46, MS '70, PhD '75, Cortland, N.Y.  
Georgia (Ganson) Engelbert '47, Rocky River, Ohio  
Amelia (Streif) Harding '47, State College, Pa.  
Jean (Boyd) Search '47, Solomons, Md.  
Anne (Lynn) Cousin '48, Newtown, Conn.  
Helvi (Selkee) Edmondson '48 ILR, MA '55, Tustin, Calif.  
Ann (Donnelly) DiLaura '48, MS '49, Sarasota, Fla.  
Jean (Courtney) Kallet '49, Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y.  
Helen (Yianilos) Parish MS '49, Buffalo, N.Y.  
Sarah Hawes MS '51, Amherst, Mass.  
Karen (Lamb) Twichell '51, East Syracuse, N.Y.  
Joann (Lane) Traeger Wilson '51, Chesterfield, Mo.  
Anne (Bullock) Blanchard '52, Palatine, Ill.  
Sally (Hotchkiss) Rockwell '52, Brackney, Pa.  
Elizabeth (Lightfoot) Wilde '52, Seneca Falls, N.Y.  
Joanne (Ernst) Phillips '53, Farmington, N.Y.  
Patricia (Wehman) Anderson '54, Tampa, Fla.  
Doris (Mawhinney) Martin MS '55, Vero Beach, Fla.  
Virginia (Tyler) Renouard '56, Paradise Valley, Ariz.  
Barbara (Pincus) Klein '57, MS '59, Champaign, Ill.  
Anne Marvin '57, Herkimer, N.Y.



From cooking Mediterranean style to battling midlife malaise, Human Ecology alumni and faculty serve up a far-reaching collection of new titles.

**Daniel and His Starry Night Blanket: A Story of Illness and Sibling Love**  
Sally Ives Loughridge, MA '69, PhD '77  
(Maine Authors)

With the help of a beloved blanket, a young boy learns to cope with his older sister's cancer.

**The Ultimate Mediterranean Diet Cookbook**  
Amy Riolo '95  
(Fair Winds Press)

One hundred recipes for long life, with an accent on olive oil, nuts, beans, fish, fruits, and vegetables, served with a glass of wine. Mangia!

**So What are the Guys Doing?**  
David J. Figura '77  
(Divine Phoenix)

Middle-aged and feeling burned out, Figura took a bold step: He built more male friendships, revitalized himself, and wrote a book to inspire men to lead happier lives.

**The Lightening Round**  
Bruce Stuart '86

(Serial Teller)

The serialized story of an overweight 39-year-old who enrolls in The Ultimate Level fitness center, determined to get in shape one step at a time.

**Remaking Home Economics: Resourcefulness and Innovation in Changing Times**

Gwen Kay, co-editor

(University of Georgia Press)

Calls to revive home economics miss the point, says Kay, the 2008 recipient of the Dean's Fellowship in the History of Home Economics. The field never went away, as can be seen in these new essays on defining issues of the home.

**Aging and Decision Making: Empirical and Applied Perspectives**

Corinna Loeckenhoff, co-editor

(Academic Press)

As the U.S. population ages, gerontologist Loeckenhoff addresses the cognitive processes that account for age-related changes in decision-making.

**The Fight Against Hunger & Malnutrition: The Role of Food, Agriculture, and Targeted Policies**

David E. Sahn, editor

(Oxford University Press)

In an era of widespread hunger and malnutrition, economist Sahn provides advice on programs and policies that promote a healthy, sustainable agricultural system.

**Toxicants in Food Packaging and Household Plastics: Exposure and Health Risks to Consumers**

Suzanne M. Snedeker '78, editor

(Springer)

Drawing on international studies, Snedeker provides a comprehensive resource on the known and suspected health effects of toxicants in the home.

**The Hard Hat: 21 Ways to Be a Great Teammate**

Jon Gordon '93

(Wiley)

After the death of 22-year old Cornell lacrosse player George Boiardi, teammates rededicated their season, drawing strength from his perseverance and teaching themselves the lesson of a lifetime.





# Sister ACT

Alice, Nancy, and Tiffany Goh share a passion for helping others

**As the youngest of three,** Tiffany Goh '07 didn't spend too long on her college search. After all, she'd already visited Cornell, and seen the breadth of experiences her sisters Alice '97 and Nancy '04 had found in Human Ecology and where it was taking them. Connected by their shared passion for social impact, the sisters would follow parallel tracks to embark on successful nonprofit and corporate careers.

Alice set the pace, majoring in policy analysis and management with an interest in education equity. After college, she embarked on a finance career, starting as an investment banking analyst and leading to senior roles in global business and client development. A decade later, Alice took her first nonprofit leadership role with Teach For All, a global education organization. This path was made possible by Alice's policy and finance expertise combined with her master's degrees in education and business from Stanford.

"I thought the training would be a good foundation for making an impact at an organizational level in education, whether for a school system, a nonprofit, or a company," Alice says.

Now at the Ford Foundation, a social justice organization, Alice leads strategic initiatives and programming opportunities for its Education, Creativity, and Free Expression Program as well as regional programming in four African offices.

Following Alice's lead, the sisters shared favorite courses, professors, and activities in Human Ecology and all spent semesters with the Cornell in Washington (CIW) program. For Nancy, who'd always wanted to become a doctor, these experiences shifted her career focus from medicine to global health, for which she says her biology and society major seemed "a perfect fit."

"I decided I wanted to gain more than just the technical knowledge. There's so much more than basic science that's needed to deliver high quality care and services," Nancy says.

During CIW, Nancy learned firsthand about health care issues in developing countries when she researched how pregnant, HIV-positive women decide to



Tiffany, Alice, and Nancy Goh together in New York City.

seek treatment. Instead of medical school, after graduation Nancy consulted for pharmaceutical companies on strategies to increase access to their medicines.

"We were only reaching patient populations in the U.S. and Europe," she says. "There was a greater need in developing markets, so I decided to pursue an MPH at Johns Hopkins."

Nancy is now senior program manager with the Clinton Health Access Initiative's Essential Medicines Team, where she creates partnerships and manages local initiatives to expand global access to life-saving treatments that reduce child deaths from dysentery.

Seeing her sisters' success, Tiffany opted for policy analysis and management, finance jobs, and business school. After earning her MBA and working for a nonprofit microfinance organization, Tiffany did an internship with Colgate-Palmolive, leading to her current job in its brand management department.

"I was attracted by the opportunity to build a bigger, more diverse global network and because it's a great general management opportunity," Tiffany says. "I see opportunity down the road to merge it, or the skills I'm gaining here, with my interest in helping those living at the bottom of the economic pyramid."



Alice talks strategy with Ford Foundation program officer Sanjiv Rao in her Manhattan office.

Whatever the sisters do next, Tiffany says they'll continue to be each other's support network. It's a value instilled by their parents, who came to the U.S. from Taiwan to pursue graduate degrees. Inspired by their work ethic, their emphasis on helping others, and their strong family ties, Alice, Nancy, and Tiffany—who live in the same New York City neighborhood—blaze their trails separately but together.

"We usually don't go more than two weeks without seeing each other," says Nancy.

— Sarah S. Thompson



# Global GOOD

## Mike and Kathryn Pisco lead a volunteer travel venture

**Mike Pisco '06**, policy analysis and management, and his wife Kathryn, CALS '05, resigned from their corporate jobs on the same day. A month later, in February 2013, they used their savings for business school to embark on a nine-month trip around the world. The experience opened their eyes to global concerns and the ways the volunteer travel industry was falling down on its promise. “We thought it could be done better,” says Kathryn. “The challenge for volunteers is differentiating among the many options to find projects that make a real local impact.”



Kathryn visits with students in an elementary school classroom in Nepal.

The Piscos decided to create a more ethical, in-depth alternative. In April 2014, they founded Unearth the World to pair travelers with international nonprofits. Unlike other service learning agencies, UTW vets every partner to ensure projects are driven by community needs, not by money or outside agendas. It also promotes financial transparency in an industry known for hidden fees. UTW collects a one-time \$300 application charge, which covers operating costs and a pre- and post-trip curriculum developed by Kathryn.

“The post-trip coaching we provide is very valuable,” says Mike. “Volunteers wonder, ‘How do I position the experience on my resume?’ or most importantly, ‘How do I continue to engage in meaningful service?’ Our coaching helps them bridge their international experience with their everyday lives.”

To date, UTW has matched about 70 people with partners in Ghana, Nicaragua, Peru, and Zambia, on projects ranging from building homes for families affected by AIDS to providing educational opportunities to impoverished women and children. Many volunteers are college-aged, which Mike and Kathryn view as an opportunity to give back, especially to their alma mater.

Mike was a Cornell Tradition Fellow and varsity lacrosse player, tightly managing his time between classes, practice, and service requirements. Taking a semester abroad was impossible, but the fellowship allowed Mike to volunteer in Nicaragua prior to his senior year.

“I learned so much more that summer than in any typical internship experience,” says Mike. “It was extremely valuable, and I want to make sure we can expose as many Cornellians as possible to this type of cultural exchange.”

To meet that goal, Human Ecology and Cornell’s Engaged Learning + Research Center, Public Service Center, Commitment Office, and Athletics Department are helping UTW connect with interested students. Kathryn also works with many administrative offices to offer service travel experiences to Cornell staff and faculty members.

So far this year, five Cornell students are traveling with UTW. Sarah Hurd '18, biology, and Gabrielle Hickmon '16, labor and industrial relations, worked in Peru this summer. Hickmon is organizing another trip to Peru during the upcoming winter break for three fellow students. Hickmon suggested the group model as a way to offer students leadership opportunities while enhancing UTW’s collaboration with Cornell. “I love the idea of empowering people to initiate a group and create even more powerful peer interactions,” says Kathryn.

Today, Kathryn works full-time for UTW while Mike has returned to his job selling medical devices. It’s a trade-off that allows the Piscos to focus on slow, deliberate growth for their business while maintaining its affordability.

“For us, it’s not about the money,” says Mike. “We just want to do it right so that others can have similar life-changing opportunities while positively affecting international communities.”

— Sarah S. Thompson



Mike delivers a lesson to children in Thailand.



# Market MOVERS

Matt and Lexi Nastos guide web strategy for fashion labels



Matt '10 and Lexi '12 Nastos run Maison MRKT from Space 530, a co-working arrangement in NYC's Garment District.

**Among the clothing designers** crowding New York City's Garment District, Matt '10 and Lexi '12 Nastos stand out as the hard-charging whiz kids who lead Maison MRKT. Since co-founding the e-commerce agency in early 2014, the brothers, fiber science and apparel design graduates, have been helping some of the city's hottest labels attract new customers on the web.

Maison MRKT creates marketing strategies for fashion brands to reach potential customers through social media, search engines, email, and other channels. By using data, analytics, and optimization tools, the firm helps clients gain an edge on competing businesses and reach new customers.

As a nimble startup working from laptops and smartphones, the Nastos brothers and the firm's three other employees are rarely out of touch with clients. In a short time, Maison MRKT has built a reputation for responsiveness and flexibility, assisting Fivestory NY, Carson Street Clothiers, Orley, Misha Nonoo, Michael Bastian, and other up-and-coming labels. One satisfied designer praised Matt and Lexi in *The New York Times* as "50-year-old consultants in 20-year-old bodies."

"We are incredibly hands-on," Matt says. "That's been the single most valuable lesson learned since we started: Keep your clients happy and their referrals and networks will create new opportunities. Fashion is a very small industry. If you're producing good work, it's going to reverberate outward."

Prior to their success, the brothers worked late nights on fashion projects at Cornell. Encouraged by their father, president of ENK International and chair of the Cornell Institute for Fashion and Fiber Innovation advisory board, Matt recalls skipping his high school

homecoming to attend a runway show by Cornell student designers. He was hooked, and Lexi followed him to campus two years later.

As budding entrepreneurs, they sought courses to develop their skills in fashion, business, and technology. Each took an introductory AutoCAD course with FSAD senior lecturer Anita Racine and learned about next-generation fibers in FSAD associate professor Juan Hinestroza's textile innovation course. Matt took a Johnson Graduate School of Management course on startups. In his senior year, Lexi helped oversee the Cornell Pendleton Scholarship Team, leading students in creating and marketing a menswear collection with fabrics donated by Pendleton Woolen Mills. "The FSAD program is fantastic for developing a whole understanding of the fashion industry," says Lexi, noting that their sister, Christina '19, entered the program this fall.

Lexi describes Maison MRKT as "bridging the gap between fashion and technology," an idea currently in vogue. With connections at the Council of Fashion Designers of America and the New York Fashion Tech Lab, two Manhattan-based initiatives, the company is part of the city's emerging startup culture.

With deep roots in the industry—their parents met as students at Fashion Institute of Technology—it may have been inevitable that the Nastos brothers would launch a company pitched at clothing brands and retailers. What's also in their favor, the brothers agree, is that they're both cut from the same entrepreneurial cloth. "Building and scaling our business," Lexi says, "is what keeps us focused seven days a week."

— *Ted Boscia*



# Mister MET

Daniel Kershaw sets the stage for great art

## Though millions look upon

Daniel Kershaw's work, he hopes it doesn't attract too much attention. As senior exhibition designer for The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Kershaw '78 plans environments for up to a dozen shows each year.

"My primary mission is to make you appreciate the spectacular beauty of these artworks," says Kershaw. "The design must be appropriate and not distract from that mission. But the Met is a grand space, and the surrounding environment should have a jaw-dropping quality. So I don't mind if visitors gasp at my design as well."

For this past spring's "The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky," which included headdresses, painted buffalo hides, and beaded garments, Kershaw wanted the setting to match the majesty of the Great Plains. He started designing the installation nearly two years in advance, deciding to transform a cluster of small rooms into one expansive gallery.

Kershaw sought panoramic photos to cover the walls from floor to ceiling. Lacking suitable images, Kershaw discovered a photographer at a Blackfeet Nation tribal school and sent her a camera. Her stunning photos were hung atop gallery walls, providing a contemporary tone that told visitors, "You're in a place where these objects belong," Kershaw says.

That Kershaw would go to such lengths should come as no surprise to his former classmates and professors. As a design and environmental analysis major, Kershaw says he found the space to explore his "wackiest, most far-out ideas."

For his senior thesis, Kershaw decided to build his own boat, a 14-foot craft that used ahead-of-its-time hydrofoil technology to race faster than conventional sailboats. Kershaw survived a few test runs on Cayuga Lake, but he recalls, "I mainly got really wet." Still, his work caught the eye of curators at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, who displayed it that spring. Now it enjoys a second life—Kershaw used the mast and hulls to build a bookshelf and desk in his home.

He credits former DEA chair Joe Carreiro with fueling his passion for design. "A tremendous amount of your future is determined by a charismatic individual or two, somebody who helps solidify your focus," says Kershaw, who regularly hosts Cornell interns. "I'm grateful to Joe for being an enthusiastic supporter."

His shipbuilding behind him, Kershaw is designing on a much grander scale. For each exhibition, he works his way from early pencil sketches to detailed computer blueprints, which he uses to direct graphic designers, carpenters, and painters to create his vision.

After a quarter-century at the Met, Kershaw can't imagine working anywhere else. "From a very young age, I've been fascinated with design. There's a kid-like rapture that this job evokes as you deal with the most important and extraordinary objects from our culture and history," he says. "Having that one-on-one intimacy with these objects makes me feel very much alive."

— Ted Boscia



Kershaw gives a behind-the-scenes tour of the Met's galleries to Human Ecology alumni.



Cornell's Johnson Museum displayed Kershaw's senior thesis, a 14-foot hydrofoil sailboat.



# Gurus of NEW YORK

## CIPA grads oversee billions spent on Big Apple infrastructure

### They met weekly at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

Colloquium, hearing insights from government officials, public policy researchers, and nonprofit leaders. Now they see one another every day, working for the New York City Office of Management and Budget.

Marcus Cerroni '10, MPA '13, Dan Nolan, MPA '13, and Cathy Wu, MPA '13, are among more than one dozen CIPA graduates tending to the finances of one of the world's largest cities at NYC's OMB. While they are assigned to different teams, the three alumni share a close bond.

"It just makes the environment and the work that much more enjoyable," says Cerroni, who has a bachelor's degree in policy analysis and management. "Going to work and having people you can rely on not only to get into the agency but to show you the ropes is tremendously valuable."

While Cerroni and Wu work on a task force managing Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance grants to repair damage inflicted by Hurricane Sandy, Nolan is assigned to a team monitoring the finances of New York's cultural institutions. All three work as senior analysts.

Nolan's position focuses on approving funding requests from cultural nonprofits, ensuring their projects are included in the city budget, and confirming how the money will be used.

What Nolan likes about his job is the influence the OMB has on places such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The New York Botanical Garden, and American Museum of Natural History. "New York City operates under the assumption that a vibrant cultural scene benefits all New Yorkers and that funding these institutions is a public good," he says.

At the other end of the seventh floor, Wu and Cerroni are helping the city access \$10 billion in FEMA grants. Wu works with the city's health-related agencies and hospitals, and Cerroni manages finances for the Department of Transportation and a group of smaller administrative agencies.

Through the efforts of Wu's team, OMB recently received \$1.7 billion for four public hospitals across the city: Bellevue Hospital Center, City Hospital on Roosevelt Island, Coney Island Hospital, and Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility.

"The repair work is just part of the [award]," Wu says. "The majority of the funding goes to mitigation work, which tries to avoid future storm damage by elevating critical infrastructure to higher levels and building flood walls."

In the transportation arena, Cerroni is applying for grants that will be used to ensure city roadways can withstand another storm of Sandy's magnitude. For each grant, Cerroni oversees the application process and the expenditure phase during construction.

With all of these projects, Cerroni is applying the skills he learned at CIPA, which makes working at the OMB fitting. "Being regulatory agents for the city, we have to know accounting and budgeting and project management skills," he says. "Being able to use the education you received is always rewarding."

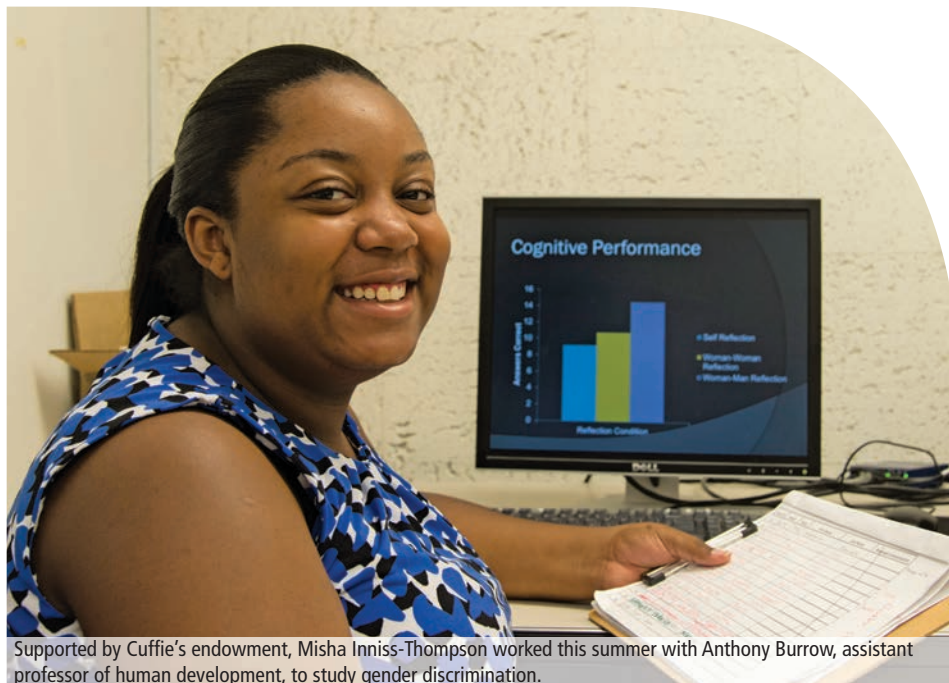
— Sherrie Negrea

Nolan, Wu, and Cerroni (l-r) are senior analysts at New York City's Office of Management and Budget.



# Investing in SUCCESS

Cuffie gift boosts research by undergraduates



Supported by Cuffie's endowment, Misha Inniss-Thompson worked this summer with Anthony Burrow, assistant professor of human development, to study gender discrimination.

**After graduating** from a magnet high school in Newark, Cynthia Cuffie '74, MD, (shown above) arrived at Cornell planning to major in chemistry. But when she took a nutrition course in Human Ecology her sophomore year, she switched to nutritional sciences. "The college was very warm and the professors were invested in our success," she recalls. "That type of environment was perfect for me to thrive."

As an undergraduate, Cuffie concentrated on research—a focus that would shape the span of her career. After Cornell, Cuffie completed medical school followed by specialty training in internal medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now part of Rutgers University), followed by an endocrinology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Following her studies, Cuffie rose through the ranks of the pharmaceutical industry, becoming vice president of global clinical development for cardiovascular and metabolic diseases at Merck. During her 26-year career, Cuffie led drug development to treat conditions from hypercholesterolemia to brain tumors. In 2011, she retired and

currently presides over Aspire Educational Associates Corporation, an organization she founded in 2004 to offer career and leadership development.

An active Cornell volunteer, Cuffie is mentoring committee co-chair of the Cornell University Council, grants committee co-chair of the President's Council of Cornell Women, and immediate past vice president of student relations of the Cornell Black Alumni Association.

"My Cornell education taught me perseverance. I will forever be grateful for that," says Cuffie. "It gave me confidence to pursue an exciting and intellectually challenging career path."

To continue her family's legacy of educational excellence, Cuffie created an endowment fund in Human Ecology to support undergraduate research for black and underrepresented minority students.

"This fund enables me to give students of color resources to pursue opportunities, such as conducting research, that will broaden their academic experience," she says. "I want to see them thrive at Cornell and beyond."

The first two recipients of the stipend—human development students Sabrina Alexander '16 and Misha Inniss-Thompson '16—used the grants to support original research projects.

Inniss-Thompson, from Teaneck, N.J., hopes to earn a PhD in psychology and led a study on gender discrimination in the workplace. "Without the funding, I wouldn't have been able to stay through the summer," says Inniss-Thompson, who is also a McNair Scholar, a program that helps underrepresented students prepare for doctoral programs.

A Newark native who hopes to study medicine, Alexander contributed to a nutritional sciences project that compared obese and non-obese women's attitudes about breastfeeding. "It's just really inspiring to see someone who came from Newark and is doing exactly what I want to do, in terms of being involved in the community and giving back to the college," Alexander says. "I'm just very grateful to have crossed paths with her."

— Sherrie Negrea



# Burning QUESTIONS

College's first Jacobs Professor studies tobacco regulation

**Since the 1960s**, the percentage of Americans who smoke has dropped from 40 to 17 percent. Despite the decline, people low on the socioeconomic ladder have been slower to kick the habit than more educated and wealthier Americans.

How to reduce smoking among all demographic groups concerns Donald Kenkel, professor of policy analysis and management, who has researched the economics of tobacco regulation for the past 15 years. "More than 400,000 deaths per year are estimated to be due to smoking," Kenkel says. "And it's entirely preventable."

Last fall, Kenkel became the first professor named to Human Ecology's Joan K. and Irwin M. Jacobs Professorship. The endowment is part of a \$10 million contribution—the largest onetime gift in college history. In addition to endowing the Jacobs Professorship and a supporting graduate fellowship, the longtime Cornell donors committed \$6 million in matching funds to inspire others to create four more faculty endowments in the college. With gifts of \$1.5 million each, donors can establish and name a professorship.

Joan K. Jacobs '54, a nutritional sciences graduate, met Kenkel during Charter Day last spring and learned about his research. "It's not an area that I had even known the college would have been interested in, which just proves the expansion of the breadth of the college," she says.



Kenkel (at right) met with Irwin and Joan Jacobs last spring. Their gift helps support his new work on warning labels for electronic cigarettes.

Kenkel, also a professor of economics, initially focused his research on the economics of alcohol control policies. But in 1998—the year a group of state attorneys general reached a major legal settlement with tobacco companies—he decided to concentrate on tobacco regulation. At the time, health economists believed taxes would cut smoking rates, but Kenkel found the answer was more complex.

When looking at the effects of taxes on youth smoking, for example, Kenkel conducted a set of studies that found them to be ineffective. "Those studies tended to find that youth smoking was not as responsive to cigarette taxes as people

thought and suggested that if we really wanted to discourage youth smoking, cigarette taxes were not enough," Kenkel says.

He shifted his attention to adult smokers, a group he believed was being neglected. In one study, he showed that advertising of smoking cessation products, such as nicotine gum, motivated smokers to try the products and quit smoking. Even more, the ads had a spillover effect, causing other smokers to quit without ever buying the products.

With the Jacobs gift, Kenkel will receive additional research funding and will work with Sida Peng, an economics doctoral student chosen for the Joan K. and Irwin M. Jacobs

Graduate Fellowship. Kenkel and Peng will conduct a study of electronic cigarettes to determine how consumers will react to a warning label that is being proposed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Kenkel says his new focus on e-cigarettes will explore the tradeoffs between the potential health gains when smokers switch to "vaping" versus the losses if e-cigarettes serve as a gateway tobacco product for youth. "There's a whole lot of uncertainty about what the future of this product means for public health," he says.

—Sherrie Negrea



# Community CONNECTIONS

Bronfenbrenner Center launches Faculty Fellows program



Casasola, Wildeman, and Seguin (l-r) comprise the first group of BCTR Faculty Fellows.

**Pairing faculty members** with community members and extension staff, the college's Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research this year named three professors to two-year terms as Faculty Fellows. The new program, funded in part by a gift from Evalyn Edwards Milman '60 and Stephen Milman '58, MBA '59, allows professors to pursue research in response to public needs.

"Our aim is to embed the fellows and their students in BCTR activities and have them learn from others doing translational research," says Elaine Wethington, acting director of BCTR and professor of human development and sociology.

Marianella Casasola, associate professor of human development, Rebecca Seguin, assistant professor of nutritional sciences, and Christopher Wildeman, associate professor of policy analysis and management, are the inaugural fellows. Casasola holds the Evalyn Edwards Milman '60 BCTR Faculty Fellowship, which the couple endowed with a \$1.6 million gift. Each fellow receives funding for a graduate research assistant, pilot studies, and



translational research activities.

With the funds, Casasola plans to continue her research on how to most effectively engender spatial skills and language in children, including their comprehension of words such as 'rectangle,' 'horizontal,' and 'corner,' and their mental rotation abilities. Previously, she found that children who heard geometric terms as they built with blocks, magnets, and Legos showed greater gains in spatial language than children who had the same exposure to these concepts in non-building activities (such as naming shapes in books

or arts and crafts projects). "The work has important implications for how preschool teachers teach shape names to children," Casasola says.

This fall she is working with Madison County (N.Y.) Head Start to replicate and extend the study—previously delivered one-on-one—in group lessons.

"As a student of Urie Bronfenbrenner over 50 years ago, I understood early on the significance of developmental research to enhance our knowledge of human behavior," says Evalyn Milman. "Professor Casasola's research into constructive play by young children, and exploration of how spatial and language skills develop, will bring results that will have lasting impact in the field of education."

Seguin will continue her research on evaluation measures designed to support healthy living in rural areas, including an objective audit tool to assess environmental factors that make healthy eating and physical activity easier or more difficult for local residents. For instance, the tools will help citizens gauge how many supermarkets or grocery stores are present, or whether there are adequate crosswalks and sidewalks for pedestrians.

"We often design community intervention studies that attempt to change environmental factors to support healthier living—and yet we know very little about rural considerations and the best strategies to feasibly make changes in these areas," she said. Seguin will work with extension educators to test and refine the tools in Alaska, Maine, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

Wildeman, a sociologist who studies the consequences of mass imprisonment, will co-organize a BCTR conference on children of incarcerated parents, followed by an edited book on the topic. He plans to study whether teachers perceive children with incarcerated parents differently and is working on a proposal to renew the BCTR's National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, a resource for researchers nationwide.

—Susan Kelley





## GeekChic

At Vancouver Fashion Week, Lea Freni '15 debuted her "Fibonacci skirt" made with zigzagging, billowing creases that hide Cornell science in their folds. The skirt's design, part of Freni's spring/summer collection for her VOGEL brand, was inspired by research on using origami to tailor the mechanical properties of materials. Drawn to mathematical elements in her creations, Freni teamed with physics research associate Uyen Nguyen to develop the skirt, which is folded in a Fibonacci sequence—a pattern commonly found in ferns, leaves, and flower petals. Besides just being "cool," Freni says, the sequence is visually pleasing.

## RAISING<sup>the</sup>Bar

The American Bar Association recognized Julie Goldscheid '78 as one of 20 trailblazers against domestic and sexual violence on the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Goldscheid, professor and senior associate dean at City University of New York School of Law, received the 20/20 Vision Award from the ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence for her scholarship and advocacy. At CUNY, Goldscheid, a human development and family studies alumna, researches gender-based violence and economic equality. Previously, she served as staff attorney and acting legal director at Legal Momentum, where she helped defend VAWA's constitutionality, appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark *United States v. Morrison* case.



## Rosa Rises

The Leadership Council on Legal Diversity selected Yaneis Rosa '04 for its 2015 Fellows Program, a national initiative to foster diversity at top law firms and corporate legal departments. The yearlong program instills leadership skills through conferences and group projects. Rosa, a policy analysis and management alumna with a degree from Harvard Law School, currently serves as assistant general counsel for Honeywell Security Group. Earlier this year, *Hispanic Executive* magazine detailed how Rosa became the first person in her family to earn a college degree.



## LEGAL LEADER

Lee Rudofsky, ILR '01, MPA '02, a Cornell Institute for Public Affairs graduate, joined the Arkansas attorney general's office as the state's first solicitor general. Rudofsky will represent Arkansas in federal and multistate cases, including matters before appellate courts, and help with major consumer protection cases. A 2005 graduate of Harvard Law School, Rudofsky most recently served as assistant general counsel for Wal-Mart. In 2012, he was deputy general counsel for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign.



## Bean's Best

For her leadership of L.L.Bean's social marketing campaigns, Julia Durgee '02 received the company's Bean's Best award, a peer-nominated honor given to 10 employees annually. Durgee joined L.L.Bean in 2013 as a digital marketing analyst, where she has overseen a 450 percent growth in the retailer's paid social program and guided other new advertising initiatives. A textiles and apparel graduate, Durgee previously worked in marketing for Walt Disney World, Sears, and Eileen Fisher.

## Champion for Care

The American College of Physicians named Hyung "Harry" Cho '02, MD, as a top hospitalist—one of only 10 physicians nationally to receive the distinction. Cho, who oversees quality and safety initiatives in New York City Mount Sinai Hospital's division of hospital medicine, was cited as a "champion of high-value care." His "Lose the Tube" campaign significantly reduced catheter-associated infections and his Early Discharge Initiation Project cut down on overstay. In the past year, Cho, a human biology, health, and society graduate, has received nine national and regional awards for medical excellence.



## Promoting Health

Spencer Johnson, Sloan '71, president emeritus of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), received the 2015 American Hospital Association Award of Honor. The award recognizes exemplary contributions to the nation's health and well-being through leadership on major health policy or social initiatives. The AHA cited Johnson (shown, bottom right, accepting the award) for leading campaigns to eliminate smoking, improve food service, replace mercury thermometers, feed the hungry, and expand health care coverage. Johnson, who retired in June after 30 years at MHA, served as associate director for health, social security, and welfare under President Gerald Ford.





# Past Presents



**In the underground depths of Carl A. Kroch Library,** Cornell history comes alive. The University Archives, in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, contain private papers of faculty, students, staff, and alumni; university and student publications; maps and architectural materials; audiovisual materials such as photographs, films, and oral histories; and other artifacts and ephemera.

Inside is a trove of objects from Human Ecology's past—as far back as Martha Van Rensselaer's arrival on campus in 1900 to run an extension program for rural women. For more than 20 years, CHE archivist Eileen Keating has overseen these treasures, making them accessible to researchers across the globe. "Our collections document the history of our college, the change from home economics to human ecology, the development of our departments and programs, and the work of faculty, staff, alumni, and others," Keating says.

Keating says there's always a need for more Cornelliana to fill the University Archives. To donate scrapbooks, course materials, photographs, or other items, write to her at [EEK2@cornell.edu](mailto:EEK2@cornell.edu).



Generations of children played with these balls and building blocks at the Cornell Early Childhood Center once located in MVR Hall. Founded in 1925 to study child behavior, the nursery school was part of the newly formed Department of Family Life, which sought to apply scientific principles to child rearing. It closed in 2007.



In handwritten notes, Van Rensselaer describes herself as "poor at figures and mental calculations," "orderly, not neat, methodical but just fairly accurate," and "a better captain than lieutenant." Her society pins suggest otherwise; included are a 1907 Cornell pin, a New York State Mothers' Assembly pin, and one for Mu Chapter of Omicron Nu, a national home economics honor society founded in 1919 at Cornell that continues today.



As a freshman in the College of Home Economics, Louise Van Nederyn '48 met Paul Atteridge '46, a chemical engineering graduate who served in a Navy officer training program during World War II. Her two scrapbooks cover three years of their courtship, depicting formals, football games, fashions, and other aspects of Cornell life. Married in 1948, the couple remained together for 65 years until Paul's death.



Given by students to the Department of Home Economics in 1911, this silver tea set was used at many formal college events, including receptions hosted by founding co-directors Van Rensselaer and Flora Rose. A tradition of serving tea and coffee during faculty meetings continued well into the 1960s.





Nikki Cicerani '96

**DEGREE:** Interdepartmental Major  
**POSITION:** President and CEO,  
Upwardly Global



Cornell University  
College of Human Ecology

MY CAREER PATH BEGAN WHEN A  
HUMAN ECOLOGY PROFESSOR  
ENCOURAGED ME TO APPLY TO

Ernst & Young. That one meaningful interview launched my career aligning my interest in social change with financial services, business development, and entrepreneurial nonprofits. In policy analysis and management, I learned to critically study social programs, scrutinize data, design and implement solutions, and measure results.

i am

*removing barriers to work.*

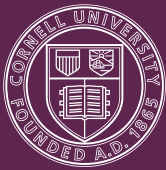
human ecology



Cornell University  
College of Human Ecology

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

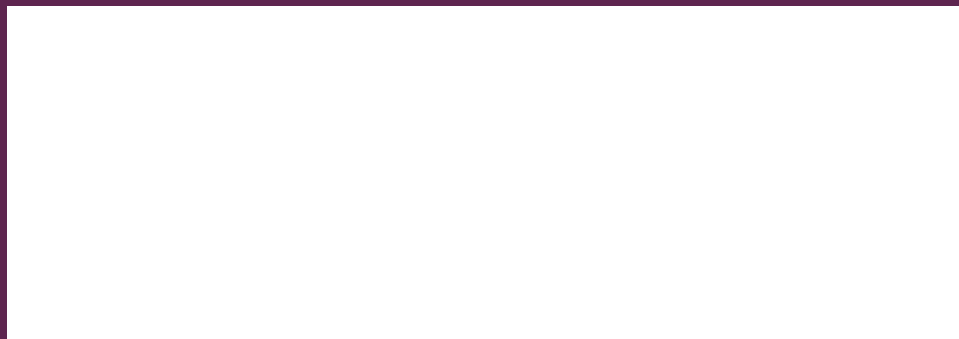




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## Green Team

Sustainability was on the menu at Cornell President Elizabeth Garrett's inaugural picnic this fall, thanks to Human Ecology's Green Ambassadors. The volunteer group presented its homemade bean bag toss game to hundreds of guests, testing their sustainability knowledge and steering trash away from landfills and into recycling and compost bins.