

Alumni Newsletter of The Cornell Commitment

Fall 2004

*The alumni newsletter of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars,
The Cornell Tradition, and the Cornell Presidential Research Scholars*

The Cornell Commitment recognizes, rewards, and encourages further development of a select group of students who exemplify Cornell's commitment to academic excellence, work and service, research and discovery, and leadership and learning and in so doing enrich their experience at Cornell and beyond.

- The Cornell Commitment
Mission Statement

The 2004-2005 Cornell Commitment: Past Changes and Current Initiatives

Greetings, Cornell Commitment alums! We hope that you enjoy this first electronic edition of the Cornell Commitment Alumni Newsletter. Our staff is

very excited about the new electronic newsletter as well as some of the other alumni-related initiatives we'll be taking on over the course of the 2004-2005 academic year.

The decision to change the format of our newsletter from paper to electronic was carefully thought out, and we determined that an electronic newsletter would allow us to reduce our operating costs as well as utilize recent technological advancements to improve our communications with you, our alumni. Thank you in advance for your patience as we make this technical adjustment! Ultimately, your alumni newsletter will arrive to you more quickly, more frequently, and with many of the conveniences of online communication. This change allows us to work effectively within our budget and spend additional time maintaining and improving the quality of the programs and benefits you remember from your time at Cornell. We invite your reactions, thoughts, and feedback as they play an important role in our efforts toward continuous improvement.

This change in newsletter format comes amidst a number of changes for the Cornell Commitment, as many of you are well aware. The completion of an external funding agreement that supported a portion of the student grant and all of the administration operations for the three Commitment offices led to a university review of our programs. This review, which included input from students, alumni, and faculty, was commissioned by the university in an effort to best

determine how to maintain the integrity and valuable offerings of the programs while dealing with the current economic challenges.

Following the review, the university determined that the student support the three programs offered was extremely valuable, and would remain intact. However, it was also determined that the university would be unable to continue the level of operational support the Commitment programs had enjoyed in the past. The restructuring that followed included reallocating our recruitment, selection, and yield activities to the Undergraduate Admissions Office as well as reassigning our financial aid components to the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment. We have been thinking seriously and creatively about ways in which we can continue to strengthen our programs and services within our new structure. As we look back on 2003-2004, our first year in the new format, we celebrate our successes in student programming while concurrently identifying areas where more work can be done. As we enter our second year, we look forward to expanding our work and building upon the foundation that has been laid. Our office staff and our students thank you for your continued support; we recognize that we could not be the programs we are today without the work of those who came before us. We invite and encourage your feedback regarding our efforts to balance the commitment we have to our current students with the commitment we have to our alumni who have continued to further our ideals of service, leadership, and discovery in your workplaces, homes, and communities.

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Full Speed Ahead!

After filling and formally establishing all our staff positions, the Cornell Commitment staff is in operating in full! The current staff structure is as follows:

* *Kristine DeLuca-Beach*, Director of the Cornell Commitment and Director of Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars
kd15@cornell.edu

* *Nathaniel Guest*, Associate Director of the Cornell Commitment and Director of The Cornell Tradition
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* *Beth Reynolds*, Associate Director of the Cornell Commitment and Director of the Cornell Presidential Research Scholars
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* *Kirsten Gabriel*, Assistant Director of the Cornell Commitment
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* *Elberta Donahue*, Program Assistant of the Cornell Commitment
ead4@cornell.edu

* *Grace Henwood*, Program Assistant of the Cornell Commitment
geh9@cornell.edu

More news from the Cornell Commitment...

Appointing the Commitment Director

After a national search, Kristine DeLuca-Beach was named the Director of the Cornell Commitment on May 24, 2004, following eight months of service as the Acting Director of the Cornell Commitment programs. For those of you who haven't had the privilege of meeting or working with Kris, she first started working in the office of the Cornell Commitment in October of 2000 as the first full-time Director of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars Program. She has maintained primary responsibility for the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars Program while taking on leadership for the Cornell Commitment. She began her career at Cornell in 1982 as Publicity Coordinator for the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art and continues with her current position as Director of the Cornell Commitment. Kris currently holds a B.A. in Sociology from Ithaca College and a M.P.S. in Human Service Administration from Cornell University.

A New Assistant Director

The Office of the Cornell Commitment is pleased to announce the appointment of Kirsten Gabriel to the position of Assistant Director of the Cornell Commitment. Kirsten comes to us after having completed her Master of Arts at The Ohio State University in Educational Policy and Leadership/Higher Education and Student Affairs. While at Ohio State, Kirsten served as a programming officer for Service-Learning and Mission at a nearby university, where she was responsible for the conception, development, implementation, and evaluation of international and domestic service trips. Her experiences include coordinating programs to assist students in locating and landing internship opportunities, advising the Ohio State yearbook staff, and mentoring first year students. Kirsten's role as Assistant Director will be to support all three of the Commitment programs by providing general advising to the undergraduate students we serve, coordinating our internship programs and the affiliated expected summer savings replacement program, spearheading alumni communications and programming, monitoring the reapplication process and program expectation compliance for all students, and facilitating access to research support.

2004 Scholarship Reception

Cornell trustees, council members, alumni, donors, and students had the opportunity to meet and talk with each other at this year's Scholarship Reception on October 26, 2004. The Scholarship Reception recognizes donors and scholars throughout the University, including those involved with the Cornell Commitment. Through the generous support of donors and alumni, 600 Commitment students received named scholarships this year. The students who were able to attend the event in the Ramin Room of Bartels Hall voiced their appreciation for the dedication, genuine interest, and financial support shown by so many alumni and sponsors. Moreover, students said they enjoyed meeting and talking with the men and women who had significantly shaped Cornell University and the Commitment programs of the past and are now contributing to the future.

"It was great to meet a group of such incredible people - people who not only are generous and caring enough to support students like myself during our time here at Cornell, but are also interested and willing to take time to talk with us."
- Marissa Sweeney '04

Cornell Reunion 2004

The 2004 Reunion Weekend marked President Jeffrey Lehman's first formal address to Cornell alumni since he took office in July of 2003. Peter Meinig, Cornell Trustee, alumnus, and named sponsor of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars, introduced the President prior to his address. The four-day inauguration event, began on June 10, and activities included tours, open houses, college breakfasts, youth events, fraternity and sorority activities, and a wide variety of other gatherings. The Cornell Commitment hosted a table over the weekend, offering alumni the opportunity to connect with each other and current students to discuss their common experiences at our beloved university. Thanks to those of you who were able to stop by! Planning for the 2005 Reunion Weekend is already underway so mark your calendars for the weekend of June 9-12. We hope to see you there! More information can be found at <http://reunion.alumni.cornell.edu/index.htm>.



**Meinig Family
CORNELL
NATIONAL
SCHOLARS**

***MFCNS Undergraduate
Recruitment Initiative***

While fall marks the start of a new academic year, it also is the beginning of recruitment of next year's class of Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars! We invite you to join other National Scholar alumni throughout the country in recruiting prospective students to attend Cornell. As a National Scholar alumnus, you can share your unique perspective and experience with the students who have been offered a Meinig Family Cornell National Scholarship. We believe this personal interaction will improve the likelihood that these exceptional freshmen will choose to attend Cornell. Our recruitment efforts are coordinated with the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassadors Network (CAAAN) and have included personal contacts with students and participation in accepted student receptions. Contact the CAAAN chair in your area to get involved this fall as training and meetings begin for the academic year. Your CAAAN Chairperson can be located on the CAAAN website at <http://caaan.admissions.cornell.edu/>. For more information, contact one of the MFCNS alumni who spearhead this effort on our behalf: Bill Kingston '59 at Wkingston1@aol.com or Jama Gibbs Jackson '88 at JamaGibbsJackson@aol.com.

**Excellence in Leadership
Essay Award Winners**

The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars announced the winners of the 2004 Excellence in Leadership Awards during the annual welcome reception for the class of 2008 and their families on Saturday, August 21, 2004. The essay evaluation and student recognition committee, organized by Heather Slowik '97, MBA '02, selected the following students as the winners and honorable mentions of this past year's award. Also listed is the organization with which they are most involved.

If you are interested in participating with other alumni in the Excellence in Leadership essay review process, please contact Heather Slowik '97, MBA '02 at hls3@cornell.edu.

***Scholars Symposium:
Fall 2004***

One of the more popular initiatives coordinated by the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars (MFCNS) is the Scholars' Symposium. This year, the scholars' symposiums have included the annual presentation by MFCNS students on their leadership activities, a debate and discussion of election issues, and tips on demonstrating your leadership skills in resumes and interviews. The symposium on campus leadership showcased MFCNS seniors and their leadership activities while encouraging members of the campus and Ithaca communities to join them in their efforts. The event also featured guest speaker Kent Hubbel, Cornell University Dean of Students, who spoke about the importance of engagement. The second symposium was the pre-election event designed by MFCNS to facilitate debate at the university. It began with an address by Stephen Johnson, Cornell's Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Relations, who spoke about some of the key issues college students face. The issues discussed included the war in Iraq, stem cell research, and the potential for a military draft. Following the address and a lively question and answer session, the Cornell College Republicans and the Cornell Democrats took turns responding to questions from the audience. The most recent Scholars' Symposium provided students with practical ways to showcase their leadership skills and experiences in their career searches.



***Tim Lim '05
speaking at the
MFCNS-sponsored
debate***

***Interested in
getting involved
with what you're
reading?***

MFCNS alumni are involved with current and prospective students on a variety of levels. The MFCNS Alumni Steering Committee in New York City has been a particularly active group and new members are always welcome! Involvement opportunities may include but are not limited to activities such as contacting prospective students and helping with the Excellence in Leadership essay review process. Please contact Kirsten Gabriel (kkg6@cornell.edu) for additional information.

Essay Award Winners

- Rebecca Vichniac '04
- Whitney Simon '05
- Allison Wainstock '06
- Dennis Adams '07

- Greater Ithaca Activity Center
- Wilderness Reflections
- Human Ecology Ambassadors
- Habitat for Humanity

Honorable Mentions

- Jessica Rosentahl '04
- Matt Tyhach '05
- David Katz-Doft '05
- Rich Galati '06
- Mahati Archaya '07
- Eva Flores '07
- Randi Goldman '07
- Anthony Macaluso '07

- Cornell University Ambassadors
- Engineering Ambassadors
- Cornell Concert Commission
- Cornell Radio Guild, Inc.
- American Red Cross
- MFCNS
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- Cornell Football



Meinig Family CORNELL NATIONAL SCHOLARS

MFCNS Summer Intern Spotlight

Cornell Commitment summer internships are developed by individual students to explore an academic/career-related interest, usually in the nonprofit sector. Salaries for most MFCNS internships are paid through a combined contribution from both the employer and MFCNS, while some carry only a stipend to cover basic living expenses. Through the internship funding and the Expected Savings Replacement (ESR) financial aid program, the Commitment makes possible summer experiences that might otherwise be financially straining or impossible.

Sheena Lee '05 New York State Office of Federal Affairs, New York City

During my internship with the NYS Office of Federal Affairs, my main job was to do policy research in the office for coworkers that needed information on various topics (i.e. homeland security, Medicaid, etc.). I also attended hearings on Capitol Hill, took notes at the hearings, and wrote up reports on these hearings. I think the most meaningful aspect of the internship was learning from those in the public policy field first-hand and making meaningful contacts that will help me in the future. Not only did I learn about public policy by completing my internship, but I also learned about policy and politics by being in Washington, DC for the summer. I felt like my work was valued and I was not just treated as "the intern"; I had a wonderful time and could not have asked for a better outcome!

Bindu Kolli '05 The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University Boston, Massachusetts

As a project assistant for the Civil Rights Project, I worked alongside researchers, legal scholars, and the director of the project. I contributed to research projects by conducting literature reviews, writing policy briefings, and collecting research findings. One of the most meaningful aspects of the program was being able to brainstorm with leading researchers in the field of civil rights and actually have my ideas included within

"I think the most meaningful aspect of the internship was learning from those in the public policy field first-hand and making meaningful contacts that will help me in the future"

The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars is a select group of students who are drawn from all parts of the country and demonstrate an outstanding degree of leadership. Along with their leadership abilities, these students exhibit academic excellence and a commitment to serving the communities in which they live. By encouraging the growth of these important qualities, the MFCNS program not only enriches the Cornell community but also lays the foundation for National Scholars to excel as leaders well beyond their college years.

*- The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars
Mission Statement*

their projects. I am now designing my honors thesis around civil rights research topics, and my goal is to become a civil rights attorney.

Cara Santillo '06 The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), Washington, DC

As an intern in the alcohol policies project for the CSPI, I completed many research projects on underage drinking, many of which focused on marketing alcohol to young people. Because this was my first professional experience, I learned a lot about professional expectations and how to work efficiently. I became much more interested in public policy, and learned how many different ways you can pursue a career in this field. I now feel more comfortable working in an office setting, and I think I will fear my first job less because I really enjoyed my work and learned so much this summer. Thank you very much for this amazing experience!

The 2004 MFCNS Alumni Reception in New York City

This past June 17th marked the date of the annual MFCNS Alumni Reception at the Cornell Club in New York City, NY. The event is hosted by the MFCNS Alumni NYC Steering Committee for the enjoyment of current National Scholars, alumni, the incoming class of National Scholars and their parents. Peter Meinig, a Cornell alumnus and major contributor to the program that bears his name, and Vice President of Student and Academic Services Dr. Susan Murphy spoke at the event. When asked about her comments and her work with MFCNS, Dr. Murphy confirmed "my comments (at the reception) about leadership were indeed reinforced by their accomplishments, personally and professionally." She enjoyed meeting the Class of 2008 as well as the many National Scholars she has come to know over the years, and sees the alumni reception as a "great introduction and reminder of the lifetime relationships that are created at Cornell." If you are interested in helping plan next year's alumni gathering, contact Chris Cox at chris.cox@hcmny.com

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

MFCNS 2004 summer interns participated in a wide variety of internships, in terms of their focus and their location, including:

- Ø The Foundation for Sustainable Development, Bolivia
- Ø National Baseball Hall of Fame, New York
- Ø Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehab Center, Washington
- Ø Utah Bureau of Forensic Services, Utah
- Ø Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York
- Ø Center for Immigrant Health at NYU, New York
- Ø NY State Office of Federal Affairs, New York
- Ø Senn Delaney, Illinois
- Ø Center for Science in the Public Interest, Washington DC
- Ø The Civil Rights Project, Massachusetts
- Ø Frederic Conger Wood Fellowship, New York

*Cornell Tradition
New Fellow
Family Breakfast*

The 2004 annual
Tradition New Fellow
Family Breakfast



THE CORNELL TRADITION



The Cornell Tradition supports lifestyles that integrate a strong work ethic, public service, and academic achievement by rewarding students who exemplify these characteristics with recognition and financial assistance for their education. The program encourages Tradition Fellows to unify around these common commitments and to serve as models to their communities. The Tradition also supports the development of fellows into well-rounded, productive members of society who, as alumni, will continue to support the program, both financially and through active involvement with those fellows who follow in their footsteps.

- The Cornell Tradition Mission Statement

provided this year's new fellows and their families an opportunity to meet each other, Tradition staff and students, and Cornell faculty members. The breakfast occurred on the Sunday morning of Cornell's First Year Family Weekend, October 22-24, in the Trillium of Kennedy Hall. Highlights of the morning included musical selections performed by The Hangovers, a Cornell student a cappella group, and a presentation by Emily Ulmer '05, Chair of the Cornell Tradition Student Advisory Council.

News from Tradition Summer Interns

Cornell Commitment summer internships are developed by individual students to explore their academic, career-related, or non-profit interests. Internships are funded through a combined contribution from both the employer and the Cornell Tradition, while some carry only a stipend from The Cornell Tradition to cover basic living expenses. The Menschel Public Service Internship Program also provides a significant amount of funding for students interning in certain non-profit sectors. Through the internship funding and the Expected Savings Replacement (ESR) program, the Tradition makes possible summer experiences that might otherwise be financially straining or impossible.

Matt Nagowski '05 *Brookings Institute*

I spent my summer as an intern at the Brookings Institution, a non-partisan think tank in Washington, DC. I did much of the "leg work" of my two supervisors' research, and I felt like I had a valued role in the research process at Brookings. I found at Brookings an environment that was highly stimulated and energetic, filled by people who were passionate and dedicated to what their work, but objective as well. I cemented in my mind that a career involving some sort of policy analysis would be appropriate for me. I worked hands-on with

research daily and was often involved in high level discussions on how research should be conducted, and I enjoyed every second of it!

Diane Tiao '07 *Global Volunteer Network*

My experience as an English teacher in China helped me learn a great deal about myself and increase my self-confidence. I loved the kids, and loved talking to them and having fun with them, but teaching in China has helped me realize that I do not want teaching to be my future profession. I entered this internship uncertain of my career goals, and I now know that traveling and China will be a part of it though teaching may not. Living with the Chinese was a



great experience, and I plan to take Mandarin so I can
Diane Tiao '07 with her students at her final cafeteria meal

improve my speaking, reading and writing and have the option of living and working in China after graduation.

Danielle Yerdon '05 *Child Family Health International*

Over the summer, I had an amazing internship with Child Family Health International. I volunteered in their pediatric health program in La Paz, Bolivia. I spent my summer working alongside physicians, observing and assisting in three different hospitals, mobile clinics, and shelters for street children. I was able to work with a social worker and help recruit more children and get them off the streets. After completing medical school and getting more experience, my goal is to help with Doctors without Borders. My internship helped me realize how much our help is appreciated and needed abroad, and also how much I enjoy this types of work. I am so thankful to be a Cornell Tradition fellow because without their help, my experience in Bolivia would not have been possible.

THE CORNELL TRADITION

2003-2004 Senior Recognition Award Winners

Since 1989, The Cornell Tradition has been recognizing seniors from its graduating class for their community service and leadership efforts. True to the Tradition spirit, the award winners use their monetary winnings to benefit others. Senior Recognition Award recipients establish a \$4,000 Cornell Tradition named fellowship for other students during the subsequent academic year and designate a \$500 award as a charitable contribution to a non-profit agency of their choice. The awards are competitively based on students' community service, leadership, work ethic, and overall contribution to the quality of campus life. Winners are chosen by a selection committee composed of faculty members, administrators, and Cornell Tradition alumni. In addition to dedication to work, service, and scholarship, recognition award winners must also demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the Tradition and to remaining active as Cornell alumni. The variety of this year's award allocations is emblematic of the host of communities and causes to which Tradition Fellows dedicate themselves. This year's Cornell Tradition Senior Recognition Award winners, their Cornell Tradition Fellowships, and \$500 award designations are as follows:

Silvana (Silvi) Alcivar graduated as a College Scholar from the College of Arts and Sciences with a focus on English and Women's Studies. She has established the Silvana Alcivar Cornell Tradition Fellowship and her charitable contribution will be awarded to the Alternative Breaks program in West Virginia.

William M. Balinbin graduated from the School of Hotel Administration. He has established the Hotelies Volunteering Today Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offers his charitable contribution to *Hotelies Volunteering Today* in Cornell's School of Hotel Administration.

Richelle Cristobal Carino graduated with a dual degree from the College of Arts and Science and the College of Art, Architecture, and Planning. She majored in City and Regional Planning and Government, concentrating in International Relations. She has established the Richelle Cristobal Carino Cornell Tradition Fellowship and her charitable contribution was awarded to the Ithaca Asian American Association.

Paul El-Meouchy graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in Economics and Electrical Engineering. He established the Paul El-Meouchy Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered a charitable contribution to be awarded to the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance.

David E. Jackson II graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in Africana Studies. David has established the Rev. Estella T. Jackson, Ed.S. Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered a charitable contribu-

tion to the Greater Ithaca Activities Center Science and Math Academy.

Jennifer Roberts graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in English. She has established the Jennifer Roberts Cornell Tradition Fellowship and her charitable contribution goes to the Cornell Council on Mental Health and Welfare.

Christopher W. Gibbs graduated from the College of Human Ecology with a major in Human Development. He has established the Christopher W. Gibbs Cornell Tradition Fellowship and his charitable contribution will be awarded to the Kappa Chapter of Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Michael A. Romano graduated from the College of Engineering with a major in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering. He has established the Michael A. Romano Cornell Tradition Fellowship and his charitable contribution goes to the Maryland Leadership Workshops, Inc.

Rachel Ruggirello graduated from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a major in Biology and Developmental Sociology. She has established the Rachel Ruggirello Cornell Tradition Fellowship and her charitable contribution will be awarded to the On Site Volunteer Services of Ithaca, New York.

Hamsa Stainton graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in Asian and Religious Studies. He has established the Hamsa Stainton Cornell Tradition Fellowship and his charitable contribution will be awarded to the The PRASAD Project.



During the past twelve years, 167 Cornell Tradition seniors have received this recognition (including some of you reading this article!). They, in turn, have awarded 69 fellowships to other undergraduates, while more than \$241,000 has been awarded to nonprofit agencies. More than \$120,000 has been awarded to the Ithaca community alone, benefiting agencies such as the Southside Community Center, On Site Volunteer Services, Planned Parenthood, Loaves and Fishes, and many more. As the program's nearly



The 2003-2004 Cornell Tradition Senior Recognition Award Winners

Left group, clockwise from top: Christopher Gibbs, Paul El-Meouchy, Richelle Cristobal Carino, Silvana Alcivar, Hamsa Stainton.

Right group, clockwise from top: Jennifer Roberts, David Jackson II, William Balinbin, Rachel Ruggirello, Michael Romano.

4,000 alumni have shown, regardless of where they go after graduation, Cornell Tradition Fellows make invaluable contributions to the world around them.

Fall 2004 Alumni Spotlight: Vanessa Ulmer The Cornell Tradition

Vanessa Ulmer '02, a Tradition Fellow alumna, is a role model for applying the values of The Cornell Tradition to post-graduation life. She has traveled across oceans and broken language barriers to commit herself to service in a broader, global community. During her time as a student at Cornell, she became a fellow her senior year, and took full advantage of the service possibilities on the campus. Her favorite memory of local service was when she was involved in organizing an Ithaca cleanup. "We collaborated with the Mayor's office and the National Guard for a city cleanup, where Ithaca residents could put almost anything out on the curb for pick up, and really picked up a kitchen sink. We got so dirty, but it turned out to be a blast," said Ulmer. She also spent a summer in another country working on a service project with Alternative Breaks. "I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic on an Alternative Breaks trip," said Ulmer. "We lived, learned and volunteered in a remote village. You had to wade across three streams to reach it!" Ulmer values the time she spent in the program, well as the activities in which she participated. "For me, it's really important to make commitments like that: things you enjoy, but that also means others are relying on you, and no matter how busy you become with school or other responsibilities, you need to make the time to fulfill your commitment," said Ulmer. "I think the values of the Tradition Program, ongoing learning, hard work, and giving back to others, are central to any stage of life."

After graduation, Ulmer's commitment to public service and nonprofit organizations continued. "I worked in Washington, D.C. where I had a one-year research fellowship with The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Then I spent a year in northern Nicaragua, coordinating a language and cultural exchange program called Centro de Idiomas (Center of Languages) in the city of Ocotal." Centro de Idiomas is a program through CRESP (Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy at Cornell University) that allows participants to engage in a shared learning experience. As a coordinator for the program, Ulmer facilitated student involvement in Nicaragua. "We organized Spanish classes and hosted family stays, internships and activities for participants in the exchange program. We also taught English at a local school, which is our partner

organization in Ocotal, and a bit in the community. Finally, we handled the project's finances and records, and assisted with outreach and development efforts," said Ulmer.

In Nicaragua, an average day working in the program entailed a challenging, yet rewarding schedule. "In the morning we'd teach English classes at our partner school, to preschool through 7th grade, which tended to be high energy. We used a lot of songs, books, and art supplies to make English fun. Then we had a nice, long lunch break from about 12:30 to 2pm, plenty of time to eat beans and rice. From 2:30 to 5:30pm we had formal Spanish classes [in] grammar, history, and conversation or literature," said Ulmer. She encourages students to find out more about this unique program. "Centro de Idiomas offers an experience that can be challenging, yet is very supportive, personal, and warm. Our partners - teachers, host families, and community members - are incredibly welcoming, and genuinely enjoy sharing their lives with internationalistas."

This article was contributed by CT Times editor Mandy Suhey. Mandy will be graduating in 2007 and is pursuing a double major in English and Spanish.

An alumni spotlight from one of our three programs will appear in each of our alumni newsletters on an alternating basis. Be sure to check out our next newsletter to see what your fellow alumni are up to!

"For me, it's really important to make commitments like that: things you enjoy, but that also means others are relying on you, and no matter how busy you become with school or other responsibilities, you need to make the time to fulfill your commitment."



Clockwise from top left: Joanna Eng '05, Rosa Gonzalez, Vanessa Ulmer '02, Sarah Yannascoli '06, Mikush Schwam-Baird '02, Vicki Niebrzydowski '04

Continuing a Tradition of Service with Cornell Cares Day 2005

At the start of the new year, Cornellians nationwide will begin their year by coming together to serve their communities. This Cornell Cares Day marks the fifth anniversary of the program, an event that brings alumni and current students together for a few hours over Cornell's winter break. As they serve their respective communities, they have the chance to network, to find out how things are going on "the hill", and to learn how individuals have used their Cornell education to foster the development of a successful and meaningful life. Cornell Cares Day is a program of the Cornell Public Service Center (CPSC), which partners with Cornell alumni clubs and organizations, as well as regional offices, nationwide to make these events happen.

How can you get involved? If you live in any of the cities listed below, a Cornell Cares Day event is already in the works; you may choose to simply attend the event or to help plan it! If there is nothing listed for your area, please consider planning an event. It is very simple and takes little time to put the event together; please contact Marcia Harding (mlh15@cornell.edu) for more information and assistance in planning your event.

Participating Cities:

Austin: The Cornell Club of Austin invites alumni to join them Saturday, January 8, 2005 from noon-4 p.m. for networking and service. Free pizza and drinks will be served 12-1 p.m. followed by volunteering with the Capitol Area Food Bank from 1-4 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Jenny Corman at holajenny@yahoo.com.

Boston: Join fellow Bostonians Saturday, January 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Greater Boston Food Bank. Volunteers will sort food that is provided to soup kitchens in the Boston area. Interested? Contact Zuania Pomaes (zip@cornell.edu).

Chicago: The Cornell Club of Chicago invites all Chicago alumni and students to meet with students kindergarten through 8th grade at the William Penn School, a Chicago Public School located at 1616 S. Avers (3800 West) on January 15, 2005, from 10 a.m.-noon. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Darryl Tom at (312) 638-0014 or at dtom@bwstlaw.com.

Los Angeles: The Cornell Club of Los Angeles invites alumni and students to join them at a service event on Saturday, January 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Compton High School. Work alongside the girls' softball team to paint backstops, create dugouts, and work with the fields. Bring your glove as an impromptu game may be played afterward. There will also be pizza and participant t-shirts! If you have questions or are interested, please contact Marcie Houser (mrh26@cornell.edu) at 310-971-3046 by Jan. 5. students to come to the Bauer Community Center in Millburn, NJ from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 9 to paint a mural (5' X 8') to be donated to the children's wing of a local hospital. The event promises to be entertaining, stress relieving, and a great way to meet and bond with fellow Cornellians. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Christine Tao at 973-227-1940 or christine@tao23.com, or to Jo Ann Boyko at 973-912-9772 or jlboyko@earthlink.net.

Princeton, NJ: The Cornell Alumni Association of Princeton invites alumni, students, and their friends and family to join them Saturday, January 8, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Crisis Ministry of Princeton's Food Bank. Cornellians will clean, straighten and re-stock the food pantry for its reopening Monday, January 10 (it closes for a short time during the holidays). For more information or to register, contact Susan Perl at sperl@comcast.net.

Millburn, NJ: The Cornell Club of Northern New Jersey invites area alumni and students to come to the Bauer Community Center in Millburn, NJ from 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday, January 9 to paint a 5X8 mural for the children's wing of a local hospital. The event promises to be entertaining, stress relieving, and a great way to meet and bond with fellow Cornellians. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Christine Tao at 973-227-1940 or christine@tao23.com, or to Jo Ann Boyko at 973-912-9772 or jlboyko@earthlink.net.

Princeton, NJ: The Cornell Alumni Association of Princeton invites alumni, students, and their friends and family to join them Saturday, January 8, 2005 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Crisis Ministry of Princeton's Food Bank. Cornellians will clean, straighten and re-stock the food pantry before it reopens for 2005. For more information or to register, contact Susan Perl at sperl@comcast.net.

San Francisco: The Cornell Alumni Association of Northern California (CAANC) invites area alumni, current students, and family and friends to join them Saturday, January 8, 2005 from 9 a.m.-noon as they help the San Francisco Food Bank package food for anti-hunger programs in the Bay Area. For more information or to participate, contact Rob Peterson '98 at 408/678-8585 (work); 510/366-9754 (cell); or rrp5@cornell.edu. For more information about the San Francisco Food Bank, go to www.sffoodbank.org

Seattle: The Cornell Club of Western Washington (CCWW) invites Cornell alumni and students to join them January 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for a day of service at the Northwest Harvest Warehouse, Terminal 91. The work will include sorting, labeling and packing food donations; food and a participation t-shirt will be provided. For more information about Terminal 91, visit <http://www.portseattle.org/seaport/cargo/terminal91.shtml>. Interested? Contact Amy Faber at anf5@cornell.edu with questions or to RSVP by January 5, 2005.

Announcing the Jennifer Herskowitz Cornell Tradition Point of Light Award

The Cornell Tradition is pleased to announce the establishment of the Jennifer Herskowitz Cornell Tradition Point of Light award. The award is in memory of Jennifer Herskowitz '88 who was a Cornell Tradition Fellow from 1984 until 1988. Jennifer graduated with a B.S. from the College of Human Ecology. She was very active within The Cornell Tradition and was instrumental in establishing a thriving alumni network in the New City metropolitan area. She and several other alumni created the highly successful Big Red Apple Scavenger Hunt (BRASH) event each winter. Sadly, Jennifer's brilliant life was cut short by pancreatic cancer on May 17, 2003.

In keeping with her love of the Tradition, Jennifer made certain that a part of her estate would be used to enhance the program experience for future Tradition Fellows. In conjunction with her family, we are pleased to celebrate Jennifer's life through this award.

The award will honor either a senior who has gone above and beyond in service to The Cornell Tradition or a Tradition alum who has carried the Tradition spirit to make a difference beyond Cornell and beyond graduation. The award will be presented annually at the Tradition's graduation barbecue, held the Friday evening before Commencement. *To apply or nominate a current senior or alumnus or for more information, please submit a letter of recommendation to Nathaniel Guest, ncg1@cornell.edu.*

The Cornell Presidential Research Scholars

2005 Summer Research Spotlight

Each CPRS student is required to engage in one summer of research, but many choose to do several! The summer session provides students an opportunity to engage in full or part-time individualized research with their current faculty mentor or with other research professionals in their field. Summer experiences receive funding from students' research support accounts, allowing them to engage in the highest quality research opportunities available.

Gerry (Gerald) Carter '05 *Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

My summer project involved determining the wildlife prey of vampire bats using a non-invasive protocol I developed. I felt that I learned a lot from research experience because I was able to take the initiative in learning when pursuing a question related to my research project. This summer, I learned several different molecular-level research techniques and field skills. This experience has influenced my future plans a great deal. I am absolutely certain now that I want to continue working with bats in graduate school, have begun to think about my masters thesis and other project ideas and topics, and will be meeting with my potential future supervisor this fall. It was both educational and inspirational to work with my supervisors. Though the work was exhausting (many days we woke up at 7am and didn't get to bed until 3am), it was fun and self-motivating; my expectations were definitely exceeded.

**Following his summer research, Gerry presented a paper at one of the nation's principle bat research conferences in Salt Lake City from October 29-31. His submission was named the 'best student paper' and was the only undergraduate submission to receive an award.*

CPRS Faculty Dinner

Faculty and freshman researcher scholars were able to meet and get to know each other at this year's annual CPRS Faculty Dinner, held on Monday, October 22. Faculty members from a variety of disciplines were present to answer questions from CPRS students, talk informally about their research, and begin to build mentoring relationships with novice researchers. One of our most popular programs, the faculty dinner is one of several Freshman Colloquium requirements for first-year CPRS students and is designed to introduce them to faculty members, teach them about networking, and acclimate them to research at Cornell University.



2005 Freshman Colloquium

Since the fall of 1999, the CPRS Freshman Colloquium has provided first-year students with an introduction to the program, a mechanism for transition from high school to college, and an opportunity to learn from faculty and current students about the research that is happening throughout campus. Weekly sessions are held throughout the fall semester and focus on topics such as getting started with CPRS, research ethics and research in progress. In addition, individual colleges hold their own freshman colloquium sessions several times over the semester; topics for these sessions are determined by each college. An essential part of the CPRS program, the Freshman Colloquium helps freshman adjust to college life and realistically prepare for the research they'll engage in during the remainder of their tenure at Cornell.

Kevin Kirkpatrick

Washington State Growth Management Services

I worked this summer as a research intern within the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). I essentially had two projects focusing on the impact of the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA). Both were quite rewarding – I learned a lot and was also able to meet some leaders in Washington. The report I produced will be used to help frame a discussion of a benchmarking system that will take place at a GMA stakeholder conference this fall. It will probably be distributed to conference attendees as preparatory reading. If the system is actually created, my report will also be used in the process of putting that system together. Needless to say, I'm quite pleased that my research is of use to people working with the very real problems of management growth on a daily basis.

Juliane Deacutis '07

Cornell University Department of Entomology

My summer project was to work in one of Cornell's entomological research labs. I tested the resistance of houseflies to a relatively new insecticide and made field collections around New York State. I ran bioassays on the houseflies I collected and we found that the flies had already developed a resistance to the insecticide. This was a crucial finding since a base line has not been established for many insecticides. From this project and the literature I read this summer, I learned techniques of rearing and conducting my own studies on insecticides.

The Cornell Presidential Research Scholars (CPRS) program selects highly motivated students and provides them with the opportunity to conduct financially supported, faculty-mentored research throughout their undergraduate years. Students are encouraged to pursue their intellectual interests through research in any area of study from the humanities to the physical and biological sciences, social science to engineering. Selected CPRS students have demonstrated academic excellence in addition to personal characteristics necessary to becoming a great researcher. Participating in a world-class research community early in a student's career promotes academic growth and opens doors to the future.

~ Cornell Presidential Research Scholars Mission Statement

Professors Norm Scott and Carl Hopkins discuss research with Nikhil Duvapelli '08 and other CPRS students.

The Cornell Presidential Research Scholars

"Students Show Vitality of Undergraduate Research (and The Research Paper)"

This article appeared in the April 29, 2004 edition of the Cornell Chronicle

Undergraduate research at Cornell is thriving. That was the clear message from three recent campus events that gave students the opportunity to present their expertise in everything from Cuban drumming to the craving for chocolate. The 19th annual Cornell Undergraduate Research Board (CURB) Spring Forum was held Sunday, April 25, in the Kennedy Hall atrium. CURB is a student organization that fosters academic excellence by promoting undergraduate research at Cornell. The program consisted of an oral session with 10 presenters, a poster session with 35 presenters and a keynote talk by Steven Strogatz, Cornell professor of theoretical and applied mathematics and author of the recent book *Sync*. "We are all here today because we have the same disease," Strogatz told the audience. "That disease is an appreciation for the thrill of research. I urge you to fall in love with your research." Research presentations included "Ecology as Art: An Exploration in Urban Ecologies," by Anna Johansen '04, and "Chocolate Cravings in American and Spanish Individuals: Biological and Cultural Influences," by Jamie Osman '05. Laurel Southard, director of undergraduate research in the Office of Undergraduate Biology, received the Marilyn Emmons Williams Award for her contributions to undergraduate research at Cornell. Student presenter Rachel Hutt '05 said, "This is a great opportunity to see the wide variety of research that goes on outside of my major and college."

At a poster session on April 17, 60 seniors in the Cornell Presidential Research Scholars (CPRS) program presented their research in the Biotechnology Building atrium. The CPRS program encourages students to conduct research throughout their undergraduate career by providing them with up to \$10,000 in support. "The poster session gives seniors a chance to showcase all the hard work they have put into their research," explained program director Beth Reynolds. "It is also a chance for prospective students to learn more about the

scholarship program."

"The CPRS program was really a door-opener for me," said Alaina Steck '04.

"Without it, I wouldn't have engaged in research so early or so intently." Brian Kwoba '04, presented his research on

"Rumba," an indigenous musical art form that consists of singing, dancing and drumming. With CPRS funding, he traveled to Cuba to conduct interviews, take drum lessons and observe musical performances. At the session, Kwoba gave advice to younger students: "Given that college is primarily a time to discover yourself, your research process should be directed at doing just that." Said Neil Mittelman, an incoming freshman, "Now, I am really looking forward to starting my own research when I arrive at Cornell."

On Friday, April 23, about 200 students, faculty and parents were on the second floor of Mann Library to celebrate the second anniversary of *The Research Paper*, Cornell's Undergraduate Research Magazine. Also present were the student researchers featured in the journal's fifth issue, edited and written by 80 staff members. "I was surprised that so many people read our magazine," said Ali Wadsworth '06, coordinator of the journal's newly launched Web site (<http://www.rso.cornell.edu/research>). "I really look forward to watching the magazine's success grow even further now."

"The concept of *The Research Paper* is unique," explained design editor Peter Flynn '04. "It gives undergraduates a great feeling to be in the spotlight for their research and to participate in writing about other undergraduates who do exciting work." Said managing editor Jack Cognetta '06, "This event successfully upheld our mission and vision to humanize research and unite the Cornell research community through this magazine."

This article was written by Emily Posner, a CPRS student who graduated this past spring. While at Cornell, she served as the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Research Paper*.



In Addition to Research...

In addition to research activities, CPRS students have found ways to connect with and get to know each other during informal social events. They also have fun! Some of our most recent events include the following:
~ *Pumpkin Carving* – Oct. 29 with Commitment current and prospective students
~ *Research in Progress Forum* – Oct. 4 Open to the entire campus
Presentations included Amy "Rowan" Kaplan's work with paleography (the study of old handwriting), Beki Cohen's study of red maple leaf toxicity in horses, Lindsey Reul's Israeli archeology project, and Sarah LaVallee, Emily Breidbart, and Johanna Muenke's study of the behaviors of preschool children.
~ *Pizza at the Nines* – Dec. 2 with CPRS