University financial aid policies bring changes to Commitment programs

As you know, Cornell University launched a new financial aid initiative aimed at making a Cornell education more affordable for families within the lower income ranges. This is great news for Cornell, as this presents a way to continue our commitment to serving the most diverse undergraduate population among the Ivies.

To support this initiative, a few changes within the Commitment have occurred in order to provide support to all our members from this point on.

These changes most specifically affect Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars and Cornell Tradition fellows. These changes do not impact members of the Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, students will have access to $3,500 to support experiential opportunities designed to expose them to activities related to the ideals their specific program. These funds are available over the course of their undergraduate career.

In consultation with program staff, students will have the opportunity to participate in internships (winter, spring, or summer), alternative break programs, Pre-Orientation Service Trips, special projects, or other service-learning and/or leadership development opportunities, to name a few possibilities.

We are excited to offer this flexibility to our students so that they have more control over the types of activities that will enhance their Cornell experience.

Long-standing program benefits are still in place for our students: Executive Mentoring, Freshman Forum, and Excellence in Leadership recognition will continue to be part of the benefits package for National Scholars. Tradition fellows will have access to Community Action Fellowship opportunities and wage subsidies.

Please be aware that our students continue to receive the up to $4,000 CT Fellowship or MFCNS Scholarship each year, provided they are financial-aid eligible. This standard of our program has not changed but its impact was lessened in light of the change in the overall financial aid policy of the university.

Providing ALL members access to the $3,500 support account, regardless of financial aid status allows us to support both the educational costs and the outside-the-classroom experiences that contribute to making membership as a Commitment student such an honor.

We are pleased to be able to support Cornell University’s commitment to making this institution open to more students as well as facilitating students’ commitment to community service, leadership, and research and discovery.

To learn more about program-specific changes, you may request a program prospectus by contacting the office at 607-255-8595 or via email to sws36@cornell.

www.commitment.cornell.edu
Updates from Commitment Alumni

Alfredo Rabines, DO ’00 is Chief Intern/Emergency Medicine Resident at St. Barnabas Hospital, a Level 1 Trauma Center located in Bronx, New York. He received his Master's degree in Physiology from New York Medical College and attended Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Bernadette Hayes ’04 just completed her third year of school at Roger Williams School of Law in Bristol, RI.

Thomas J. Balcerski’s ’05 recently wrote a book on the history of his fraternity: Acacia Fraternity, Cornell Chapter: the First Century. In an interview with The Cornell Daily Sun last fall, Balcerski said writing the book gave him the chance to meet older alumni whom he called “men of the highest character.” Currently, Tom completed his first year of graduate school at SUNY Stony Brook, studying for a Ph.D. in U.S. history. He won the Frederick Jackson Turner Main Award, given by the department to one of its students for best seminar paper during the academic year.

Tiffany Hunter ’05 after graduating she received her Master’s in Medical Sciences from BU. She just finished her first year of medical school at BU.

Shashi Bhat ’06 is completing her MFA in Fiction at The Johns Hopkins University, where she also holds a teaching fellowship. She recently had her first few stories published, and has been nominated for this year’s Pushcart Prize. Her works have appeared in The Missouri Review, Event Magazine, and Bayou Magazine.

Jennifer DeAmato ’07 reports that she is in graduate school working on an MS in agriculture, specializing in animal science, and thesis in nutritional immunology at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Daniel Altares ’07 started a job at a global health organization working in policy and advocacy right after graduation. In the fall, she will return to school to pursue a dual degree in nursing and public health with a policy focus.

Dana Lin ’08 recently began her job at LiveOps (Santa Clara, CA) as Associate Marketing Manager.

Launch of LINK to Commitment alumni successful

The Cornell Commitment completed the launch of LINK, our new networking database that will foster collaboration, information sharing, and mentoring between alumni, students, and administration of the three Commitment programs—Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars, The Cornell Tradition, and Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars.

The application will deliver a rich, desktop-like user interface on the web for alumni and student users. Required information, such as contact preferences, education and career information and mentoring interests, is entered by users. Once required fields are populated, then the user can access the networking features of the application. Alumni are permitted to search the alumni network only, while current students who are registered can search both alumni and other students in the network.

The success of our network is only as good as the people who choose to participate. It is our hope that a broad spectrum of alumni, across programs, careers, industries, and life experiences will register. To minimize the time you need to spend entering data, we will upload alumni information before the launch date.

A letter went out officially announcing the new database, and detailing the benefits of using it. We are excited about the reality of the launch, and the practical usefulness of the application for students and alumni alike. To learn more about how you can participate in this resource, please contact the office at 607-225-8595.

We are looking for alumni to profile for the quarterly enews. If you served in a leadership capacity (SAC, SAB, Exec Board) for your program, and/or if you received an award (such as the Excellence in Leadership (National Scholars) or the Senior Recognition Award (Tradition)), please contact us with a brief description of where you are now, what you are doing, and anything new or exciting you would like to share with others.
Commitment Staff Profile: Grace Henwood

Growing up, Grace Henwood wanted to be a Rockette but Cornell has been lucky enough to have Grace as an employee for the past 30 years. She spent her first 19 years working in the Animal Science Department for Northeast Dairy Records Processing. After her service to the dairy industry she began working with The Cornell Tradition 1996. Grace serves as a Program Assistant to all three of the Commitment programs.

Outside of the office Grace is a phenomenal cook. She has so many recipes that she wants to try out that she continually says she will need three or four lifetimes to try them all. She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. She frequently talks about how she is going to retire and help “Bert” (Elberta Donahue) out at her produce stand, Rolling Hills Produce.

In her own words, Grace talks about her work with Commitment students over the years and her wish for our world.

*What do you find most rewarding about working for The Cornell Commitment?* When freshman come to Cornell and come to the office, they know very little about being on their own and how to become independent. They come into the office throughout their time at Cornell and we get to watch them grow into independent adults. Watching these students grow and having them keep in touch with us as alumni through notes, cards and pictures shows the impact that we have made on their lives, and nothing is more rewarding than that - making a difference.

*How is The Cornell Commitment different now than it was 5 years ago?* Five years ago students were beginning to appreciate what is going on in the world around them. Today, students are active and involved with what is going on around them and they are working more to make a difference.

*If you could change one thing about your world what would it be?* I wish everyone in the world would appreciate their surroundings and their environment. Neglect has become a recent issue and individuals need to keep our world clean and free from all of our excess junk and trash. The cleaner we keep our surroundings the better environment our children and grandchildren will have.

Next issue’s profile will focus on Kris DeLuca, Director of The Cornell Commitment.

Debra S. Newman ’02 Cornell Tradition Community Recognition Award recipient named

Gay Nicholson of Ithaca was the recipient of The Cornell Tradition’s seventh annual Debra S. Newman ’02 Community Recognition Award for her extensive volunteer efforts in the local community. Nicholson received her award April 26th, during the National Volunteer Week’s “Day of Service,” which is locally sponsored by The Cornell Tradition and OnSite Volunteer Services.

Nicholson received the Newman award as a result of her strong commitment to community service and leadership, including her work with Sustainable Tompkins, a coalition she helped create in 2004. Nicholson has served as program co-ordinator for Sustainable Tompkins at its founding, and continues to further the organization’s mission by facilitating workshops and study circles, convening the Cayuga Sustainability Council, and much more. Nicholson received the award at a ceremony in the Women’s Community Building in downtown Ithaca.

The Cornell Tradition Community Recognition Award was renamed in 2002 in honor of the late Debra Newman ’02, a graduate of The Cornell Tradition, who was killed in a tragic automobile accident the year she graduated. For additional information about Sustainable Tompkins, visit <http://www.sustainabletompkins.org>.
Every spring, Cornell University highlights some of its most extraordinary students, including those who have been chosen to receive prestigious awards, scholarships, and fellowships. The Cornell Tradition is always proud to see its fellows among this group. Some of the many awards that Tradition Fellows have earned in recent years include the Chancellor’s Award, the J.W. Saxe Memorial Prize, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award, Merrill Scholarships, Truman Scholarships, Udall Scholarships, Churchill Scholarships, and Rhodes Scholarships. Since 1989, the Tradition has been recognizing its own graduating seniors with very unique Senior Recognition Awards. In true Tradition spirit, the ten Cornell senior fellows, honored for their community service and leadership efforts, will use their monetary awards to benefit others.

Cornell Tradition Senior Recognition Awards are given to a limited number of Cornell Tradition Fellows each year. Those recognized will establish a $4,000 Cornell Tradition named fellowship for other students during the 2008-2009 academic year and designate a $500 award as a charitable contribution to a non-profit agency of their choice. This year’s recipients are as follows:

**Amma Aboagye**, graduating from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, has established the Edna Osei-Aboagye Memorial Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered her charitable contribution to the African Christian Men’s Intercessors, Inc.

**Stacey Elliot**, graduating from the College of Human Ecology, has established the Robert ’47 and Therese ’47 Elliot Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered her charitable contribution to Cayuga Counseling Services.

**Jessica Houle**, graduating from the College of Human Ecology, has established the Jessica L. Houle Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered her charitable contribution to Cornell Cooperative Extension-4H.

**Ugonna Ihekweazu**, graduating from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has established the Charles Ihekweazu Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered his charitable contribution to Westbury Christian High School.

**Rebecca Lee**, graduating from the College of Human Ecology, has established the Rebecca A. Lee Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered her charitable contribution to Alpha Phi Omega.

**Jacqueline Murphy**, graduating from the College of Human Ecology, has established the Jacqueline N. Murphy Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered her charitable contribution to The Cornell Tradition.

**Manuel Natal**, graduating from the College of Human Ecology, has established the Natal-Albelo Family Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered his charitable contribution to the Class of 2008.

**Thomas Noble**, graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences, has established the Thomas Noble Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered his charitable contribution to OnSite Volunteer Services.

**Jeffrey Rudnik**, graduating from the College of Engineering, has established the Paul and Andrea Rudnik Cornell Tradition Fellowship and offered his charitable contribution to Alpha Phi Omega.

Since 1989, 194 Cornell Tradition seniors have received this recognition. They, in turn, have awarded 96 fellowships to other undergraduates, while more than $300,000 has been awarded to nonprofit agencies. More than $160,000 has been awarded to the Ithaca Community alone, benefiting agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the Southside Community Center, OnSite Volunteer Services, and many more.

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Tradition fellow wins national title in wrestling
Cornell 157-pounder Jordan Leen has won the national title by beating Illinois’ Michael Poeta, 5-4, at the NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Mo. The No. 8 seed in the tournament completed his unlikely run by knocking off the top two seeds en route to capturing the title.

“I don’t know what this feels like,” he said. “I’m just kind of a mess right now to be honest with you. I just feel so lucky. I know I didn’t deserve it any more than any of the other guys in that bracket. It just happened to be my weekend. I feel ecstatic that I was the guy that got to put together a good weekend.”

Jordan will graduate from the College of Human Ecology in May 2009. He is from Soddy Daisy, TN and has been a Tradition fellow since his first year at Cornell.

Cornell Tradition students receive awards and honors

**Allison Fritts-Penniman:** Award for Academic Excellence  
– Natural Resources

**Michael Corbolotti, Thomas Corbolotti, and Julie Lundgren:** 400 Club for Student Athletes

**Claire Min:** Thomas B. Bush Memorial Fund Award and Pam Stepp Award for Rhetorical Excellence in Novice Debate

**Kelsey Dow:** Department of German Studies Book Prize and Certificate in German Language Study

**Stacey Elliot:** Zuckerman Award for Excellence in Human Development – Runner-Up

**Geoff Gray:** Joseph Drown Special Prize Finalist

**Liya Ma:** School of Hotel Administration Symbol Banner Bearer

**Jessica Houle:** Tompkins Community Action Community Service Award, Florence Halpern Humanitarian Award, Gilman International Scholarship, and Robinson Appel Humanitarian Award

**Amma Aboagye:** Outstanding Activist

**Matthew Veneskey:** Outstanding Student Employee – Dean of Students

**Saidu Ezike, Brad Gorter:** Top Twenty-Five Senior Athletes

**Manuel Natal and Amanda Cluff:** Distinguished Leadership Award

**Nashalie Vazquez:** Mildred April Memorial Award

**Ugonna Ihekweazu and Jordan Leen:** Red Key Athletic Honor Society

**Veronica Conti:** Honors in Nutritional Sciences

**Manuel Natal:** Latino Living Learning Center Pa’lante Award, Outstanding Greek Chapter Leaders, and Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs Outstanding Chapter Leader Award

**Brian Donovan:** John O’Donnell Prize in Labor Law

**Amanda Cluff:** Frederick G. Marcham Scholarship for History

**Michel Ohmer:** Knight Prize for Writing in the Majors 2005 & 2006 and Sigma Xi Superior Poster Presentation Award

**Devin Iseneker:** Department of Animal Science Senior Award

**Brad Gorter:** Varsity Swimming and Diving MVP Award

**Daniel Murray:** Carl E. Ladd Scholarship Award

**Nabilah Lari:** Rosenweig-Feingold Award

**Michael Corbolotti:** 2008 Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award Finalist

**Shirley Cueva:** Outstanding Greek Woman Award
Meinigs present awards at graduation celebration

The annual MFCNS Graduation reception for the Class of 2008 and their families was held at the A.D. White House. The program for this celebratory evening event included speeches by special guests Nancy Schlegel Meinig ’62, program benefactor, and Peter Meinig ’61 BME ’62, program benefactor and Chairman of the Cornell Board of Trustees. President of the MFCNS Executive Board Jonathan Feldman ’08 shared remarks and Kris DeLuca, presented the Senior Excellence in Leadership award to Elan Greenberg for the submission of his leadership essay. Honorable Mention was awarded to Erika Nolting and Jonathan Feldman.

MFCNS alumni reception held in June

The Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars Alumni Reception was held on a clear evening June 12, 2008. Kristine M. DeLuca and members of the Alumni Steering Committee hosted the event, which drew alumni, and current and new students from the tri-state area and Pennsylvania. Jennifer Lee ’05 served as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the evening’s speaker, Ms. Ronay Menschel, ’64, Chairman, Phipps Houses who spoke on the impact a single individual can make.

Excellence in Leadership award recipient named

The Excellence in Leadership award is presented to a member of the graduating class in special recognition of exemplary leadership among this group of leaders. Begun as an opportunity for undergraduate student and alumni interaction, a committee of MFCNS alumni review materials submitted by members of the class and select an awardee. The selection criteria have changed over the years; this year, a select number of seniors were nominated by an internal review committee of staff and students; those nominated students were then asked to provide materials that demonstrated their leadership accomplishments, and letters of recommendation from an advisor, professor, or administrator and the alumni committee reviewed these submissions. The Award Winner receives a certificate of honor, a $500 award, and an invitation to speak at the annual MFCNS Alumni Reception held in NYC in June.

This year’s recipient is Elan Greenberg, a Policy Analysis and Management major in the College of Human Ecology who comes from Rockaway, NJ. He is a Midshipman in the Navy ROTC and was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Many of Elan’s leadership activities came through various positions held throughout his 4 years in NROTC, taking on the most challenging position of Operations Officer this past year. But like most National Scholars, Elan is not one-dimensional. He also recently served as President of the Student Assembly. At the conclusion of fall semester, he resigned his position as President, committing the remainder of his time on Student Assembly to reevaluate the role of undergraduate student government at Cornell.

The review committee was most impressed with a statement Elan made in his essay, “I concede that most of my leadership has been practiced with my face in the mud or with sweat on my back completing the last few miles of a marathon with a friend not far behind. My leadership has been tested in the hottest, coldest, dirtiest, or most public situations; in the open door of an airplane with a parachute strapped to my back or at the top of a mountain with fourteen Marines asking, “What’s next?” I’ve been both lauded and ridiculed on the front page of the Cornell Daily Sun, forcing me to learn incredibly quickly not to take myself too seriously.”

His recommendation by Lt. Col. D. M. Taylor, USMC, was one of the few that made a compelling case about the true leadership of the individual: “He does not simply want to help; he possesses a genuine drive to have an active role in guiding service-oriented organizations. I can think of few other graduating seniors who so epitomize President Kennedy’s idea of the leadership potential of America’s youth.”
Lisa Antonecchia: Sphinx Head Senior Honor Society; Golden Key National Honor Society; Ho-Nun-De-Kay CALS Honor Society; MF-CNS Excellence in Leadership Award

Benjamin Arfa: Mock Trial Awards – Intercollegiate All-American Attorney, All-Regional Attorney, Outstanding Attorney at Brandeis University Invitational, Lafayette College Invitational, and Pittsburgh University Invitational, Top Attorney at Cornell University Invitational

Rachel Barry: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society, The Hillier Award in Design and Environmental Analysis

Danier Bouza: College of Architecture, Art and Planning Degree Marshall; CRP/URS Academic Achievement Award

Jessica Dwinell: High Honors, American Studies; Golden Key National Honor Society

Laura Connelly: Order of the Omega Greek Honor Society

Drew Coyne: National Residence Hall Honorary Inductee

Matthew Escovar: The Escutcheon Award for Undergraduate Leadership-Zeta Psi Fraternity; Phi Alpha Award for Outstanding Service to the Psi Chapter-Zeta Psi Fraternity; Golden Koosh Award for Outstanding Service to the Cornell Team and Leadership Center; Golden Key Honor Society

Rosemarie Fang: 2008 ASCE Marshal Case Haggard Award; 2008 John E. Perry Outstanding Undergraduate Prize

Jonathan Feldman: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; 40 Under 40 in Tompkins County Award; Edwin Fitzpatrick Award for Outstanding Interfraternity Council Leader; Dean of Students Distinguished Leader Award; United Way of Tompkins County Celebrating Excellence; Mortar Board Senior Honor Society; Order of the Omega Greek Honor Society; MFCNS Excellence in Leadership Award Honorable Mention 2008

Jeffrey Glick: Order of the Omega Greek Honor Society; Matthew P. Kleiner “Create Change: Health Leadership Award”

Elan Greenberg: Sphinx Head Senior Honor Society; Anna Sobol Levy Fellowship to Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Marine Corps Association Award; American Legion Gold Award; MFCNS Excellence in Leadership Award 2008

Jennifer Hillman: Psi Chi National Honor Society for Psychology; Janiece Bacon Oblak Award for Outstanding Panhellenic Leader

Jessica Hippolyte: Office of Minority Educational Affairs Academic Excellence Award; Office of Minority Educational Affairs Leadership and Public Service Award; 20 Outstanding Seniors

Kathy Ko: Jones Scholarship; Chinese Cultural Community Scholarship; Alpha Epsilon Pre-Medical Honor Society

Abby Lin: IBM Scholarship; Society for Women Engineers Class of 2008 Scholarship; Society of Women Engineers Director Year Award

Melanie Lister: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; 2008 James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial Understanding and Harmony – awarded to Black Students United-Melanie Lister, Outreach Coordinator

Kalisa Martin: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; Cornell Institute of Food Science Advisory Council Undergraduate Award; USDA Multicultural Scholar

Katelyn McClellan: 2007 Outstanding Greek Woman Award; ILR Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions and Leadership in ILR; Ives Award; Daniel J. Alpern Memorial Prize

Laura McIntyre: MFCNS Excellence in Leadership Award Honorable Mention

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MFCNS award winners continued from page 7

Brandon Mizuno: School of Civil and Environmental Engineering Moles Student Award

Erika Nolting: SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence; Carol J. Adomiak Undergraduate Service Award; Distinction in Research; Frederie N. Gabler ’93 Memorial Research Honors Endowment; Chester Freeman Communication Leadership Award; Harrison M. Trice Award for Best Undergraduate Papers on Alcohol and Drug use and Abuse and Campus Life; 400 Club Honoree; William B. Ward Scholarship; Golden Key International Honour Society; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Ho-Nun-De-Kah Honor Society; Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society; MFCNS Excellence in Leadership Award Honorable Mention 2008

Sarah Olesiuk: Dean’s Academic Excellence Award; Ho-Nun-De-Kah Honor Society; Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society; CALS, Development Sociology Banner Bearer

Iris Rabinovitch: Golden Key International Honour Society; Outstanding Panhellenic Woman, National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Tyrell Robertson: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society

Katherine Simmons: Sphinx Head Senior Honor Society; Red Key Athletic Honor Society; Tri-Captain for Varsity Women’s Lacrosse Team; 1st Team All-Ivy; 1st Team All-Region; Richie Moran Award; George Boiardi Leadership Award

Madeline Sterling: Pre-Medical Honor Society; Distinguished Leader in Public Service

Rohan Thakkar: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; Joseph Drown Special Prize Finalist, School of Hotel Administration; Cornell Daily Sun’s 25 Most Recognizable Seniors

Kasey Toomey: CALS, Landscape Architecture Banner Bearer

Yin Tong: Family Histories Research Project selected for presentation at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development and at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development

RCPRS students receive awards and honors

Elena Abarinov: Howard Hughes Medical Research Scholar; graduating with honors

Bryan Beaudoin: Japan America Student Conference Delegate, Merrill President Scholar, Nanjing Fellowship, Phi Beta Kappa

Min Chen: Dean’s List

Marla Diakow: Outstanding Senior for Biology and Society Major in Human Ecology; Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society; Member of The 400 Club for Varsity Athletes; Dean’s List

Kyle Eager: Paul Schreurs Memorial Award, Cornell Hughes Undergraduate Scholar, Dean’s List, Golden Key International Honour Society, Best Undergraduate Poster at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Jane Forman: Stuart Linnick Memorial Scholarship, Dean’s List, Graduating with Honors in Nutritional Sciences, Robinson Award for Academic Excellence, Ruthana Wood Davis Award for Academic Achievement in Nutritional Sciences, Dean’s List

Lindsay Fourman: Valedictorian of College of Human Ecology, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Graduating with honors in Nutritional Sciences, Robinson Award for Academic Excellence, Ruthana Wood Davis Award for Academic Achievement in Nutritional Sciences, Dean’s List

Aaron Gingrande: ILR James Campbell award (for humility, friendliness, academic excellence & outstanding contribution to Cornell), One of 20 Graduates Featured in the Cornell Chronicle 2008 Senior Issue, Ellen G. Adelson Prize for Outstanding Instrumental Music Performance

Scott Grandt: CALS Academic Excellence Award in Crop and Soil Sciences, College Sailing Hall of Fame, Jim Rousmaniere Student Leadership Award, Dean’s List, Highest GPA of Graduating Seniors in Crop & Soil Science

Jessica Herlihy: Summa Cum Laude, Mortar Board National College Senior Honors Society

Sehera Himani: Dean’s List

Karin Katz: Honors in Human Biology, Health and Society

Hyun Kyu Kim: Graduating Summa Cum Laude, Awarded Ki- evel Prize for Most Outstanding Math Major, Korean Presidential Science Scholarship for Undergraduates, Dean’s List

Kathia Kirschner: Human Development Outstanding Senior Award, Graduating with Honors

Gregory Kazmik: Graduating with honors, Dean’s List

Sung-Eun (Christie) Lim: Hughes Scholar, Dean’s List

Joy Longfellow: Dean’s List

Daniel Macaya: MIT Presidential Fellowship, Most Outstanding Peer Mentor of the Year (Cornell Diversity Programs CUEMPower program), MS & E Nanotechnology Fellowship, Dean’s List

Neil Mittleman: Class of 1929 Scholarship (for first year in Veterinary College), Dean’s List
Annual Senior Expo highlights the diversity of student interests

Fifty talented Cornell University seniors presented and discuss their research at the annual Senior Expo held April 17. The expo, which is free and open to the public, is the capstone experience for the Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program. The 2008 Senior Expo included posters and multimedia presentations on topics such as creating the next generation of computer memory tools, human resource management at Walt Disney World, mathematical group theory, and designing sensors that monitor heart patients in their own homes.

The event was open to students in all academic disciplines, across all seven Cornell undergraduate colleges. The Rawlings scholars program enables students to collaborate with faculty mentors in designing and planning individualized programs of research or scholarly study. Magnifying the power of this dynamic student-faculty partnership, the Rawlings program provides each scholar with an $8,000 research support account.

Five RCPRS students named Merrill Scholars

Earlier this month, the 2008 Merrill Presidential Scholars gathered in events on campus with their honored Cornell professors and secondary school teachers. Among the recipients were five Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars.

Bryan Beaudoin, The College of Arts and Sciences - Honoring Timothy Finnessey of the Owego Free Academy and Magnus Fiskesjo of the Department of Anthropology. Bryan is a College Scholar who has completed independent studies on feminism and queer theory in Japan, masculinities in China and Japan, and HIV/AIDS affliction and identity.

Lindsay T. Fourman, The College of Human Ecology - Honoring Bess Eliav of John F. Kennedy High School and Kimberly O’Brien of the Division of Nutritional Sciences. Lindsay has the highest GPA in the College of Human Ecology’s graduating class. She is a member of the Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society and Alpha Xi Delta. She will graduate with a degree in nutritional sciences and plans to attend medical school.

Bethany Ojalehto, The College of Human Ecology - Honoring Stephen W. Johnson of Monroe High School and Qi Wang of the Department of Human Development. Bethany, whose individualized curriculum centered on social cognition and the law and policy of forced displacement, held the highest GPA in her class in 2006 and 2007 and is the winner of the Robinson Award for Academic Excellence. She has published several articles, including one on refugee children’s spiritual development.

Megan M. Robblee, The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences - Honoring Timothy Knue of Mount Vernon High School and Dale Bauman of the Department of Animal Science. Megan, an animal science major, won the William T. Keeton Prize in Introductory Biology in 2005 and the Cornell Undergraduate Livestock Prize in 2006. She won the Premier Showman Award at the Block & Bridle Student Livestock Show two years in a row. After graduation, she plans to work in a biomedical research lab before pursuing a PhD in animal science or biology.

Floris Van Breugel, College of Engineering - Honoring Eugene Mizusawa of the Athenian School and Hod Lipson of the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Floris, completed four years of research in flapping hovering flight, and published three articles on the topic. After graduation, Floris plans to pursue graduate study in bio-inspired control engineering.

The Merrill Presidential Scholars Program honors the excellence of Cornell undergraduates, as well as the high school and university faculty members who have contributed to their lives. This program was created by Philip Merrill ’55 and is made possible by generous funding from the Merrill Foundation and the Merrill Family.
RCPRS students chosen as Udall Scholars two years in a row

Jessie A. Comba, a Natural Resources major, does landscape photomonitoring, researches children’s environmental attitudes and behaviors, and helps teach kids wilderness survival. She co-created a local food cookbook calendar, raising $5000+ to fund sustainability projects, and serves on Cornell Dining’s Local Foods Advisory Council. Confident that elementary school curricula should incorporate local natural history, Jessie plans to get kids outside as a fundamental part of childhood education and health. Belizean manatees, Costa Rican sea turtles, and her mom influenced her inner marine naturalist. She loves kayaking, snorkeling and live music, but her passions are salty fresh water swimming, tide pools, writing haikus, rain listening, and laughing. She is one of three Cornell Udall Scholars this year.

In 2006, Meredith Odato was named one of three Udall Scholars. A recent graduate from Cornell, Meredith was a natural resources major with a concentration in resource policy and management. She will attend University of Pittsburgh Law School on a deferred military contract. Upon graduation from law school, she plans to work full-time with the military.

RCPRS Engineering student and avid photographer wins Hertz Fellowship

Floris van Bruegel, a Biological Engineering graduate, is one of twelve recipients of a 2008-2009 Hertz Foundation Fellowship. Hertz Fellows were selected from an elite pool of almost 600 applicants. Valued at over $250,000, Hertz Fellowships are unique no-strings-attached fellowships allowing exceptional applied scientists and engineers the freedom to pursue their own ideas with financial independence under the guidance of the finest professors at the country’s top universities. Hertz Fellows are chosen for their intellect, their ingenuity, and their potential to bring meaningful and lasting change to our society. The highly competitive selection process includes a comprehensive application and two rounds of exacting interviews by recognized leaders in applied science and engineering. In his spare time, Floris also takes amazing photos of wildlife, landscapes and architecture. One of his prints was presented to the program’s namesake, Hunter R. Rawlings III during the RCPRS graduation celebration this May.

RCPRS awards and honors continued from page 8

Meredith Odato: Dean's List, Golden Key International Honour Society, Izaak Walton League of America National Conservation Scholarship, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation National Wildlife Leadership Award, Forbes Olberg Scholarship, Morris K. Udall Scholar

Bethany Ojalehto: Merrill Presidential Scholar, Zuckerman Award for Excellence in Human Development, Robinson Award for Academic Excellence, Fulbright Grant to Kenya

Hauwa Otori: Graduating Cum Laude with Distinction in Research

Kaitlin Rienzo-Stack: CALS Academic Excellence Award in International Agriculture and Rural Development, Hughes Scholar

Megan Robblee: Merrill Presidential Scholar, CALS University Degree Marshall, Academic Excellence in Animal Science Award, Morrison Award, American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Award, Dean's List, Summa Cum Laude, Distinction in Research

Daniel Ruebusch: James L. Gregg Award for Outstanding Student in Materials Science

Kristin Schmitt: Dean's List

Lee Stein: the Urie Bronfenbrenner Memorial Award for Achievement in Research, Dean's List

Nicholas Stone: Dean's List, Best Undergraduate Research Award at the 2007 APS Division Plasma Physics Meeting

Renee Thomas: ACS Undergraduate Research Award

Floris van Breugel: Proctor & Gamble Technical Excellence Award, SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, Hertz Fellowship, NSF Fellowship, Goldwater Fellowship, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Dean’s List