

COMMITMENT

The Alumni Newsletter of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars, The Cornell Tradition and the Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars

Summer 2009

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Mission
Statement

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
103 Day Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

Commitment bids farewell its seniors during annual graduation celebrations in May

The end of the academic year and the beginning of summer break is a bittersweet time for us in the Commitment office. In May, we send off our graduates – many of whom we have worked with closely over the course of their time in our programs. Among those we graduate are students who served on our student advisory boards; students who we saw grow and mature and contribute in great and significant ways on and off-campus; and our all-important student staff members.

During this same time however, we spend time reflecting on and evaluating our programming, our policies and the benefits we offer students for their hard work and dedication. We do this in preparation for the new students who will join our programs come September, and for our continuing members.

In 2009, we bid farewell to more than 200 seniors during three distinct, concurrent graduation celebrations the Friday before Cornell's commencement. Each of our events takes many months to plan and is designed with the goal of honoring graduate's accomplishments and recognizing their contributions to Cornell, the local community, the nation and oftentimes, the world.

Among our graduates were Merrill Presidential Scholars, Udall and Goldwater Scholars, recipients of Na-

tional Science Foundation fellowships and a National Defense Science and Engineering fellowship. Additionally graduates received numerous awards and honors from their colleges, academic departments, and from student groups and organizations.

We asked our seniors what their plans were after graduation and of those who responded, the majority will be entering the work force: sixty-four percent of Tradition fellows and 50% of Meinigs. Nearly 50% of Rawlings Scholars will continue their education in graduate or professional school; and a less than 10% of respondents in all three programs will spend time after graduation volunteering.

The Cornell Commitment prepares to welcome 242 new and first year students this fall

The Commitment staff is preparing to welcome new and first time students during orientation events this September.

In total, we will welcome 226 first year students, 19 transfer students, and 55 upperclass selected students.

Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars will welcome students during Orientation week and will continue programming throughout the academic year with the Freshman Forum series. *continued on page 6*



The Cornell Tradition Graduation

Tradition Seniors recognized by the program

The Cornell Tradition has been recognizing its graduating seniors with very unique Senior Recognition Awards for a number years. In true Tradition spirit, ten Cornell senior fellows are honored for their service to campus and community.

The seniors recognized establish a \$4,000 Cornell Tradition named fellowship the upcoming academic year and designate a \$500 award as a charitable contribution to a non-profit agency of their choice.

Since 1989, 203 Cornell Tradition seniors have received this recognition. They, in turn, have awarded 105 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, On-Site Volunteer Services, and many more. As the program's 5,000+ alumni have shown, regardless of where they go after graduation, Cornell Tradition fellows make invaluable contributions to the world around them. This year's recipients are as follows:

Michael Bufano, *Agriculture and Life Sciences* Michael Bufano Cornell Tradition Fellowship (CTF)
Contribution: Cornell University office of Student Activities

Efrem Bycer, *Architecture, Art, and Planning* Dr. Kenneth Reardon Engaged Scholar CTF
Contribution: Cornell University office of Student Activities

Kelsey Donahue, *Arts and Sciences* Kelsey Donahue CTF
Contribution: Shared Hope International

Susan Duan, *Arts and Sciences* Susan H. Duan CTF
Contribution: Cornell University Asian/Asian American Center

Amanda Hjellming, *Agriculture and Life Sciences* Mandy Hjellming CTF
Contribution: GlamourGals Foundation.

Ryan Lavin, *Industrial and Labor Relations* Ryan Jay Lavin CTF
Contribution: Class of 2009

Jordan Leen, *Human Ecology* Dr. Jeffrey Lewis Family CTF
Contribution: Franziska Racker Centers

Amy McKlindon, *Human Ecology* Amy C. McKlindon CTF
Contribution: Cornell Prison Education Program

Brittany Mosher, *Agriculture and Life Sciences* Thomas A. Gavin CTF
Contribution: Building Futures, Inc.

Constanza Ontaneda, *Human Ecology* Constanza Ontaneda CTF
Contribution: Asociacion De Arqueologos Humanistas

The Cornell Tradition Awards and Honors

Tradition students receive awards and recognition as they graduate from Cornell

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. Below is a listing of the students who have received honors or awards this year.

Leo Baghdassarian: Award for Academic Excellence in Information Science (CALIS)

Efrem Bycer: Published an article: "Politics, Inspiration, and Vocation: An Education in New Orleans" in the Journal of Theory and Practice; City and Regional Planning Degree Marshal, Urban and Regional Studies Award for Academic Achievement in the Undergraduate Program; Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Outstanding Chapter Leader Award

Michael Bufano: Diane O'Connell Memorial Award

Brian Cannon: Department of German Studies Book Prize

John Cintineo: NOAA Hollings Scholarship

Jordan Cole: Essay published in Knight Institute's Discovery Magazine; Gertrude Stein Portfolio Award

Eowyn Connolly-Brown: Barry M. Goldwater Scholar

Elizabeth Fox: SOAR Outstanding Activist Award

Mary Godec: The Martijn Zwart Prize for Dutch Language and Culture Immersion

Amanda Hjellming: Richard M. Kossoff Business Plan Award, SOAR Distinguished Leadership Award; Dean of Students Distinguished Leadership Award

Betsey Howland: American Dairy Science Association Award; Morrison Award; North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge Platinum Team

Annie Kearns: Fuerst Award; Outstanding Work for the Advancement of Women

Ryan Lavin: School of Industrial and Labor Relations College Symbol Banner Bearer; SOAR Distinguished Leadership Award; Dean of Students Distinguished Leadership Award

Jordan Leen: Cornell Daily Sun's "Top 25 Senior Athletes"; NCAA Academic All American and NCAA All American Wrestling

Julie Lundgren: 400 Club for Student Athletes

Kathleen McDermott: Award for Outstanding Public Service Given through Art Beyond Cornell; Banner Bearer Architecture, Art, and Planning; Edith Stone and Walker King Memorial Prize for Accomplishment and Promise in the Field of Art

Michael McDermott: Dean of Students Distinguished Leadership Award

Amy McKlindon: Honors in Policy Analysis and Management (HE)

Albery Melo: Mellon Mays Research Scholar

Nicholas Menillo: School of Hotel Administration Student Committee for Continuous Improvement Teaching Assistant Award

Tazia Middleton: Northeastern Region RA of the Month

Tiffany Moncur: Robinson Appel Humanitarian Award

Brittany Mosher: Middaugh Award; NOAA Hollings Scholarship; Richard A. Church CALS Senior Service Award

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Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars

Meinig Scholars program honors excellence in leadership locally and globally

The annual MFCNS graduation reception for the Class of 2009 and their families was held at the A.D. White House. The program for this celebratory evening event included speeches by special guests Peter Meinig '61 BME '62, program benefactor and Chairman of the Cornell Board of Trustees and Nancy Schlegel Meinig '62, program benefactor. Kris DeLuca, presented the Senior Excellence in Leadership awards this year.

The notation on the award certificate states that the Excellence in Leadership award is presented in recognition of actions resulting in the enrichment of self, an organization, the campus and/or the world! In a class of 53 graduates, we attempt to select the most exemplary leader. However, this year we found that there were several students worthy of recognition because their contributions were so impressive and the impact of their efforts affected three distinct communities.

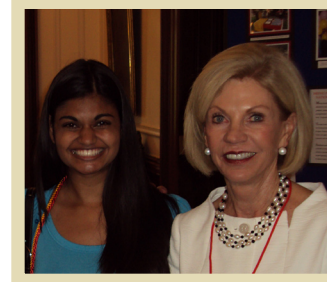
We deviated from our normal selection process and, in addition to honoring one student for Excellence in Leadership, we chose to honor two other students for outstanding contributions to a specific community.

This year's recipient of the Excellence in Leadership award went to **Jessica Prue** (top). **Jessi** was an Applied Economics and Management major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She was selected for her work as Founder and Executive Director of the Social Business Consulting Group. According to Jessi, her work with the Social Business Consulting Group all started when she "...met a group of local artisans in Paraguay that were committed to exporting their goods to provide a fair wage for indigenous artisans in the area. They expressed, however, that they were unable to enhance their impact because they did not speak the business language. As a business student, I saw the opportunity to connect these artisans with the business resources of Cornell to enhance their social impact while providing students with practical experience."

According to Anke Wessels, Executive Director for Transformative Action and the faculty advisor to the Social Business Consulting Group:

"Jessica is a remarkable young woman. She is not only an excellent student committed to solving social problems, but someone who becomes happier the more she is contributing to the wellbeing of others. The many service items on her resume are not there to impress but there because social justice work is her deep passion." Jessi joined the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation and currently serves as a Program Associate.

Our other two awards went to **Angie Hsu** (far right) who was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the Cornell campus and **Joran Sequeira** (bottom) who was honored for her contribution to the Ithaca community.



Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars

Angie Hsu was a Policy Analysis major in the College of Human Ecology and graduated from Cornell a year early. She was honored for her outstanding contribution to the Cornell community for her work on the 2009 Cornell International Women's Day event. After attending the lone panel in honor of International Women's Day in 2008 and feeling disappointed in the low turnout, Angie embarked on her mission to create an event for the following year that would invite and encourage every Cornell student to become more educated, aware, and active about ending international sexism and violence against women.

Joran Sequeira is a Human Biology, Health and Society major in the College of Human Ecology. She was selected for her work as Co-President of the Cornell Elderly Partnership. Joran created the One-on-One program at Lakeside Nursing Home, a local low-income home, where volunteers are matched with residents at risk for social isolation. She applied for and received the Greatest Generation \$2,500 grant which went towards a Nintendo Wii (which has received rave reviews!), books, manicure items, games and gardening materials for the Lakeside Gardening Project. Joran also initiated a partnership with the Cornell Gerontology Certificate program to encourage members to go beyond experiential learning. Through that, health professionals are invited to make special presentations about aging-related topics. Joran is a first-year student at New York Medical College.

Other awards and honors received by Meinig Scholars

Molly Baker: Development Sociology Honors Thesis; Cornell Urban Scholars Program; Ford Family Conference on Human Development and Dignity, Notre Dame

Zoe Belkin: College of Human Ecology, Biology and Society Outstanding Student; Completed Senior Honors Thesis

Alexander Bowerman: Dean's List; Semi-finalist For Marshall Scholarship; Merrill Presidential Scholar; Published In March 2008 Issue of Economic Affairs

Katherine Crocker: Peace Corp Invitee; Participated in Competitive Research Experience For Undergraduates; Two Publications in Peer-reviewed Journals in Press

Chisara Ezie: Honors in Anthropology; Dean's List

Christina Garcia: Dean's List All Semesters

Patrick Gorring: Chosen As One of Five Elite Contributors To Cornell's Campus Community; Sprint Football Varsity Letter Recipient; Intramural Wrestling Tournament Champion

Andrew Handel: Sphinx Head Honor Society; Publication in Skin Cancer Foundation

Angela Hsu: Human Ecology Flora Rose Leadership Award; Cornell International Women's Day Award For Outstanding Advancement of Women; J.W. Saxe Memorial Prize For Public Service; Kroll Travel Award; Human Ecology Alumni Association Grant; Deans List

Erika Kim: Ronald P. Lynch Memorial Scholarship; Acknowledged For Assisting With Research On World-Wide Working Conditions Law in Working Conditions Laws 2006-2007: A Global Review: International Labor Organization, May 2008; ILR Alumni Association Award

Lauren Locklear: American Indian Program Junior Merit Award; Presidential Merit Scholar, George Washington Law School, Class of 2012

Kathryn McShane: Department of City and Regional Planning Degree Marshal; Sphinx Head Senior Honor Society; Dean's List

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Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars

MFCNS Awards and Honors *continued from page 5*

James Noronha: Commissioning As A Marine 2nd Lieutenant; ROTC

Emma Osore: City and Regional Studies Community Service Award; Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; Mortar Board; Dean of Students Excellence in Leadership Award; Cornell Black Alumni Association Senior Leadership Award Recipient

Jeremy Phillips: Order of Omega Greek Honor Society

Jessica Prue: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; Delta Sigma Pi Collegian of The Year - Omicron Rho Chapter; Ashoka Changemaker Fellow; Starting Bloc Fellow; Deans List

Kourtney Reynolds: Dean's List; Coral Reef Data presentation for Hawaii Mauna Loa Watershed Presentation

Joran Sequeira: Maribel Garcia Community Spirit Award; Deans List; Cornell Club of Northern NJ Scholarship; Sphinx Head Honor Society; Co-author of: "Directly Observed Discussions in Palliative and End of Cycle Life - Care: A Systematic Review of The Literature"- Submitted To American Geriatrics Society; Summaries of Current Literature Published On Citra's Aging Research Translator Website; Kendal At Ithaca Scholarship; Robinson-appel Award

Aaron Sherbany: Merrill Presidential Scholar; One of Two Selected For D.E. Shaw Fall Institute 2008; 1st Place Winner of Seipp Memorial Prize in Architecture; Founder of Association-Principal Student Publication For AAP Works; College of Architecture, Art and Planning William S. Downing Prize; American Institute of Architects Henry Adams Medal; College of Architecture, Art and Planning Degree Marshal

Ryan Walter: Morris K. Udall National Scholar; College of Engineering Undergraduate Researcher of The Year (2008); Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society; Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society; Barry M. Goldwater Scholar; National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention; Stanford Graduate Fellowship; National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship; American Council of Engineering Companies of New York Jaros, Baum and Bolles Scholar; Ernest F. Hollings Scholar

Jude Wierzbicki: Dean's List; First Class Honors At The London School of Economics

Clayton Wood: National Dairy Shrine Scholarship; Judi Collinsworth Award Winner; National Dairy Judging Contest; Dairy Farmer's of America Scholarship

New students learn the ropes through a series of orientation events and activities *continued from cover story*

This series will culminate with a capstone experience in which students will present research and recommendations about an important issue to upper-level administrators. Past topics have included such issues as diversity and student mental health.

The Cornell Tradition will host its third year of the successful Explore CT series during which students will be exposed to components of the program's core values - work and service.

Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars will start the year with Freshman Colloquium which introduces them to the program, upperclass scholars, and potential faculty mentors; and it prepares them to begin active research in their spring semester.

We wish our graduates well as they embark on this next phase of their lives, while looking forward to welcoming the new class of students, transfer students, and upperclass selected Cornellians.

The Cornell Tradition

Laura McIntyre: MFCNS Excellence in Leadership Award Honorable Mention

The Jennifer Loren Herskowitz '88 Cornell Tradition Point of Light Award Recipient Named

As this year's distinguished class of Cornell Tradition fellows prepares to depart from Cornell, we remind them that the honor of the fellowship and their dedication to service is a lifetime commitment. By leading with their hands, hearts, and minds, our graduates reinforce our trust in the future as well of our belief in the inherent goodness of humanity. It is this giving spirit and commitment to service that inspired President George H.W. Bush to name our program a Daily Point of Light in 2000.

Recognizing the power our graduating seniors and alumni have to forward The Cornell Tradition and its message, we are proud to present this award, bearing the name of Jennifer Loren Herskowitz '88. Jenn's legacy is a life of love and service, and an example of what committed and impassioned individuals can accomplish. Appropriately, the award is conferred to either a graduating fellow who has gone above and beyond ordinary expectations in service to The Cornell Tradition or to a Tradition alumnus who has forwarded the Tradition message through extraordinary community service. As has become tradition, the name of this year's award recipient will be permanently added to the plaque outside the Tradition office

It is with great pride that we recognize **Michael Klinger '06** as this year's Jennifer Loren Herskowitz '88 Cornell Tradition Point of Light Award recipient. Michael has offered a charitable contribution of \$500 to The Cornell Tradition.

Tradition students recognized for academic, service, and leadership contributions to Cornell and beyond *continued from page 3*

Constanza Ontaneda: Excellent Magazine Design Award

Mia Ovcina: Baird Prize (Architecture)

Daniel Ranweiler: The Brooks Family Foundation Swedish/Scandinavian Book Award

Daniel Rose: Concert Commission's Stage Crew Award

Jarroed Schaeffer: First Undergraduate in Cornell History on Law Review

Thomas Seery: Cornell Daily Sun's "Top 25 Campus Leaders Under the Radar"; Drum Major of the Cornell University Big Red Marching Band

Julie Settle: American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Award; Morrison Award

Brittney Shulman: Dean of Students Distinguished Leadership Award

James Tauzel: American Dairy Science Association Award; Morrison Award

Sara Traynor: Engineering Diversity Program's Undergraduate Excellence in Leadership Award

Amanda Trzcinski: ADSA American Dairy Science Association Award; Morrison Award; National Dairy Shrine Milk Marketing Award

Nashalie Vazquez: Mildred April Memorial Award ; office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Outstanding Chapter Leader Award

Hailey Wilmer: Award for Academic Excellence in Agricultural Science Education (CALs)

Di Wu: Chemistry and Chemical Biology's George C. Caldwell Prize

Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars

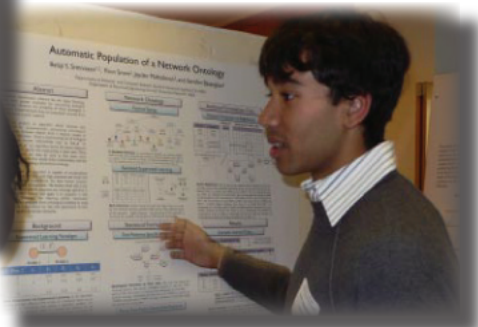
Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars hold annual Senior Expo

Forty-seven talented Cornell University seniors presented and discussed their research at the annual Senior Expo held in April. 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 2009 Senior Expo included posters and multimedia presentations.

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.



Seniors Angie Wolfgang and Jaydev Mabadevan discuss their research at the RCPRS Senior Expo



RCPRS Students receive awards and honors as they prepare to graduate from Cornell

Emily Bartlett: Summa Cum Laude, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Adlard Lovenberg Award in Chemistry, NSF Fellowship for Graduate Study, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, ACS Undergraduate Research Award

Anna Bauer: Cum Laude, Dean's List, Research Chefs Association Poster Presentation Finalist, Cornell Institute of Food Science Advisory Council Undergraduate Award, National Starch and Chemical Award

Victoria Bredt: Dean's List, Golden Key National Honor Society

Gregory Calosso: Cornell Men's Fencing Captain's Award, 2008 Junior Olympic Fencer; Delta Chi Fraternity Senior Recognition Award for Excellence, The Borelli Family Leadership Award, and Brother of the Year (for Outstanding Service and Leadership)

Sue Yeon Chung: Magna Cum Laude in Physics

Jessie Comba: Quill and Dagger Senior Honor Society, Morris K. Udall Scholar 2008, Roothbert Fellow for Spirituality 2008

Adam Dix: Magna Cum Laude, Robinson Award for Academic Excellence

Caleb Dresser: Cum Laude, Dean's List, S. Anne and Robert R. Morley Student Research Grant Recipient, International Rice Research Institute Affiliate Research Scholar

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Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars

Rawlings Scholars receive recognition *continued from page 8*

Stephanie Dusaban: Biological Honors

Matthew Eisenberg: Graduating with Honors

Brenden Eng: Materials Science Nanotechnology Achievement Award

Dean Fogarsi: Cum Laude with Distinction in Research

Melissa Frankel: Dean's List, Graduating with Honors

Evan (Moshe) Gorin: Academic Excellence in Biological Engineering

Asad Haider: Summa Cum Laude

Alexandra Jiminez: Distinction in Research

Lee Kaplowitz: Urie Bronfenbrenner Memorial Award for Achievement in Research

Rachel Kulick: Magna Cum Laude, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Quill and Dagger Honor Society, Golden Key International Honor Society, Honors in Archaeology, Harry Caplan Travel Fellowship, Hirsh Travel Scholarship

Stephanie Leventhal: Summa Cum Laude, Awarded Cals Charitable Trust Award, Ho Nun De Kah Honor Society, Dean's List

Leeann Louis: Dean's List, graduating Cum Laude

Jaydev Mahadevan: Eta Kappa Nu and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Societies, Monsanto Fund Scholarship Award, Shell Oil Co. Technical Scholarship, 3rd place in Big Idea competition, graduating with honors

Dhruba Mukherjee: ILR Honors Thesis, Dean's List, UVA Law Dean's Scholarship

Sucheta Mukherjee: Graduating with Honors

Emma Nagle: 2009 Hillier Award Scholarship Recipient, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society

Kristin Pufpaff: Cum Laude with Distinction in Research

David Randell: Academic Excellence in Biometry and Statistics

Ezekiel Rediker: Summa Cum Laude

Anila Rehman: Cum Laude with Distinction in Research

Jessica Shon: Magna Cum Laude with Distinction in Research

Andrew Shook: Distinction in Research

Thalyana Smith-Vikos: Magna Cum Laude with Distinction in Research, CALS Honors Program, Golden Key International Honor Society, Dean's List

Luis Phillipe Tosi: Lester B. Knight Scholarship, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Cum Laude, Lester B. Knight Scholar for Masters' in Engineering and MBA programs, International Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

Yang Wang: Hughes Undergraduate Scholar, Dean's List, Graduating with Honors, Tau Beta Pi Honor Society

Tamar Weinstock: Magna Cum Laude in History, Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, Dean's Fellowship, Tikva Frymer-Kensky Memorial MA Fellowship, Co-Recipient of the George S. Lustig Prize for Outstanding History Major

Angie Wolfgang: Magna Cum Laude, Merrill Presidential Scholar, Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Cranson W. and Edna B. Shelly Award for Undergraduate Research in Astronomy

Lindsey Zahn: Dean's List