First year Meinig Scholars explore the University’s academic integrity policy

This year, 44 emerging student leaders investigated specific elements related to academic integrity on this campus, at the suggestion of Laura Brown, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. MFCNS students were charged with querying their peers, along with representatives from the colleges and central administration, in an attempt to provide information related to:

• Academic Integrity Policy vs. Honor Code;
• The use of technology in assisting with codes and standards for academic integrity;
• Attendance and short-term illness policy as it related to the subject;
• Education and awareness of the University’s policy in academic integrity; and
• A comparison with other institutions and a look at best practices.

The Freshman Forum event, held April 14, was the culmination of the students’ spring semester work, providing an opportunity for them to present their findings and suggestions to the leadership of Cornell.

Results were well received by those in attendance. When asked what her thoughts were on the students’ work and presentation, Brown wrote, “I do expect to share their work with the Dean of the Faculty, and through him with interested members of the Faculty Senate, including the Educational Policy Committee. It is also likely that I will share their report with the Associate Deans of the undergraduate colleges, and with faculty involved with our living/learning experiences.”

“I discovered varying opinions on what students consider cheating; but most importantly, the subject of the project was so relevant to my being a student that participating was meaningful.”
- Michael Kehoe ’13 ILR

In addition to working on an issue that is relevant and important, students also benefited by forging early connections with their peers, University administration, and faculty.

Jennifer Brenner ’13, an Engineering major wrote, “What a great way to start off my time at Cornell! The Freshman Forum was a great way to become friends with other leaders on campus, while researching an influential topic for our University and making an impact.”

Freshman Forum is part of first year Meinig Scholars’ introduction to the program and to the University.
David L. Hoof’s ’68 next novel, *Triple Jeopardy*, will be released in July. (MFCNS)

Bruce Piasecki ’81 is the author of several books on business. His eighth book, *The Surprising Solution*, has just been released. To learn more about Bruce, go to [http://bru cepiazzacki.com](http://bru cepiazzacki.com) (MFCNS)

Heather Slowik Kwan ’97 and her husband Jae Won Kwan became parents to Owen Edward in April (MF-CNS)

Julia Laukys McDonnel ’97 was married to Patrick McDonnell of Philadelphia, PA. They are now living in Glen Mills, PA. (MFCNS)

Itai Dinour ’01(CT) and Lauren (Drucker) Dinour ’01(MFCNS) welcomed a daughter, Orli Josephine into their family on April 20, 2010.

Cindy Cho ’04 graduated from law school at Indiana University-Bloomington in 2008 and clerked for a federal judge for one year. Now she is in Namibia, as a Fulbright Scholar, studying labor and human rights legislation. She has spent half a year doing exciting work from helping draft legislation to assisting clients involved in a forced sterilization case. In September, she will be returning home to work in the Civil Division’s consumer litigation branch for the Department of Justice in Washington, DC. (MFCNS)

Melinda McAleese ’09 traveled around the world after graduation last May. She spent time in France, Italy, Slovenia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Sweden, Norway, and Ireland. Upon her return, she started her first job with the U.S. National Biathlon Team as an Assistant at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY. Later this year, she will embark on a life-long career goal of becoming a professional athlete. She has been accepted at the Maine Winter Sports Center program in Presqulie, ME where she will train as cross country skier. In addition to training she plans to use her knowledge and education to serve as a coach to youth in her new community. (CT)

Bethany Ojalehto ’09 writes that she is in Panama on a Smithsonian Short-Term Fellowship in Anthropology doing cognitive ethnographic research with children and their elders in an indigenous Ngobe community. She is currently on the Bocas del Toro islands in Mar Caribe, working on her Spanish, studying Ngobere, and enjoying research. She will be on her way to Northwestern this fall to pursue a PhD in Cognitive Psychology under Douglas Medin and was awarded a 2010 NSF Graduate Fellowship. (RCPRS)

Jessica Prue ’09 is currently working with a Bhutanese family and helping them get adjusted to life in Washington DC. She works with the Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services and as a program associate with Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation. (MFCNS)

Ezekiel Rediker ’09 is working for the United Way in Pittsburgh, managing programs that deal with at-risk youth, struggling families, and vulnerable seniors. He will be getting his masters from University of Oxford in African Studies next year with a full scholarship from Rotary International. (RCPRS)

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**Tips for Staying in Touch & Staying Informed**

*Update your information in Commitment’s Alumni-Student networking database, LINK: [http://www.commitment.cornell.edu/commitnet_intro.php](http://www.commitment.cornell.edu/commitnet_intro.php)*

*Update your contact information with Alumni Affairs. [https://directory.alumni.cornell.edu/](https://directory.alumni.cornell.edu/)*

*Check out regional opportunities to get involved. To view the online calendar, go to: [http://online.aad.cornell.edu/Content/event/calendar/]. Cornell Clubs exist in 40 of the 50 states, as well as Ontario and Puerto Rico.*

*Become involved with CAAAN. CAAAN is the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network, a group of over 6,000 alumni volunteers who assist Cornell Admissions in recruiting superior undergraduate applicants. Get in touch with CAAAN today to get involved in recruiting the next class of Cornell students. [http://caaan.admissions.cornell.edu/](http://caaan.admissions.cornell.edu/)*
Alumni Profile
Whitney Mayer, ’05 MFCNS

Where are you now and what are you doing?

I am currently an Associate Director at Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors, a philanthropic consulting firm. I live in Washington D.C. with my husband Don Mayer, also a Cornellian.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Arabella Advisors is an incredible place to work. The philanthropic sector has an enormous potential to impact social issues and support innovative ideas or programs that might not make sense for a private company or the public sector. In addition to being able to work on important social issues, Arabella Advisors’ diverse clients make every day challenging and exciting in a different way. I have led projects on issues ranging from conservation to child nutrition to brain science. Overall, knowing that I get to go to work every day and help philanthropists be more strategic and more impactful in their giving is incredibly rewarding.

How did MFCNS impact your undergraduate experience? Your life?

From day one, MFCNS provided me with an immediate community at Cornell. By being surrounded by other students who were interested in taking on leadership roles within the Cornell community, I remained motivated to take on responsibilities such as being the Wilderness Reflections (now Outdoor Oddessy) student coordinator in addition to my academic work. I was also incredibly lucky to have VP Susan Murphy as an Executive Mentor and to this day I continue to reach out to her for guidance. Perhaps the most meaningful way MFCNS impacted my life was by providing a scholarship that allowed me to take a summer internship in Bolivia. The four months I spent organizing micro-entrepreneurs really was the catalyst for me to pursue a graduate degree in International Affairs and led me to Georgetown and later my previous job managing programs for a nonprofit focused on international development. I wouldn’t be where I am today career-wise without the series of job experiences I had that resulted out of my MFCNS funded summer internship.

Do you have any interesting stories you can relate about your time at Cornell?

I have too many favorite Cornell stories to write down. I think one of my favorite Cornell pastimes though was sneaking around and climbing on to the roofs of the buildings in the Ag quad. On a clear night you could see almost the entire campus, it was pretty amazing. I am not sure if you can still access the roofs though as they may have put locks on the windows now!

Alumni Profile
Denise Green, ’07 The Cornell Tradition

Where you are now and what you are doing?

I am currently completing the first year of my Ph.D. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. I split my time between Vancouver, where I attend the university, and the West coast of Vancouver Island, where I conduct my fieldwork research with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. In the first year of my Ph.D. I completed an hour-long documentary film, *Histakshitl Ts’awaatskwii* (We Come From One Root), which screened as part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad exhibition *Backstory: Nuu-chah-nulth Ceremonial Curtains and the Work of Ki-ke-in* at the Belkin Art Gallery in Vancouver.

The film was made in collaboration with Chuuch-kamalthniit, the Taayii (head) of Takiishtakamlthat (Earthquake House), a house within the Hupacasath First Nation, one of the 14 tribes of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation. This summer I will be working with a group of Nuu-chah-nulth basket makers to produce an educational documentary film about basket making, which will highlight Nuu-chah-nulth language associated with the production of basketry.

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Alumni Profile: Denise Green ’07
continued from page 03

I have also been selected to attend the Otsego Institute Summer Seminar on Native American Art History later this May. Recently, I had the opportunity to return to Cornell to speak about my Master’s thesis research in the Fiber Science and Apparel Design Department’s graduate seminar series.

How did Tradition impact your undergraduate experience? Your life?

My experience as part of the Cornell Tradition helped me realize that there are no limits to what can be achieved if you put your heart, mind, and energy into your passions. As a member of the Cornell Tradition, I was able to work in the Cornell Costume and Textile Collection under the direction of curator and professor, Dr. Charlotte Jirousek. This was an invaluable experience that taught me a great deal about museology and the history of dress from a cross-cultural perspective. I volunteered with the Ithaca Urban 4-H Outreach Program, where I was able to teach weekly sewing classes to young people interested in designing and making their own clothing. From this volunteer experience, I developed a sewing curriculum and wrote an honors thesis about this experience under the supervision of Dr. Van Dyk Lewis in the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design. Charlotte Coffman, Senior Extension Associate in our department, facilitated the development of a website where this curriculum could be made available to other youth educators across the world: http://4hclothesline.cce.cornell.edu/index.php. The Cornell Tradition program sets important expectations—that students be actively engaged in leadership, service, and academics—which I felt encouraged me to make the extra effort to participate in my community. Many of these values and expectations I have carried with me into my life away from Cornell.

What have you done since graduation from Cornell?

After I graduated from Cornell, I attended the University of California—Davis where I received a Master’s of Science in Textiles under the supervision of Dr. Susan B. Kaiser. In addition to exploring social-psychological aspects of clothing, I also used these two years at UC Davis to learn as much as possible about documentary filmmaking. In addition to my Master’s thesis, I produced a 30-minute documentary film, *Somewhere in Between,* which has shown at film festivals across the United States and Canada. The film explores how fashion, dress, and body modification can forge new visions of gender identity. In addition, I volunteered with community organizer and media activist, Jesikah Maria Ross, on university-community engagement media project titled, *Up From the UnderStory: Community Revitalization in the Sierra Nevada.* I also worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant while at UC Davis. Last spring, I received a four-year fellowship to attend the University of British Columbia, where I am now working as a research assistant at the Ethnographic Film Unit and pursuing my Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Charles Menzies.

What advice do you have for new professionals as they enter the work force?

Find what you are most passionate about and pursue it! I love what I do, and I look forward to the challenges and the rewards that each day brings. I would encourage others to find what it is they are most interested in and to pursue this.

How do you balance work and life?

It is easy to get caught up in work, especially when you are doing something that you enjoy and feel strongly about. Everyday I take an hour to exercise (I like distance running), which gives me time to reflect. I also try to make regular visits to friends and family, and try to keep in contact with letters, phone and email.
Spotlight on Meinig Scholar,
Marlene van Es ’11

What made you choose Cornell?

Cornell had excellent environmental programs. I knew I would be driven, and dedicated to what they do. However, I was debating between several schools, but when I found out I got accepted into the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars, I actually made up my mind that night.

How did you decide on your major?

I have always had a passion for the environment and have wanted to be a lawyer since I was 14. The Natural Resources major had a wide variety of classes covering environmental science to environmental law. I then got interested in agriculture, while at Cornell and also added an Agricultural Sciences major.

How has MFCNS impacted your undergraduate experience?

MFCNS has let me go on trips and experience things I never imagined. In the summer of 2009 I used my MFCNS leadership support account to fly to Kenya for 6 weeks and help develop and build an erosion control system and install solar panels at a small primary school near the western border. The school was on a mountain and had experienced huge erosion problems. They had also never had electricity before. With MFCNS able to pay for my plane tickets and living expenses, I was able to help the school. This trip inspired me to be even more involved in international development and since then I was able to put on a conference for other groups on campus that do international development. With the rest of my support account I will be going to South Africa this coming summer to help a large farm do extension work.

What was the most rewarding aspect of your work done in Kenya?

The most rewarding aspect of Kenya was getting to work with the kids and submerge myself in their culture. I learned so much about life there. It was also rewarding to put into action things I had learned in school about soil control and see what just 6 weeks of work can do to change the lives of others. The best moment of the whole trip was actually after the solar panels were installed and the peoples’ faces when the first light was turned on at the school where they had only dreamed of having electricity.

What are your future plans?

This summer I will be going to work on a large farm in South Africa helping them develop an extension program to help local subsistence farmers implement sustainable soil management techniques. I will also be traveling back to the Kenyan school for a week to visit the children and help them start a small cell phone charging business at the school using the solar power to help them generate revenue for food. In the long run, I am going into my senior year, which will be spent job hunting and taking LSAT classes as I prepare to take a year off and then enter law school to move myself closer to my career goal of working in international sustainable agriculture policy in developing nations.

What are the short- and long-term impacts of your work with MFCNS?

In the short term, MFCNS has allowed me to go out into the world, experience things and grow as a leader. It gave me unique opportunities that very few people have the chance to have. In the long run, it introduced me to a wide group of leaders at Cornell who I know will be important contacts in the future. It is definitely a special experience that has helped shape my Cornell career.
Debra S. Newman ’02 Cornell Tradition Community Recognition Award Recipient named

Jack Jensen of Ithaca was this year’s recipient of The Cornell Tradition’s ninth annual Debra S. Newman ’02 Community Recognition Award for his volunteer efforts. Jensen received his award on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the community-wide National Volunteer Week Kick-Off event that was sponsored by The Cornell Tradition.

Jensen received the award as a result of his strong commitment to community service through his founding and work with Community Building Works! Inc. The goal of Community Building Works! Inc., a non-profit organization, is to build green, affordable housing locally and internationally using volunteers. In the words of his nominator, “Jack has a long history of making Ithaca a better place…he figured out a way not only to build a financially self-sustainable model for producing green, affordable housing here, but also to help us spread our wealth and knowledge and open the lines of communication internationally at the same time.”

The event began with an opening program at the Women’s Community Building, and was followed by volunteer service projects throughout the community. The primary project was held in Groton, NY. Volunteers from The Cornell Tradition and the Groton community worked side by side in a collective celebration of volunteerism in the greater Tompkins County community. The volunteers cleaned up debris and worked to beautify the Groton park.

The Cornell Tradition Community Recognition Award was renamed in 2002 in honor of the late Debra S. Newman ’02, a graduate of The Cornell Tradition, who was killed in a tragic automobile accident the year she graduated. Shortly thereafter, the Student Advisory Council renamed the Community Recognition Award in her honor.

Past recipients include Ron Havard, Terry Byrnes, Gay Nicholson, and Mary Grainger.
What made you choose Cornell?

I was fortunate enough to attend an engineering magnet program as an alternative for my senior year in high school. Upon finishing, I was confident that engineering was for me. Cornell stuck out as a top choice because of their prominent engineering program. I am originally from upstate New York, so the proximity and similar weather were a definite plus. I visited Cornell and instantly fell in love with the campus. It seemed like no matter what path you took, Cornell had a breadth of opportunities. It was certainly an easy decision once I was accepted.

How did you decide on your major?

Originally, I wanted to become a civil engineer with a concentration in architecture. I had taken every structural and design course offered at my school, and worked for a real estate investor all throughout high school, where I was able to shadow a lot of the planning and construction of properties. However, my experiences at Cornell and the unavoidable impact of the economic downturn spurred my interest in financial markets. As a result, I selected my current major, Operations Research and Information Engineering, because of its culmination of advanced business applications with the technical aspects of engineering.

How has Cornell Tradition impacted your undergraduate experience?

The Cornell Tradition has had a tremendous influence on my undergraduate experience. I have had...
Autism, breast-feeding, robotics: Cornell seniors display their research projects at expo

By Farrah Tan

Why do overweight and obese women find it harder to breast-feed? Are current therapies for autistic children who can't speak effective? How can we use a 3-D printer at home to fabricate everyday objects? Cornell students have been researching such questions.

Fifty seniors, funded by the Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program, discussed these and other research projects at the annual Senior Expo April 14 in the Biotechnology Building, as many prospective freshmen and their parents on campus for Cornell Days looked on.

Students said the most rewarding part of the research experience was the opportunity to work closely with professors and Ph.D. students.

“It was nice to have a professional relationship with members of my research team and to have mentors to learn from,” said Rabia Aslam ’10, an applied economics and management major, who worked to design a method for quantifying and classifying creativity with the goal of learning how to induce creativity from nonconscious information processing for business purposes. “I also learned how to use the business simulation lab,” Aslam said.

Grace Chen ’10 researched the effectiveness of current therapies for autistic children who cannot speak. While therapists encourage autistic children to focus their attention on a particular task, she said studies show that focusing directly on someone's face, for example, is so stressful for these children that it activates the fear part of their brains.

“What we found was that there is a negative correlation between autistic children's success rate and their engaged attention,” Chen said. “In our study, children weren't paying attention to the therapist but were still able to answer the simple math questions correctly.”

Stephanie Leonard ’10, a human biology, health and society major, examined the associations among high body mass index, breast milk expression and breast milk production and feeding to better understand why heavier women have more trouble breast-feeding, as well as women's experiences with breast milk pumps.

“It’s kind of a controversial issue, but there seems to be evidence that breast pumping may prolong breast milk production. But breast pumps are still really new, and we don’t understand if they are good or bad. More research in this area is needed,” Leonard said.

Karl Gluck ’10, electrical engineering, represented two projects at the expo: Fab@Home and Octopus Robot. Fab@Home is a platform of printers and open source programs that can produce functional 3-D objects for everyday use.

“Imagine if someone on the Internet has a design for something, and you can download it and then print it in a usable form,” Gluck said in explaining what Fab@Home can do.

The Octopus Robot involves replacing stiff components and rigid actuators in robotics with soft, more compliant parts that can distribute the force of a blunt impact and operate in confined spaces.

The Rawlings scholars program supports a select group of Cornell students to pursue undergraduate research and has graduated more than 500 scholars since 1996. It is a part of the Cornell Commitment, which includes other two programs: the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars program and the Cornell Tradition.

Farrah Tan ’10 is a writer intern for the Cornell Chronicle.
RCPRS students present their research at a national conference in Montana

Both Mrinalini Modak ’12 and Kim-Yen Nguyen ’10 were invited to the 24th National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Montana. NCUR is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study. This annual gathering welcomes up to 2,600 scholars and their faculty mentors from all institutions of higher learning in the United States. NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and promotion of undergraduate student achievement. Below, Mrinalini and Kim-Yen discuss their research here.

Mrinalini Modak ’12: My research essentially entailed looking at different aspects of the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus, such as the methods in which it transmits from host to host in the environment.

Currently I am working on the stability of VHSV in deceased fish, to assess their threat as reservoirs of this hemorrhagic disease. I guess I walked into Cornell knowing that I wanted to work with viruses in some form or fashion, and because of RCPRS, I was sent on a mad rush to find a mentor. I was lucky in that I found my mentor, Dr. James Casey, on the first try. He introduced me to the VHSV, and along with the graduate student in the lab, Kristine Hope, guided me to designing and carrying out my own experiment with the other undergraduates in the lab.

Kim-Yen Nguyen ’10: I work with Professor Martha Haynes on the ALFALFA (Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA) survey—ALFA is the name of the instrument, Arecibo L-band Feed Array. Arecibo is the large radio telescope down in Puerto Rico (featured in the James Bond film!). The survey measures hydrogen gas (HI) in galaxies. I have been examining the most massive, gaseous galaxies observed in this survey to try to better understand galaxy evolution.

Although there are plenty of theories, galaxy evolution is not actually well understood. My sample of massive galaxies is interesting because its existence seems to contradict one of the current theories of galaxy evolution called “downsizing”. Downsizing states that massive galaxies should have formed their stars earlier in the history of the universe, but because my sample of massive galaxies have so much gas, they have not formed stars.

So the question I am trying to answer is: what are these galaxies, and why do they have so much gas that is not being formed into stars?

I don’t have any hard answers yet, but one possibility may be that these galaxies are isolated in their regions of the universe, and these galaxies may need external triggers for star formation (i.e. other galaxies to interact with).

To answer these questions, I spent most of my time in front of the computer doing data analysis. I started by reducing the raw data received from the telescope to get rid of noise and bad data etc. From the raw data, we can determine the amount of HI in a galaxy. I also spent a lot of time matching the ALFALFA data with other databases to determine other aspects of the galaxies (e.g. stellar mass, star formation rate, distances, brightness, etc.). The rest of the time was spent comparing these different

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characteristics and looking for trends in the data (which is harder than it sounds!).

I started working on the ALFALFA survey at the end of my freshman year, at the invitation of Professor Martha Haynes, who had taught my astronomy seminar course. I of course accepted, although I had no idea what astronomy research was like, and I had no idea what sort of astronomy I was interested in. And once I started, I realized how much I enjoyed astronomy (which then led me to declare my major in Astronomy at the end of my sophomore year), so I just kept going. It’s actually pretty amazing to see how far I’ve come since then!

Brandon Seaman ’11 Profile continued from page 07
to the opportunity to meet a lot of people and develop myself personally. I have learned a lot from organizing projects and working in teams. I was fortunate enough, through the Tradition, to travel to Santiago, Chile over this past winter break to perform service. Our group did a variety of projects, but two of the major projects involved the installation of an irrigation system on a farm and baking various desserts to be sold during their presidential election. My trip was a very rewarding experience. Not only was able to help people in need, but I also learned a lot about the culture and developed my Spanish skills.

What has inspired you to continue your involvement in community service/volunteering?

I’m not quite sure what has inspired me to continue my involvement in volunteering...it just seems like the right thing to do. I have been involved in the community from a young age. I participated in Boy Scouts throughout elementary and high school, and did service with various clubs and classes. I can undoubtedly say that I have never had a bad experience volunteering. It feels good to help others.

What are the short- and long-term impacts of your work with the Cornell Tradition or in the community?

The short term impact of my work would be organizing and participating in various events sponsored by the Tradition. There is a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work necessary for planning and executing events. I tend to coordinate environmentally related events, so many of these are recurring events. I would hope to perpetuate these events and originate new ones that could be carried on by future SAC members once I graduate.