Meinig Scholars address online personal safety during Freshman Forum

During the 2010-11 academic year, the Class of 2014 Meinig Scholars investigated specific elements related to on-line identity, at the suggestion of Tracy Mitrano, Director of Information Technology Policy at the Office of Information Technology.

As part of the year-long Freshman Forum program, the Scholars were charged with querying their peers, along with faculty, staff, and administrators, in an attempt to provide information related to the current social norms; how students are using social networks, the current technologies, issues surrounding notions of privacy/security, marketing/advertising, and education, how to foster a more internet-cautious culture, and ways to educate students about their own on-line identities.

At the formal presentation dinner in April, students addressed administrators with specific suggestions regarding ways to increase awareness of the potential dangers and ways to take precautions when on-line. In order to address the challenges of on-line identity safety, the Scholars emphasized creating an educational system designed to change the culture on campus regarding use of social media among students.

The students recommended bringing a speaker to campus, promoting a cultural change campaign via slogans on t-shirts, posters and other novelty items, and contacting advertisers about what they are supporting. As their main recommendation, the students suggested a comprehensive and mandatory on-line educational program similar to the Alcohol-Wise Program (currently required for all entering Cornell students). The program would provide students with specific knowledge about the (easy and widespread) accessibility of their personal information and would give basic suggestions on ways to protect their personal information and identities.

Research on the effectiveness of the Alcohol-Wise program has found that online programs are comparable to face-to-face programs; those who completed the program displayed a 58% decrease in high-risk drinking (as opposed to an 11% increase without the program); and students who completed the program maintained GPAs a half-point higher.

The Scholars emphasized that Cornell would not have to use additional monetary resources. They recommended a collaborative partnership between the IT Department and
Alumni Updates and Commitment News

Jing Yee Chee ’11 (RCPRS) lives in Singapore and is a research engineer at the Institute of Microelectronics.

Patricia Moscoso ’11 (Tradition) recently informed us that she has returned to the White House and is now a full-time staffer in Legislative Affairs. You may recall that Patricia did an internship in this same office in 2010.

Aaron Sherbany ’08 (MFCNS) works for Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill LLP which provides architecture, engineering, urban design and planning, interior design and graphics services.

Benjamin Winger ’07 (RCPRS) recently published a paper that is co-authored with Irby Lovette and David Winkler. He noted that the paper is actually the results of his undergraduate honors thesis work for College Scholars and RCPRS. The paper can be found online in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B. Ben is in his third year in a Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago, and was recently engaged to fellow College Scholar, Sara Abelson.

Meinig Freshman Forum

continued from Cover Story

Computer and Information Science programs to create something similar to the Alcohol-Wise program.

During the presentation, the Scholars noted some currently effective programming to create a culture of responsible internet use, such as the “I Facebooked You” campaign, an idea introduced by Indiana University. The Scholars also suggested creating a Cornell Kudos Site, a place to post positive messages about the Cornell campus and community in efforts to promote healthy mental states. Both Cornell Minds Matter and EARS echoed support for these efforts.

Given the vast array of concerns surrounding issues of on-line identity, safety and security, there is no way for the University to tackle every single issue; however, promoting positive social interactions online is a step in the right direction.
Meinig Scholars program recognizes seniors at annual graduation celebration

The annual MFCNS graduation reception for the Class of 2011 and their families was held at the A.D. White House in late May. The program for this celebratory evening event included, among other things, a speech by program benefactors Peter Meinig ’61 BME ’62 and Nancy Schlegel Meinig ’62.

Another of the highlights was the announcement of the Excellence in Leadership award, which is presented in recognition of actions resulting in the enrichment of self, an organization, the campus and/or the world. For the second year, there were several students worthy of recognition (at right), attesting to the significant contributions of Meinig Scholars both on campus and in the community.

Ten students were nominated for the award and three students were selected for recognition. Two students were selected for outstanding contributions to a specific community, and an overall award was given for the Class of 2011.

Zain Pasha, a Government and Economics major from Liberty, Missouri, was named the 2011 Excellence in Leadership award recipient. According to Elizabeth Sanders, Professor of Government: “Zain is one of the most remarkable students I have known in almost 30 years of university teaching. Zain is extremely idealistic and oriented to public service. I fully expect him to rise to a high position in the national government and to serve his country with great effectiveness.” Zain will work for Teach for America for two years before accepting a Rhodes Scholarship.

Willis Cheng, a Hotel Administration graduate from Granada Hills, CA was recognized for his Outstanding Contribution to the Cornell Community as a result of his work over the last four years with Hotel Ezra Cornell. According to Kate Walsh, Ph.D., the Fred G. Peelen Chair of Global Hospitality Strategy and Associate Professor of Management: “Willis is that rare student who demonstrated the complete package of intellect, abilities, and skills. He had that rare combination of strong analytic skills and wonderful interpersonal skills. He often bridged his own insights and reflections with those continued on page 4
of other students. His warm, innovative, and collaborative working style produced the most unique, well-run Hotel Ezra Cornell the School has seen in years.”

Willis works as a Hospitality Real Estate Financial Analyst for Wells Fargo Bank.

Marlene van Es, a Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, from Lansing, NY, was honored with the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community-at-Large. Some of Marlene’s leadership positions include: Co-founder, PALS: Partnership of African and Lansing Schools; Co-founder/President, Society for Social Entrepreneurship and Collaborative Action; Director and Organizer, Creating Communities International Development Conference; and Ashoka Campus Changemaker Initiative. Her nominator, Richard A. Church, President of the Alpha Zeta Corporation Board wrote, “The traits Marlene exhibits to make her such an effective and mature leader include her enthusiastic, positive attitude, her high energy, her ability to focus on the task at hand, her thoughtfulness, her excellent communication skills and her ever-present smile. She is also a very good presenter, a good delegator, supportive of her fellow officers and always willing to share credit with them for a job well done.”

Marlene plans to intern for a year with the Soil Science Society of America in Washington, DC before heading to law school.

“Summer… gave me a firm belief that educational inequity can be solved. Change is possible and I have a desire to contribute to the movement.”

Meinig student interns at Teach for America headquarters

Meinig student, Kimberly Jackson ’12 Human Ecology, worked with Teach for America this summer. Her internship was made possible through the Menschel Cornell Commitment Public Service Internship Program.

Over the summer I worked for Teach For America in New York City. I was a member of the Student Achievement Measurement System team within the department of Teacher Preparation, Support, and Development. I worked on a national team, which was supporting teachers and Teach For America staff members throughout the country in 42 different regions. My team’s data collection and tracking allowed the regions to evaluate their teachers and set goals for their students’ improvement.

One of the best days of my summer was when I visited a public school in Harlem where Teach For America teachers were training. I saw how hard these individuals were working and how much they were investing into these students that they would only be with for four weeks. Their dedication to the task and desire to continuously improve their teaching styles was remarkable. The fact that the majority of the teachers were just a year older than I also allowed me to see that regardless of how old you are or how much experience you have, you can still contribute in a meaningful way to improving the lives of others.

I walked away from the summer with a much greater knowledge of educational inequity than when I began my internship. continued on page 5
Currently I am the language Training Manager for the Kobe Portopia Hotel in Kobe, Japan. I also help take care of foreign dignitaries and VIPs. This position was offered to me by the president of the hotel, who is a Cornell Hotelie. We became acquainted at the Cornell Club of Japan events. He invited me to join the staff in February 2008 in preparation for the May 2008 G-8 Environmental Summit, which was hosted by the Portopia Hotel.

What made you choose Cornell? I chose Cornell upon the recommendations from my high school teachers. Cornell was the only place I applied to outside of California (my home state). At the time, I had no idea that Cornell was an Ivy League school, or even what the Ivy League was because I was the first in my family to be born in the United States and to attend an American college. I'm lucky my parents supported my last minute decision to attend Cornell!

How did you decide on your major? After two very challenging years as a pre-med student, I decided that there must be some other way to help people. I was interested in working for the U.S. State Department, so I declared Asian Studies as my major and had concentrations in International Relations and Southeast Asian Studies (government).

How did your Commitment program impact your undergraduate experience? I was both a [Meinig Family] Cornell National Scholar and a Cornell Tradition fellow. The Cornell Tradition definitely had a larger impact in terms of enabling me to attend Cornell and to reduce my student loans. The work study and community service requirements encouraged me to find interesting things to do outside the classroom, such as leading tours of campus as a student employee of the Cornell Information and Referral Center (now Cornell Information and Visitor Relations). I also volunteered as a language partner to students from Japan, which deepened my interest in the country, its language and culture.

What impact did your experience in MFCNS & Tradition have on your life plan? Hard work and community service have continued to be important to me, especially in terms of my Cornell volunteer activities. I believe in giving back to people and places that have helped me, and I have promoted Cornell in my roles as a CAAAN chair for undergraduate admissions, Cornell Fund phonathon chair, Class of 1990 20th reunion co-chair and VP for Communications for the Cornell Association of Class Officers.

Do you have any interesting stories you can share about your time at Cornell? I was pictured in an issue of Newsweek magazine, giving a campus tour as a sheepdog ran across the Arts Quad!

Describe a few of the major career and/or life events that have taken place since you left Ithaca. I have lived in Japan off and on for over 9 years now. Though I am not of Japanese descent, I really feel at home in Kobe and have maintained friendships with people I met when I first came to Japan in 1990. I particularly feel a close bond with Shimane Prefecture and my colleagues and former students. It’s also really cool that my sister Tamarine is a professional tennis player. I have followed her around the world, including all of the Grand Slam tournaments and two Olympics, and watched her win a WTA tournament in Osaka. continued on page 11
Giving Back: Chuck Feeney ’56 Supports Cornell Tradition with New Gift

In June 2011, The Atlantic Philanthropies, founded by Chuck Feeney ’56, announced that they would give Cornell $15 million to support the financial aid costs of Cornell Tradition fellows. The Cornell Tradition was established through a gift from Atlantic in 1983. Over the years, the Foundation has gone on to give more than $600 million to Cornell, allowing the university to launch the Life Sciences Initiative, the Tri-Institutional Research Program, the Hotel School expansion, and the transformation of North and West campuses. Feeney hopes that this latest gift will inspire Tradition graduates to also give back to the university.

Chuck Feeney wasn’t the kind of kid who was supposed to go to Cornell. He grew up in a big Irish family in a working class neighborhood in Elizabeth, N.J., and spent four years in the military after graduating from high school. Luck—in the form of the G.I. Bill—prompted him to apply to Cornell. He was admitted to the School of Hotel Administration and the G.I. Bill offered him $800 to cover his expenses for the first year. But he needed about $400 more.

One night on campus, Feeney has said, “I saw this guy selling sandwiches to the fraternity members, and I said to myself, I can do that.” From then on, he made more than he needed by selling sandwiches “every single night” for the next four years and was known around campus as “the sandwich man.”

With his degree and his entrepreneurial spirit, Feeney went on to co-found Duty Free Shoppers Group, which introduced the concept of duty-free shopping at airports and became a very lucrative business.

But Feeney couldn’t forget where he came from, and no sooner did he start making money than he started to give it away. He founded The Atlantic Foundation (which would later become The Atlantic Philanthropies), one of the world’s largest charitable foundations, in 1982. As of December 2010, the foundation had awarded $5.5 billion in grants worldwide.

At Cornell, Feeney was especially concerned that students like him be able to attend the university and give back. To accomplish this goal, the Cornell Tradition was established with Atlantic funding and has thrived since. The Tradition’s prominent service requirements are especially important to Feeney.

Since financial aid to Tradition fellows amounts to more than $12 million per year, Atlantic’s new gift will cover more than one-third of the cost between now and 2014. The Tradition’s ideals mirror those of Atlantic, which aims “to bring about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.”

By 2016, Atlantic will make its final grants and close its doors by 2020, making it the largest foundation in history to spend all its endowment.

Last May, at a gathering of billionaires who have signed on to Bill and Melinda Gates’ and Warren Buffett’s “Giving Pledge” – a promise to give away the majority of their personal wealth – Buffett called Feeney the “spiritual leader” of the movement, adding, “He wants his last check to bounce.”

Feeney is a prime example of an alumnus who worked hard and gives back, and hopes that Tradition fellows, through their habits of philanthropic service established as undergraduates, will follow his example.
The Cornell Tradition honors seniors for outstanding work, service and academic achievement.

The Cornell Tradition has been honoring its graduating seniors with Senior Recognition Awards for a number of years. During the annual Tradition graduation, ten Tradition seniors were honored for their service to campus and community. This honor allows recipients to name a Tradition Fellowship for the year to come and make a charitable contribution in the amount of $500 to an organization of their choosing. The annual event was held in Bartels Hall and was attended by approximately 400 guests, including students and their families, faculty, staff, and friends of the Tradition.

Christopher Brown, Miami Springs, FL  
CALS, Biological Sciences  
Christopher has established the “One Love” Cornell Tradition Fellowship, to be awarded to a Hispanic student from a low-income family or community, and has designated his charitable contribution to the Ithaca Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Lauren Cohan, Syosset, NY  
ILR, Industrial & Labor Relations, minors - Inequality, Law & Society  
Lauren has established the Lauren Cohan Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to a student committed to improving the Cornell Tradition and enhancing the Tradition community. She has designated her charitable contribution to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Nathaniel Houghton, Orchard Park, NY  
HE, Policy Analysis and Management  
Nathaniel has established the Douglas and Kathy Houghton Cornell Tradition Fellowship, to be awarded to any eligible Cornell undergraduate. He has designated his charitable contribution to the Congo Leadership Initiative.

Alison Keggan, Port Murray, NJ  
CALS, Animal Science and Agricultural Education  
Alison has established the Alison Keggan Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to a female student from New Jersey. She has designated her charitable contribution to the New Jersey FFA Foundation.

Hannah McDermott, Granville, NY  
ILR, Industrial & Labor Relations  
Hannah has established the Hannah Louise McDermott Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to a student from Washington County, NY. She has designated her charitable contribution to the Cornell Farmworker Program.

Elizabeth McInnis, Vestal, NY  
ILR, Industrial & Labor Relations  
Elizabeth has established the Professor Robert S. Smith Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to a female ILR student. She has designated her charitable contribution to the Senior Class Campaign.

Ray Mensah, Brooklyn, NY  
ILR, Industrial & Labor Relations  
Ray has established the Douglas Arthur Lowe Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to an eligible Cornell undergraduate. He has designated his charitable contribution to Cornell University College Republicans.

Christine Pitner, Newburgh, NY  
EN, Biological Engineering, minor - Biomedical Engineering  
Christine has established the Pitner Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to a female Engineering student. She has designated her charitable contribution to Oakwood Friends School.

Olivia Tai, Brooklyn, NY  
AS, Biological Sciences  
Olivia has established the Daniel Tai Cornell Tradition Fellowship to be awarded to an incoming or current Cornell undergraduate who has made a significant contribution to the LGBTQ community. She has designated her charitable contribution to Sylvia’s Place. continued on page 11
Hunter R. Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars celebrate research and discovery during annual expo and graduation celebration

Fifty talented Cornell University seniors presented their research at the annual Senior Expo on April 14, 2011. The expo is the capstone experience for the Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program. The 2011 Expo included posters and multimedia presentations on topics such as infant language acquisition, the ice fields of Patagonia, repression and violence in autocratic states, and magnetoreception and magnetosensitivity in Monarch butterflies.

The following month, in a packed room at the Moakley House, faculty mentors, parents, family members, and friends helped celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2011 Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholars at the annual graduation celebration.

Scholars received honor cords representing their accomplishments in research and scholarship and an engraved keepsake magnifying glass. President Emeritus Rawlings shared remarks and congratulated the Scholars. Recently, he was named President of the Association of American Universities and was moving to Washington, D.C. the next day. We were pleased that he made time to join us for this graduation event.

Awards and Recognition

Magna Cum Laude: James Crowell, Sarah Edmunds, Allen Miller
Summa Cum Laude: Ruth Hannah de Kleer, Chong Hui Desmond Ong, Qi (“Jade”) Wu
Cum Laude: Lindsay Myron, Sarah Edmunds, Ruth Hannah de Kleer, Nitin Malik, Matthew Mikhail, Anthony Monroe, Lindsay Myron, Matthew Oh, Erin Samplin, Carolyn Sedgwick, Hannah Sollecito, Kristen Vitro, Lauren Wetterhahn
Ruth Hannah de Kleer: Department of Music John James Blackmore Prize; elected to Phi beta Kappa, the Arts and Sciences Honor Society
Jason McNamara: American Dairy Science Association Award; Morrison Award; Everingham Award
Allen Miller: Order of Omega; elected to Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society
Anthony Monroe: LGBTQ Leader Award; Outstanding Leadership Award; American Animal Science Association Award continued on page 11
RCPRS Alumni Profile: Lindsey Zahn '09, Hotel Administration

Lindsey A. Zahn is attending law school at Brooklyn Law School with a passion for the hospitality industry, which helps foster her interest in wine law. While at Cornell she published in the Cornell Hospitality Reports. Lindsey was also the founder of the first Hospitality Law Society, an executive manager of CHC Hospitality Consultants, and a teaching assistant for several classes.

Presently, Lindsey is the Executive Articles Editor of the Brooklyn Journal of International Law, a research assistant for a professor of the international law department at Brooklyn Law School, and the Vice President of the Brooklyn Law School chapter of the Federalist Society.

Lindsey spent her most recent summer in France at the Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne for the 2011 Wine and Law Program, where she received a University Diploma in Transnational Wine Trade Law. She additionally worked as a wine law and regulatory compliance associate for Lot18, where she sorted through state and federal statutes regulating the manufacture, sale, shipment, and licensing of alcoholic beverages. Lindsey is excited to announce that the Center for Wine Origins invited her on their annual harvest trip to Porto, Portugal, in September to learn about the efforts in the region to protect the name “Port” in the United States.


In her spare time, Lindsey loves photography (pieces of which are featured throughout “On Reserve,” traveling, attending receptions at local art galleries, and, of course, visiting wineries. Although she greatly enjoys the many wineries near her Long Island home, Lindsey is forever indebted to those wineries of the Finger Lakes that helped develop her cultural appreciation for wine.
Despite daily gull attacks, student finds passion in field ornithology

In summer 2011, Sarah MacLean '13 Agriculture and Life Sciences spent eight weeks in field studies at the Schoals Marine Lab on Appledore Island, ME. Sarah, who is from Escondido, CA, was hired as a Research in Field Science (RIFS) intern, and she was able to conduct two separate projects. The first project, which is a long-term monitoring project on the island, focused on nesting success of gulls and swallows. The second project was her own research; she designed a study to examine threat recognition and communication in Great Black-backed gulls and Herring gulls, both of which nest colonially on the island.

During the summer of 2010, Sarah conducted an independent project on auditory threat recognition in the Great Black-backed gull. This second project was Sarah's first opportunity to design and implement her own full-fledged study. As a result of her experience, she was able to develop important research and life skills such as perseverance, confidence in working independently, and overall dedication to field research, not to mention discovering that she was passionate about the work.

This discovery occurred after her first summer on the island. She said, “I fell in love with Appledore Island and the gulls when I took a class there in summer 2010. The research project I conducted for that class was sort of a preliminary run, then I conducted a larger and more professional version as an intern this past summer.”

One of the outcomes of an internship experience is to help students clarify their career direction - either to continue in that field, to change direction slightly, or sometimes altogether. For Sarah, the summers spent doing research solidified her career goals. She spent every day decked out in gear to protect her from gull attacks. “I wore a bicycle helmet on my head to protect against gull attacks, a jacket covered in splotches of gull excrement, and an apron around my waste that was soaked in poo and regurgitated fish (chicks vomit as a defense mechanism). I was covered in scratches from the rocks and the gulls, as well as in poison ivy (which grows in trees on the island).” This type of experience may have turned others toward a less trying career path; however, Sarah found that she was unbelievably happy and that there was not a single day she didn't want to be out there. This, she reports, is how she knew it was her calling: “I survived all the abuse and still managed to really enjoy the work that I was doing. Every day was an adventure.”

Sarah kept a blog detailing her experience and research. Shoals Marine Lab has a link on their website to the blog and uses many of the photos she captured over the course of the summer in their marketing materials.

“The experience definitely solidified my aspirations to become a field ornithologist”
Alumni Profile: Rose Tanasugarn ’90

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job/life at present? I wasn't able to join the State Department due to a medical condition, but I have interacted with so many diplomats and government officials from all over the world including Dr. Margaret Chan of the World Health Organization, the head of the EPA and the governor of Bangkok. It's funny that my Asian Studies and International Relations background has come in handy with my hotel position!

What advice do you have for new professionals as they enter the work force? Don't underestimate the power of networking, especially the Cornell network. Here in Japan, the Harvard alumni refer to us as "the Cornell mafia." Make a habit of carrying business cards with you. Offer yours first, and you will likely get one in return. More importantly, send a quick e-mail to that person to say how much you enjoyed meeting them. Most people never follow up, so being proactive in doing so will make you stand out in people's minds. You never know where that connection will lead.

How do you balance work and life? I am really lucky because I truly enjoy my work and consider my colleagues to be one huge family. The few times I do have frustrations at work, there are always people I can talk to who usually have good advice about how to overcome the situation. Ezra Cornell was right about physical fitness being as important as mental fitness - I attempted to do my first full marathon this year. I also play tennis occasionally with friends from work.

RCPRS Awards and Recognition

Lindsay Myron: SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence
Eli Neustadter: 2011 Outstanding Senior in Human Development; The Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Achievement in Research; Honorable Mention for Zuckerman Award for Best Human Development Honors thesis; Honors in Human Development
Matthew Oh: Jaqua Foundation Scholarship in College of Engineering
Chong Hui Desmond Ong: Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the Arts and Sciences Honor Society; Omicron Delta Epsilon, the Economics Honor Society; Hartman Prize for Outstanding Work in Experimental Physics
Avery Russell: Charles A. Ring Memorial Award
Erin Samplin: Honors in Human Biology, Health and Society
Qi (“Jade”) Wu: Golden Key Honor Society member; Dorothy Sugarman Poetry Prize
Alina Zolotareva: Honors in Nutritional Sciences
Nicolas Champagne-Williamson ’12: Honorable Mention in the Goldwater Scholarship Competition for Computer Science