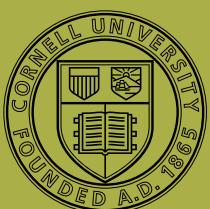


# Human Ecology News

News for Alumni and Friends of the College of Human Ecology | Fall 2006

## A New Course Examines the Personal and Practical Sides of Philanthropy story page 6



Cornell University  
College of Human Ecology

# Reunion 2006





## Message from the Dean

**E**arlier this summer I had the privilege of addressing the Class of 2006 at their commencement. I asked for a show of hands from graduates who had done volunteer work during their time here at Human Ecology. Everybody raised their hands. It was a proud moment for them, for their families and friends, and for me and the other faculty in attendance. It also illustrates an important mark of distinction for the College of Human Ecology—the simple fact that the people connected to this college are committed to improving the human condition and shaping a better world. You do it through outreach and community service, you do it in your professional lives, and you do it through research and academics.

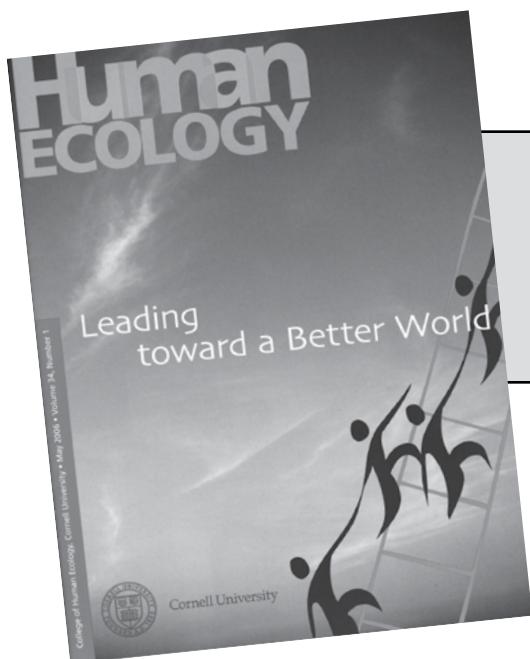
The stories in these pages are a case in point—from Brenda Bricker’s course on philanthropy to George Ferrari’s (’84) work with the Community Foundation of Tompkins County to Paulvalery Roulette’s (’07) work with Katrina on the Ground (a nationwide effort of minority college students to assist in the recovery of New Orleans). To all of them and all of you, keep up the good work.

This will be the last edition of HE News until winter 2007. We’re taking it in for an overhaul and a redesign, and you can help. Please take a few moments to go online to [www.human.cornell.edu/che/Alumni/](http://www.human.cornell.edu/che/Alumni/) and fill out a short survey about what kind of information is most important to you. While you are online, make sure to stop by the Human Ecology home page ([www.human.cornell.edu](http://www.human.cornell.edu)) and download the latest alumni edition podcast, with reunion highlights and well wishes from some of your fellow alums.

As you read this, students are starting another school year here on campus. And the Class of 2006, who all raised their hands at commencement, will be well on their way to joining their fellow Human Ecology alumni in making their mark, and having an impact, on individuals, endeavors, and communities around the world.

We hope to see you soon. Warm regards,

Lisa Staiano-Coico, Ph.D.  
Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean



Become a Life Member of the Human Ecology Alumni Association and receive a complementary subscription to Human Ecology Magazine. For more information, visit [www.human.cornell.edu/che/Alumni/HEAA/join.cfm](http://www.human.cornell.edu/che/Alumni/HEAA/join.cfm).

**Beginning next year, the Department of Textiles and Apparel will be known as the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design.**

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## Seminar News

**The Iscol Family Program for Leadership Development in Public Service presents**  
**“Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World, How University Students Can Create Positive Social Change.”**  
—Craig Kielburger, founder of Free The Children  
Presented as part of the Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise Speaker Series (AEM 121)  
Monday, November 13, 2006  
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Call Auditorium, Kennedy Hall  
*Book signing immediately following program*

## HumanEcologyNews

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# InsideMVR BRIEFS

- **Design and Environmental Analysis professor Gary Evans** has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of the Faculty of Social Science, Stockholm University. He received the award at the Promotion and Installation Ceremony at the Stockholm Town Hall on September 29. A gala dinner followed. The promotion is the major university celebration of the year in Sweden.

- **Human Development professor Valerie Reyna**, extension leader in her department, has been appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education to serve on the President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel.

- **Jennifer Wilkins, Kellogg Food and Society Policy Fellow in Nutritional Sciences**, has launched a monthly column in the *Albany Times Union* titled "The Food Citizen," which aims to inform and engage people to use their consumer and consumption power to help create a healthier food system.

- **The Department of Textiles and Apparel** now offers the only Ph.D. program in apparel design in the United States. The program is intended to address the needs of academia, industry, and research.

- **Design and Environmental Analysis students in Professor Alan Hedge's Applied Ergonomics class** worked with him to create CUergopods—audio and video podcasts that bring the latest research on ergonomics for computer users into the real world setting of student life on campus. To visit the podcast page, go to <http://ergo.human.cornell.edu/CUErgopods/CUErgopods2006.htm>.

- **The interior design undergraduate and graduate programs in Design and Environmental Analysis** were both ranked third in the nation recently in an annual survey of design professionals conducted by DesignIntelligence magazine. The only schools to beat out Cornell were the University of Cincinnati and Pratt Institute in the undergraduate category, and the Rhode Island School of Design and Pratt Institute in the graduate school category.

- **Qi Wang, associate professor of human development**, has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the Young Scientist Award from the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development for her "distinguished theoretical contribution to the study of behavioral development, her programmatic research of distinction and her distinguished contribution to the dissemination of developmental science."

- **Daniel Lichter, professor in Policy Analysis and Management and director of the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center**, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to brief the Democratic Policy Committee on reducing unwed childbearing. The policy brief argued that for marriages to succeed among low-income families, it is also essential to address underlying problems—most specifically, the problem of unwed childbearing.

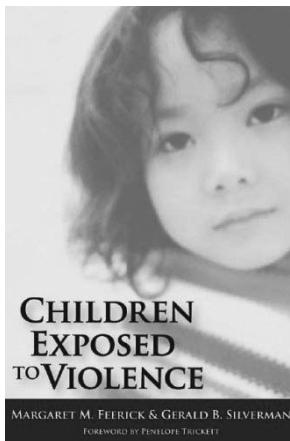
- **Human Development associate professor Jeff Haugaard** accepted an offer to become assistant vice president for honors programs at the University at Albany beginning August 1, 2006. He also has an appointment as professor of counseling and educational psychology. The University at Albany is instituting an Honors College during this next academic year and Haugaard will be its primary architect and first director.

## New Books by Faculty, Staff, and Alumni

**Margaret M. Feerick, Ph.D. '98, and Gerald B. Silverman, eds.**

***Children Exposed to Violence*  
Baltimore, Md.: Paul H. Brookes, 2006**

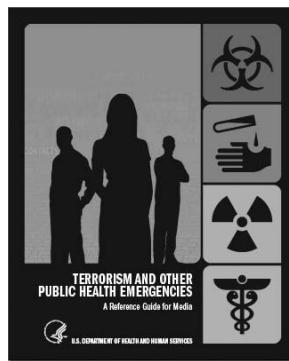
Addressing the problem of children's exposure to violence requires a comprehensive, focused research agenda. That's the goal of this timely book, which brings current research together, identifies gaps in our understanding of the effects of exposure to violence on children, and sets a direction for future research to support interventions and violence prevention. Focusing on three major types of violence—domestic violence, community violence, and war and terrorism—two dozen foremost authorities discuss and assess up-to-date statistics and research on the prevalence of each type of violence in the lives of children. *Margaret M. Feerick is a developmental psychologist with a research background in child development and family violence.*



**Linda Weinberg '87, editor and lead author**  
***Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies: A Reference Guide for Media*  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006 (<http://hhs.gov/emergency/mediaguide/PDF/HHSMedisReferenceGuideFinal.pdf>)**

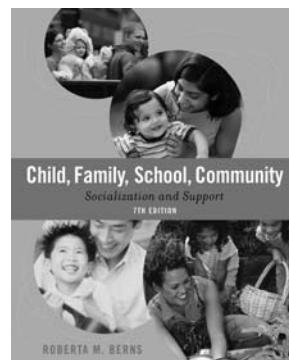
This guide, available both in hard cover and online, is for the people who write the words, take the pictures, and tell the stories about the events in our world—both ordinary and extraordinary. It is intended to provide information about how the public health system is preparing for and will respond to previously unthinkable events, such as September 11. More specifically, the guide's intent is to offer the best possible information about the worst-case scenarios. Through this effort, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to provide the best available and most essential up-to-date health-related facts and background information that will be needed in the event of a terrorist attack or public health emergency.

*Linda Weinberg is senior vice president, risk communications and homeland security at Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide.*



**Roberta M. Berns '54, M.S. CALS '66**  
***Child, Family, School, Community—Socialization and Support, 7th ed.*  
Stamford, Conn.: Thomson Learning, 2006**

Berns's best-selling text presents the socialization process of children via the powerful conceptual framework of Urie Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model of Human Development. She takes a comprehensive look at the effects of family, child care, school, peer group, media, community, and societal factors (including culture, political ideology,



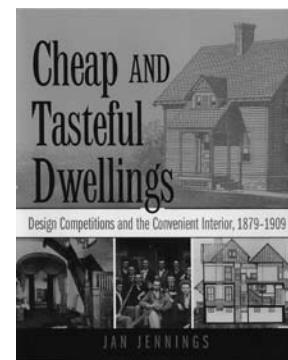
economics, technology) on the socialization of the child, and provides students with numerous examples of essential concepts to enable better understanding. Truly ideal for undergraduate students and anyone who works with children, the book underscores the immeasurable value in preparing the child with the ability to adapt to a changing world.

*Roberta Berns is a professor emerita at the University of California, Irvine, as well as at Saddleback College, where she founded and chaired the human development department.*

**Jan Jennings**  
***Cheap and Tasteful Dwellings*  
Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press**

In 1879, *Carpentry and Building* magazine launched its first house design competition for a cheap house. Forty-two competitions, 86 winning designs, and a slew of near winners and losers resulted in a body of work that offers an entire history of an architectural culture. *Cheap and Tasteful Dwellings* thoroughly explores the results of these competitions, conducted over a 30-year period from 1879 to 1909. The book outlines the philosophy behind and procedures developed for running the competitions; looks at characteristics of the 86 winners of the competitions; examines the nature of architectural practices during the period; analyzes the winning competition designs; and provides biographical details of competition winners and losers. By using extensive material from the magazine, Jennings leaves little doubt as to how important this overlooked story is to the history of American architecture as a whole.

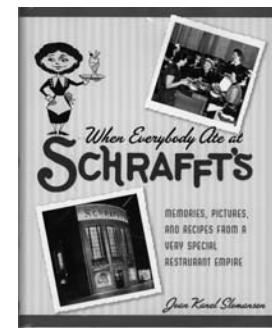
*Jan Jennings is a professor in the Department of Design and Environmental Analysis.*



**Joan Kanel Slomanson '53**  
***When Everybody Ate at Schrafft's*  
Fort Lee, N.J.: Barricade Books, 2006**

For nearly 80 years, Schrafft's was the place to meet and eat in city after city. It was the brainchild of a young candy salesman, Frank G. Shattuck. He became a millionaire by taking the products of a Boston chocolatier named Schrafft (it originally had one "f") on the road and growing the business by adding comfortable surroundings serving what he called wholesome American food at reasonable cost. No fancy, pricey foreign dishes for him. This charming book brings the scene back to life, including the recollections of Helen Gurley Brown, Liz Smith, Rex Reed, Joe Franklin, and many others. Included are original Schrafft's recipes and actual photographs of countless Schrafft's stores and authentic menus dating back to the 1920s and 1930s.

*Joan Kanel Slomanson is a former advertising agency creative director who worked on many food accounts and helped develop restaurants in various cities.*



# Alumni Profiles

## Dreams Come True

### Dream: Flying the Friendly Skies

**Lorna Craig '48 heard the radio spot one morning the summer before her senior year. Not in her wildest dreams would she have imagined that answering it would land her in a civil rights class action suit, let alone that it would be argued before a Supreme Court with a woman justice sitting on the bench. After all, this was 1947 and Craig's only dreams were of lands far away.**

"In those days just a handful of gals were airline hostesses; it was a very glamorous career, hundreds and hundreds would apply for a job," says Craig, who was a fashion design major with a yen to see the newest collections of Valentino and Cardin on the fashion house runways of Rome and Paris.

So when she heard the radio spot, she phoned Robinson Airlines, founded three years earlier by another Cayuga Heights resident, Cecil Robinson.

"I got all dressed up, called a taxi, went downtown for an interview and at dinner announced to my family, 'Guess what? I just got hired as an airline hostess!'"

As graduation approached, Craig was courted by the director of Cornell Cooperative Extension who knew a young woman with management potential when she saw one. But to the offer of a county extension office directorship "with a car and the whole works," Craig replied: "I'm sorry, I'm going to fly." And fly she did, for TWA, for the next 20 years.

She logged a million-plus miles in the air, most between 1954 and 1968, when

she "walked across the ocean in high heels" as the only woman in the crew of the four-engine, propeller-driven Lockheed Constellation. During 18-hour shifts on the "Connie," Craig and two pursers served as few as 27 passengers in a style hardly imaginable today.

There was plenty of room, plenty of time, plenty of elegance, and plenty of celebrities to lavish it upon. Howard Hughes owned TWA; the passenger list was star-studded.

"I took Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller on their honeymoon to London," Craig remembers. "All the celebrities flew with us."

At the end of long flights Craig's college-girl dreams came true during three- and four-day layovers in Europe's capital cities.

"There wasn't an inch of Rome that I didn't explore at one time or another," says Craig, who frequented Valentino's shop there. Her clothes were made by a dressmaker in Madrid; she'd buy the fabrics in Paris and Milan.

In 1965 Craig married and continued her schedule of two to three transatlantic flights each month. Three years later she became pregnant and was promptly fired, as were pregnant hostesses with all the airlines.

In the early 1970s, a TWA class action suit was filed in behalf of the fired hostesses, citing such treatment as a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Craig's two boys were in high school by the time Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and her fellow justices on the Supreme Court, decided in behalf of the plaintiffs, awarding them compensation in the form of retirement credit and lifetime passes.

For Craig that meant credit for 34 years

of service with TWA, making her instantly eligible for early retirement. Instead, the "senior returning mother" (she had a decade more seniority than any other hostess named in the suit), Craig—with her family's blessing—put her uniform back on.

"It seemed like stepping from the past to the present through a time machine," she recalls. It was a returning to a "birds of a feather thing" just for the love of doing it."

Today Craig keeps close contact with many of the women with whom she worked over the years. She's in her eighth year as president of the Southwest (Naples) Florida Chapter of Clipped Wings—the international organization of retired TWA cabin personnel. Beyond enjoying each other's company, the members of Clipped Wings, a 501 (c)3 public charity, have raised thousands of dollars for medical research and other worthwhile charities.

"In the early days most hostesses spent only a year or so on the job then got married, often to pilots, so that's where the organization's name comes from," says Craig. "It's impossible to explain the camaraderie we feel, there's just such a bond."

*Metta Winter*

**"I took Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller on their honeymoon to London. All the celebrities flew with us."**



### Dream: Working for the Securities and Exchange Commission

**Robert (Rob) Cohen '94 says that he always seemed to have a natural affinity for what would one day become his career in the legal system, starting as a lawyer and eventually becoming senior counsel in the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in Washington, D.C.**

"In high school I was definitely interested in debate clubs and other activities

that naturally led to law school," explains Cohen, who grew up in Oceanside, Long Island. "I've also had a long interest in policy and politics."

When Cohen began attending Cornell with its diverse fields of study, he began to expand his horizons beyond the law, gravitating toward courses in economics and policy, offered in Human Ecology's then departments of Consumer Economics and Housing and Human Service Studies, now Policy Analysis and Management (PAM).

Cohen was also guided in his career path by two PAM professors, Jennifer Gerner and Alan Mathios.

"They instilled in me a great emphasis on doing something that was both professionally interesting and meaningful to the community," says Cohen.

Cohen's road to the SEC began after he graduated in 1994 with a degree in policy analysis. He attended New York University School of Law and worked for a large law firm in Manhattan, Proskauer Rose, after graduating in 1997 and then clerking for a federal judge for one year. While at the firm, Cohen defended a medium-sized public Internet company being investigated by the SEC.

"That case showed me the impact that the government has on people's lives," says Cohen. "It really got me interested in working for the SEC."

In 2001, Cohen moved to Baltimore to work for another large law firm, Hogan & Hartson, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Finally, 10 years after his graduation from Cornell, Cohen was hired by the SEC and became a senior counsel in the Enforcement Division.

He and his fellow lawyers are tasked with the responsibility of investigating and, when appropriate, bringing civil enforcement actions against people and companies who violate the securities laws. This includes making sure that companies submit accurate quarterly and annual reports, that stockholders have a fair chance with the investments they have made with a company, and that company executives and others are not involved in any insider trading to improve their status and wealth at the expense of investors.

"I had a long desire to have a greater impact on people's lives through government service in general and the SEC in particular," says Cohen. "It is both very interesting and professionally rewarding."

Cohen, who currently lives in Ellicott City, Md., with his wife, Amy, and their two young children, says he "regrets not having been back to Ithaca since graduating

in 1994." But although he has yet to return to the campus in person, Cohen has made important contributions to the university through the Human Ecology Cybermentors Program.

In late 2004, he spent several months conversing via e-mail with an undergraduate student assigned to him as a PAM department alumnus to learn about what he did to make his present career a reality.

"The Cybermentors Program is an extra resource for students that is both helpful and rewarding," explains Cohen. "It is a guide to help them prepare for their career, along with mentoring professors on campus and actual job experiences."

Talking with the program student reminded Cohen of his "tremendously positive feelings about Cornell and my time with the department."

When Cohen is not busy doing his share to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, he enjoys attending baseball games (an activity he has just begun to share with his children), traveling, hiking, and fishing with his father on Long Island.

*Larry Klaes*

**"I had a long desire to have a greater impact on people's lives through government service in general and the SEC in particular. It is interesting and professionally rewarding."**

## Ferrari Makes Career in Not-for-Profit World



**“Let’s go over to Martha Van, that’s the place for you,” said the counselor in the Cornell Career Services Office. With that, George Ferrari ’84 found his way home.**

“I was immediately attracted to Human Ecology because it was about looking at people in the context of development over the life span and in the context of how they interact with each other and their environment,” recalls Ferrari of his first taste of what the college had to offer. He’d arrived at Cornell a year earlier thinking he would become a scientist like his dad. Although he thought he would enjoy engineering, Ferrari didn’t find the classes in Carpenter Hall as compelling as those offered diagonally across campus in the interdisciplinary and highly applied Department of Human Development and Family Studies. In the end it would be the social teachings of his Roman Catholic boyhood—spent just 60 miles down the road in Chenango Bridge—that held sway.

“The one thing I always knew was that my labor, my contribution, must have some social justice value and some responsibility for community building,” says Ferrari, who found in the college the right balance of scholarship and experience to succeed in a career that has put this conviction into practice. He spent the first 20 years in three quite different not-for-profit agencies in Ithaca—Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service, AIDS WORK, and Catholic Charities. Last August, Ferrari became the executive director of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County. This public foundation, which raised \$3.9 million in just six years on the scene, bills itself as a local comprehensive resource for transformative philanthropy.

“I’m amazed at the passion of people to help,” Ferrari says, eyes a-twinkle. “I enjoy helping people realize that by using philanthropy in the community context, they can do so much more than they thought possible.”

In fact, the activity is brisk at Ferrari’s Aurora Street office. “I’m like the guy on the Ed Sullivan Show with

all 10 plates spinning at the same time,” he says, enthusiasm abounding.

That’s good because community foundations are the most rapidly growing model of philanthropy. The basic idea—raise money, grow it, and use local people to disperse the earnings to meet an ever-changing smorgasbord of community needs—originated in 1914. Real results and outcomes come from this form of strategic philanthropy. Each foundation (there are 700 across the country) reflects the flavor of its own community. Ithacans like the idea of collaboration, of consensus, of coming together to share information. Building esprit de corps requires a lot of talking. Ferrari likes that.

He’s especially happy when he gets the phone calls that can start hot conversations. For money (300 grants totaling more than \$1 million so far) is not the only resource for change that the Community Foundation offers. Knowledge, too, is its stock-in-trade: of current needs (across a spectrum from early childhood education to sustainability, animal rights, and the arts); gaps in available services; best practices pioneered elsewhere that could work here, too; outstanding local providers; and, especially, newly emerging issues.

“We’re nimble, we lead, and we also respond to what the community thinks is important,” Ferrari says. So when calls come in from, say, members of county government and the human services community reporting an early concern about a potential rise in youth violence, Ferrari can put the word out that this is a problem in the making, sound the alarm that other funders should collaborate and inform donors to anticipate requests for help.

Ferrari’s baptism by fire in the not-for-profit world came in his senior year when, availing himself of a placement through the Human Ecology Field Study Office, he spent most of his time downtown in the offices of Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service.

Within three years of graduation Ferrari returned to manage the agency’s crisis hotline. He became part of a volunteer group that ultimately started AIDS WORK and was its first executive director. By the time Catholic Charities recruited him as its executive director, Ferrari had a track record of raising money, growing young programs, and getting others to come on board. Not that it was easy.

“Being an out and politically active gay man most of my adult life moving from AIDS WORK to working for Catholic Charities was a challenging experience,” Ferrari explains. But no more so than spending a career dealing with the stigma associated with suicide and the homophobia, racism, sex, drugs, and death associated with AIDS.

In each situation Ferrari found that he had a facility for “helping to meet different people, who were often in conflict, where they are with these difficult issues, helping them to envision how they could collaborate with the organization to serve the community.”

He’s keen to share with students all he’s learned by participating in career fairs and lecturing in classes including Brenda Bricker’s new HE 407 Leadership in the Nonprofit Environment.

Of them, himself, and all of us, Ferrari says: “We each have our life’s work, and part of our work in life is to figure out what that is.”

*Metta Winter*

*To learn more, go to [www.communityfoundationoftc.org](http://www.communityfoundationoftc.org)*

**C**ornell students are among the brightest in the world. Put that intellect together with a desire to make the world a better place and you’ve got a powerful combination.

A new course has succeeded in engaging students’ minds and hearts. HE 407, Leadership in the Nonprofit Environment, combines theory, practice, and perspectives from professionals working in the nonprofit sector to give students an up-close, multifaceted look at philanthropy—from the business side of operations to the challenges to the passion.

“The course really filled a need,” explains Brenda Bricker, the instructor and director of leadership and undergraduate research. “Students were saying that they had an interest in working in the nonprofit sector but didn’t have a way to study it and learn how to make a career out of it until this course.”

One of the tenets of effective leadership that Bricker emphasizes to students is collaboration, and HE 407 is a perfect example. The course began to evolve when philanthropist Doris Buffett, founder and director of the Sunshine Lady Foundation in Wilmington, N.C., offered a gift of \$10,000 to enable Cornell students to act as a philanthropic board for distributing the funds. Thirty-one students across Cornell majors and colleges took the first class last spring.

The compatible missions of the foundation and the college, with its commitment to community outreach, made the collaboration a good fit. The Sunshine Lady Foundation invests in organizations and programs that provide opportunities for disadvantaged people, with special empathy



Students read and discussed a variety of literature on the pros, cons, hows, and whys of philanthropy.

for the working poor and families in crisis. Buffett believes that everyone is capable of making good choices when choices are available and that inequities arise when choices are limited by economic or social circumstances. While her grants attempt to address needs, she insists they are hand-ups, not handouts.

Her gift to the college was intended to educate and even inspire future philanthropists. Students read and discussed a variety of literature on the pros, cons, hows, and whys of philanthropy; learned to write a grant proposal to raise support for a personal project; and, as a group, crafted a Request for Proposals (RFP) that was disseminated to the surrounding communities.

After receiving 18 responses to their RFP, totaling nearly \$96,000 in requests, the students broke up into three smaller groups to evaluate the proposals and determine which organizations would receive funding. The three groups then had to reach a consensus about the final distribution of the \$10,000. A press release and formal award event followed. In the process, they learned firsthand about collaboration and commitment.

“One of the most exciting aspects of the course was the respect that we gained for each other as we became pas-



A gift from Doris Buffett, founder and director of the Sunshine Lady Foundation, helped spur the creation of HE 407.

sionate about funding the proposals we received,” says Molly Spratt ’07.

“At one point,” adds Rebecca Lee ’08, “I felt so strongly about some of the applications that I did something I usually would not have done and sent an e-mail to the entire class, challenging the opinions of several others. This was not only a sign that I was breaking out of my comfort level, but also a sign that I had become invested in the community that I had felt somewhat detached from before this course.”

Eight professionals presented their personal points of view about working in nonprofit environments. One of those was George Ferrari, a 1984 human development graduate who currently serves as executive director of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County in Ithaca (see story at left).

“The knowledge base is important,” he remarks about undergraduate education, “but I was always itching to get out in the field and apply it. I think there are a lot of students, especially in the College of Human Ecology, who care and have strong ideals and vision but need the ability to figure out how to put those into practice in the community.”

**“Today, thanks to Ms. Buffett’s contribution and our dedication to getting the most out of the \$10,000, people are receiving more health care in this community, senior citizens are spending more time together and rejoicing life, inmates are putting their lives together once again, and young children are learning to raise money.”**

—Carlos Mendoza ’08

Carlos Mendoza ’08, one of Bricker’s students, had a similar experience in summer 2005. After teaching math to disadvantaged youth for a nonprofit organization in San Jose, Nicaragua, Mendoza decided he wanted to start a nonprofit dedicated to improving education in that impoverished country where he was born.

“The nonprofit I worked for effectively changed the lives of several underprivileged middle-school students,” he recalls. “It even changed my life, so I know the impact that nonprofits can have. In the process of giving to others you mature as an individual, you grow as a human being. I have been blessed with the opportunity to make change, and I plan on doing just that. With the lessons learned in HE 407, my goal to start a nonprofit has become more feasible.”

Almost all the students were intrigued to hear Doris Buffett refer to her foundation as a business. Like a business, a nonprofit has an operating budget for which it needs to generate revenue. Between employees and volunteers, they are among the largest employers in the United States. While their product is a changed human life rather than a commodity, they nevertheless require

management and marketing skills. And, like any successful business, a certain amount of risk taking is necessary if a nonprofit is going to respond in the right ways to community needs.

Oren Johnson ’08, an ambitious pre-med student who enrolled in HE 407 after already registering for 21 course credits, at first felt disenchanted by learning about the business side of nonprofits. He had returned to Cornell the previous fall, transformed by a summer abroad in a small Dominican Republic village, where he worked in a clinic and the local school. The experience had such a profound impact on him that he considered leaving school to volunteer abroad.

Then, as the course progressed, he “found a sense of reality in hearing about the economics of the nonprofit sector. I came to realize how I could better prepare myself for this type of life. I regained some of my practicality and realized my efforts would be more effective with more education. Knowing how to channel my raw passion into measurable outcomes was an important lesson learned.”

Some people think leaders are born; others think leaders are made. Ferrari believes it’s a combination of both: “The best leaders learn to seek out those places where they can make a difference. And they learn how to create ripples that outlast them.”

Bricker tells her students the same thing. “If you’ve really created something lasting,” she says, “you should be able to take yourself out of it and it should keep going.”

Ferrari is on the same wavelength about aiming for sustainable change. “While it’s important for philanthropies to make sure people have enough food and can pay their rent on time, it’s equally important to look at laws and tax policies and budget decisions—how we as a society are allocating resources—so that we can get to the systemic causes and solutions of what’s happening,” he stresses.

That’s where having the education to understand the socioeconomic causes of problems and to be able to anticipate the effects of philanthropy over the long term can help shape a leader—something Oren Johnson discovered and Doris Buffett understood very well when she inspired the creation of HE 407.

“It surprised and pleased me to learn that individual givers are funding most of these [nonprofit] organizations. This means that people care and are the ones who want to see change; it means that there are more people on an everyday basis than I thought involved in combating the injustices in this world,” Carlos Mendoza concludes. “All I can say is that I am extremely proud of the decisions that we made. We changed lives.”

Clare Ulrich



Gadabout provides transportation for elderly and disabled residents of Tompkins County. Thanks to a \$1,000 gift from students in HE 407, Gadabout is now providing free transportation for African American seniors to attend up to 18 programs at the Lifelong Northside/Southside Program.

## What They Funded

- **Ithaca Free Clinic**, \$6,200 to provide liability coverage for medical volunteers to enable expansion of care at the clinic, a project of the Ithaca Health Alliance
- **Offender Aid and Restoration**, \$1,800 toward its Comprehensive Reentry Services Project
- **Lifelong Northside/Southside Program**, \$1,000 to provide free Gadabout transportation for African American seniors to attend up to 18 programs
- **Longview**, \$900 to help the residential senior community purchase several special floor lamps for low-income residents, including those with cataracts or macular degeneration
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension**, \$100 toward a matching grant for its Southside 4-H Growing Up in Cities project.

## Alumnus in action

**Steven J. Karr**, AIA, B.S. ’78 (HE Class of ’76), B.Arch ’79, president of Steven J. Karr, AIA Inc., a Rockville, Md.-based architectural design and construction management firm, received the first “Harry Semmes Award” for “outstanding service in appreciation for . . . significant contributions to Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County.” The award, named in honor of Habitat’s emeritus board member and longtime advocate Harry Semmes, recognized Karr for having assembled the volunteer team of Montgomery County’s leading design professionals to provide architectural and engineering services for the design of Habitat’s 24-unit “Linganore Woods” MPDU townhome development, now under construction in Burtonsville, and as a key volunteer in the establishment of Habitat’s 11,000 square foot ReStore located in Gaithersburg. Karr, a past-president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was also awarded the chapter’s 2004 Paul H. Kea, FAIA Medal for Service to the Profession in acknowledgement “for all his volunteer activities.”

# Focus on Faculty



## Studying at the Nexus of Human Development and Social Policy: Rachel Dunifon and the Welfare of Children and Families

**W**hen Rachel Dunifon was an undergraduate studying psychology at Davidson College, she took a summer internship with Success By Six. This program, operating in a low-income neighborhood in Charlotte, N.C., aimed to enhance the success of children entering kindergarten by addressing problems facing their families: lack of affordable housing, domestic and neighborhood violence, limited parenting skills, and more.

"I came away from the experience overwhelmed with how many obstacles such children face," recalls Dunifon, an assistant professor of policy analysis and management. "It got me thinking on a larger scale about how the individual fits into society, about social policies and how they could help or hurt low-income children."

As a result, Dunifon decided that her best contribution to the welfare of children and families would come from studies directed at the nexus of human development and social policy. Five years after arriving at Cornell she's already published 18 articles and book chapters. Hers is a most promising start, acknowledged nationally last July when Dunifon was awarded a William T. Grant Foundation Scholar's Award.

"The four to six people who are chosen each year become part of a cohort that

meets regularly while each of us is also individually mentored in new methods or theories that will advance our own work," explains Dunifon of this program designed to bolster the careers of young scholars who have demonstrated success in conducting excellent research.

The subject of Dunifon's five-year, \$279,069 award is the role of grandparents in the lives of adolescent grandchildren.

One of the emerging issues that's captured the attention of policymakers in Albany and extension educators around the state is the rapidly growing number of grandparents who now provide all or a major part of parenting for children—often children who are from limited-resource families and are sick or disabled.

In the United States more than six million children are cared for by kin—most often grandparents. In New York State, there are 143,000 such children and likely to be more: the law requires that when children are removed from their homes, relatives must first be contacted for potential care giving before the child goes into foster care with strangers. Yet little is known about the kind or extent of grandparental influence.

In Dunifon's first study she found that

parent household helps buffer children from negative academic effects typically seen when children live with only one parent.

Dunifon examined children's test scores and found that children who live with a single mother and a grandparent fare just as well as children living with married parents.

"These findings contradict the idea that living with two married parents is the primary situation in which children can thrive," Dunifon says, adding that this is the kind of empirical information policymakers need. "Some welfare policies for single mothers, for example, try to encourage marriage because the common thinking is that children fare best when living with married parents, yet we found this wasn't so."

The Cornell Cooperative Extension's Relatives as Parents Program, which serves more than 4,500 grandparents in the mid-Hudson Valley, offers Dunifon an invaluable source of new data on a group that has received very little research attention.

"Grandparents are a hard group to reach," Dunifon observes. "It is very fortunate that I know extension professionals working with them."

As is the case with this study, Dunifon prefers to work with collaborators, some in and others outside of the department. Her co-authors number more than a dozen as the web and e-mail make long-distance working relationships easy.

"I'm not one to sit in my office and churn out papers on my own," she says. "When I have an idea it's always nice to have someone else involved who can push me in a new direction."

In the midst of a demanding research agenda, Dunifon keeps her hand in with students. She chairs doctoral committees and supervises graduate research assistants. A proponent of undergraduate research, Dunifon also gives them a chance to participate in her research and extension activities.

"I remember when I was an undergrad, I had a young female professor that I worked with," Dunifon says. "I felt like I could imagine how my life could be like hers." And now it is.

*Metta Winter*



Juan Hinestroza, assistant professor of textiles and apparel, explains the concept of buoyancy to children as part of a Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America volunteer project at the Ithaca Youth Bureau. This activity was organized by the Educational and Outreach Programs Office of the Cornell Center for Materials Research.

## The Mind and Its Consequences: Valerie Reyna, Charles Brainerd, and Fuzzy Trace Theory

**T**he human mind is a most amazing thing. Confined to an organ not much bigger than a grapefruit and weighing only three pounds on average, our minds have created entire civilizations and sent us into space.

The complexities of our minds have also brought about the far less noble aspects of our species: war, crime, and the ability to have memories of events that never happened.

It is these latter aspects of humanity that compelled two recently hired full professors in the Department of Human Development into their chosen fields to pursue study, teaching, and research in psychology and the legal ramifications when the minds of certain individuals take dark paths.

Professors Valerie Reyna and Charles Brainerd, who joined the College of Human Ecology just last fall, state that their interest in human psychology and related legal fields began in their respective childhoods.

"I grew up on a farm in Michigan," says Brainerd. "I was very interested in the behavior of the animals we had. Animal behavior was a big part of psychology in the 20th century."

In college, Brainerd studied chemistry and biochemistry, but "the study of behavior was a great deal more interesting to me as an undergraduate." He later took up comparative psychology.

Reyna's interest in psychology goes back to when she was nine years old. She recalled being a voracious consumer of such periodicals as *Life* and *Look* magazines and her local newspaper, the *Miami Herald*.

"Even though we did not have a lot of money," explains Reyna, "my father bought me subscriptions to those magazines. I credit my father, who was a single parent, with helping me get where I am today."

Reyna's career path really began to form when she got a subscription to the magazine *Psychology Today*. "I read it all through high school," she says.

Reyna and Brainerd's lives converged when they met while attending a scientific conference in Boston in 1981. Four years later they were married. They then worked on a "collaborative project" that produced a son, Bertrand.

Having spent much of their past career at the University of Arizona, the two decided to move to Cornell to continue and enhance their work.

"We've always admired Cornell and the Department of Human Development here," says Reyna. "It has among the most intellectually stimulating colleagues one could have."

They also came to Cornell to begin a new program, a concentration in law, psychology, and human development.

"This concentration brings three departments together in a partnership," explains Reyna. "We can all learn from each other."

Brainerd's contribution to this partnership involves teaching a class on mitigation in the death penalty.

"When trying a criminal case, people think that evidence in that case bears on an individual's guilt or innocence," says Brainerd.

However, once guilt is decided, sentencing brings in the mitigation factor: "How responsible is the person who committed a particular crime, and what is the suitable punishment?" asks Brainerd.

If the court decides that the person is to be put to death, the law requires that the person must be fully responsible. Other recent decisions by the Supreme Court are covered in the course, including the decision that mentally retarded defendants cannot be put to death. The course is co-taught with law professors John Blume and Sherry Johnson (Blume just argued a case before the Supreme Court that resulted in a 9-0 decision). The course also guides students to work in the legal arena, which includes preparing mitigation reports based on real cases.

"The Cornell students were up to the challenge," says Brainerd. Many students will go on to become lawyers and psychologists and participate in capital trials thanks to their training at Cornell.

Reyna is teaching the course Risk and Rational Decision Making. Her students study everything from adolescent rational decision making to decisions about war, terrorism, medicine, and sex. The course also addresses issues involving alcohol and youths.

Reyna and Brainerd have also developed together the "fuzzy trace" theory of how humans reason and remember and how these faculties change with age and experience.

Many think of the human mind as operating like a computer, where one makes a correct decision after weighing all the factors involved.

Instead, Reyna points out, "the metaphor of the mind as a computer did not fit the data



Valerie Reyna



Charles Brainerd

we have collected and studied. Most people actually reason and make decisions based on something we call 'fuzzy qualitative gist,' rather than precise bits of information. This is what creates the false memories."

Reyna and Brainerd see a bright future at Cornell for their work and how it will help the well-being of the general public, especially children.

To quote Reyna: "This is at the heart of the work that we do."

Larry Klaes

## The college also welcomes the following new faculty members:

**Daniel T. Lichter:** Professor, Policy Analysis and Management; director, Bronfenbrenner Life Course Institute. Research focuses on welfare incentives on the family and on patterns of marriage and cohabitation, assortive mating, and children's changing living arrangements; poverty, especially among children and in rural areas; new destinations of immigrants to America.

**Kimberly O'Brien:** Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences. Research has centered on better understanding of mineral metabolism and bone health in infants, children, and pregnant and lactating women in both developed and developing countries; impact of adolescent pregnancy, particularly among minority populations, on maternal and fetal bone health, risk of anemia, vitamin D insufficiency, birth outcomes and determinants of adolescent weight gain across pregnancy. Her laboratory is a collaborating site for NASA's space flight research on bone health.

**Sharon Sassler:** Assistant Professor, Policy Analysis and Management. Recent papers have examined the factors shaping entrance into cohabiting versus marital unions and predictors of marriage or dissolution for those living with romantic partners. She is currently studying the impact of employment and earnings on cohabitators' entrance into marital unions.

**Juan P. Hinestroza:** Assistant Professor, Textiles and Apparel. Research focuses on understanding complex phenomena

at the nanoscale that are relevant to fiber and polymer science; the use of wireless technology as a teaching aid for undergraduate education as well as the involvement and recruitment of minority groups into science and engineering careers.

**Mathew Belmonte:** Assistant Professor, Human Development. Basic research into the neural basis of autism is cutting-edge, original work based on his own hypothesis that autism is characterized by overly strong local connectivity and weak long-term connectivity in the brain, making local neural processing isolated from necessary, additional information about the environment.

**Anthony Ong:** Assistant Professor, Human Development. Research focuses on the role of positive emotions in buffering stressful events, centering on the concept of resilience.

**Claudio Lucarelli:** Assistant Professor, Policy Analysis and Management. Research focuses on pharmaceutical policy and its impact on consumers.

**Zhenlong Gu:** Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences. Research focuses on how evolution occurs after gene duplication; specifically, the contribution of whole genome duplication to the evolution of fermentation in yeast; yeast is also used as a model organism to investigate the mechanism of antagonistic pleiotropy.

# Class Notes

Have your own news to share?  
Send it to [heaad@cornell.edu](mailto:heaad@cornell.edu) or B12 MVR Hall.

## 1960s

**Margaret J. Drury MA '67, PhD '72**, Potomac, Md., has become a grandmother for the first time, with the birth of grandson, Dimitri, born October 3, 2005. She is very involved in grandparenting and says it is the best career she's ever had.

**Nancy Nichols Harvey '68**, Cambridge, Md., retired in 2001 after 30 years of teaching science, 20 in Binghamton, N.Y., and 10 elsewhere. She now spends her time sailing, singing, and subbing. Nancy has twin daughters who are teaching art in Syracuse and Binghamton, N.Y., and she still comes back to Ithaca every summer to sail.

## 1970s

**Eleanor J. Zahler MS '78**, Cardiff by the Sea, Calif., reports that she has had short stories published bimonthly since July 2004, in *International Senior Traveler*, a division of Journal Publications, California.

## 1990s

**Margaret Feerick, Ph.D. '98**, Laytonsville, Md., has co-edited the book *Children Exposed to Violence*, which was released by Brookes Publishing in March 2006.

**Jason Miller '98**, Houston, Texas, and his wife, Jessica, both physicians, had their first baby, Ava Hailey Miller, born August 18, 2005. She is doing great!

**Kyle L. Snow, Ph.D. '98**, Laytonsville, Md., is co-author with Margaret Feerick of an article based on work done and data collected at Cornell and cited as follows: "The relationships between childhood sexual abuse, social anxiety and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder in women." *Journal of Family Violence* 20(6): 409-19, 2005. Snow was recently asked to serve on the PBS advisory board.

## 2000s

**Lynn Bennett '02**, Saranac Lake, N.Y., married Chris Gosling '02 ENG in September 2005. Lynn is currently employed as a middle school counselor at the Lake Placid Central School District and Chris is employed at Paul Smith's College.

**Damon Clark '03**, Madison, Wis., and his wife, Kate, had their first child, Finn, in August 2005.

**Abiola Dele-Michael '01**, Rochester, N.Y., was presented the Student Health Professional Award in 2005 by the International Society on Hypertension in Blacks. He was recognized for his "beginning efforts to improve the health and life expectancy of minority populations." Abiola is an '06 MD/MPH candidate and Jackson Heart Study research associate at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

**Sean Esmende '02**, Los Angeles, Calif., reports that, after Cornell, he took a break from school and did genetics research for several years at Stanford. This past August, he started his first year at the UCLA Geffen School of Medicine. He says it's great to finally be closer to home, but he certainly misses the Hill.

**Joshua Novikoff '03**, Washington, D.C., is working in the lead-based paint program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He was recently matched with a "little brother" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and is excited to begin his mentorship.

## In Memoriam

**Constance Powers '35**, La Mesa, Calif., June 2, 2006

**Helen Stewart-Roman '36**, Venice, Fla., January 20, 2006

**Frances W. McMartin '37**, Sarasota, Fla., April 11, 2006

**Virginia Panzarella '40**, Fayetteville, N.Y., May 9, 2006

**Florence H. Locks '41**, Long Beach, Calif., October 26, 2005

**Muriel Rose '41**, Buffalo, N.Y., June 2, 2006

**Dorothy Wiggans '41**, Ithaca, N.Y., June 5, 2006

**Eloise Gredler '44**, Culpeper, Va., February 13, 2006

**Wynn Somers '44**, Marco Island, Fla., April 9, 2006

**Phyllis Stout '44**, Ithaca, N.Y., June 1, 2006

**Shirley Coury '45**, Coburg, Ore., April 28, 2005

**Elizabeth Dunwoody '46**, Englewood, Fla., May 1, 2006

**Adele Polayes '48**, Needham, Mass., April 16, 2006

**Elizabeth Guillan '49**, Crystal Lake, Ill., April 21, 2006

**Louise V. Kava '50**, Franklin, Mass., January 9, 2005

**Mary Ellen Longley '51**, Paoli, Pa., June 6, 2006

**Anne Nelson '51**, Ithaca, N.Y., February 28, 2006

**Norris Wood MNS '51**, Kingston, R.I., May 19, 2006

**Marie L. Skellenger MS '52**, Vancouver, Wash., March 25, 2006

**Gloria Spitz Becker '53**, New York City, May 18, 2006

**Carolee Lipton '53**, Boca Raton, Fla., March 31, 2006

**David Smillie PhD '53**, Chapel Hill, N.C., April 6, 2006

**Doris L. Parker MS '54**, February 3, 2006

**Shelby Denis Decker '57**, Pittsfield, Mass., May 8, 2006

**Leslie Schweiger '69**, Nashua, N.H., May 3, 2006

**Maryellen Sohmer Laskowski '76**, Scottsdale, Ariz., March 17, 2006

**Mildred Zien MS '82**, Colorado Springs, Colo., December 9, 2005

**Ashumantha Thotambilu '06**, June 2006

**Lee C. Lee**, professor emerita, Human Development, Ithaca, N.Y., April 30, 2006

## Alumni Calendar

For details on events, please visit [www.human.cornell.edu](http://www.human.cornell.edu)

### "Obesity Prevention: A Challenge of the 21st Century"

**Dean Lisa Staiano-Coico**

Long Island, N.Y.  
September 27

### HE Advisory Council Meeting

New York City  
September 29

### Homecoming Game

**Cornell vs. Colgate**

Cornell campus  
October 14

### "Convenient Arrangements: Cornell Influences on Contemporary House Design"

**Jan Jennings, Professor of Design and Environmental Analysis**

Chicago, Ill., and Denver, Colo.  
October 17-18

### "Business of Fashion"

**Co-sponsored with The Johnson School and Cornell Entrepreneur Network**

New York City  
October 18

### Henry Ricciuti Lecture:

**Eleanor MacCoby, Barbara Kimball Browning Professor of Psychology (Emerita), Stanford University**

Cornell campus  
October 23

### Flemmie Kittrell Ph.D. '36 Address

**Jenice L. View, Ph.D., Just Transition Alliance and George Mason University**

Cornell campus  
October 24

### Cornell Trustee Council Weekend

Cornell campus  
October 26-28

### Brenda Bricker Leadership Event

New York City  
November 2

### "Leadership Development for a Challenging Time"

**Brenda Bricker, Director, Leadership and Undergraduate Research**

Boston, Mass.  
November

### Bronfenbrenner Lecture

**Glen H. Elder, Jr. Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**

Cornell campus  
November 9

### The Iscol Family Program for Leadership Development in Public Service

**Craig Kielburger, Free The Children**

Cornell campus  
November 13

### Urban Semester Reunion

New York City  
January 19, 2007

## Passing the Gavel

It's hard to believe that my tenure as HEAA president came to a close on Reunion Weekend! Being president has been an amazing experience that has enriched me in many ways. I thank you all for having given me this incredible opportunity.

I have always believed that one of the great benefits of volunteer activity is the opportunity to meet interesting people—people with whom one shares so many similar values and goals. I have been rewarded many-fold by having had the opportunity to meet and work with all the members of the HEAA Board as well as the incredible staff of the HE Alumni Affairs and Development Office; a special thank you to Samantha Castillo-Davis, Luanne Prosperi Stefanucci, and Marybeth Tarzian, without whom the job simply could not be done. However, perhaps the most enriching benefit of having been president was the opportunity to get to know our new dean, Lisa Staiano-Coico. I can't say enough about Dean Lisa. Her great intellect, enormous energy, and complete embodiment of the Human Ecology spirit are truly inspirational.

The HEAA has yet again had a productive year. We have sponsored or helped co-sponsor numerous events around the country. From New York to California, our board members hosted gatherings for Dean Lisa to meet alumni in personal and intimate settings. Through the HEAA Faculty Speakers Program we sent Human Ecology



faculty to speak to Cornell Clubs and alumni in Albany, Houston, San Antonio, New York City, and Washington, D.C. In Ithaca, we joined the CALS Alumni Association and the Johnson School in holding "Return to the Classroom: A Day at Cornell," at which more than 150 alumni took "classes" taught by faculty from all three schools. Additionally, we had a banner year in distributing over \$13,000 in grants to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students for research and professional development projects. There is truly no better way we can spend our association's dues. And, to ensure they are relevant, we began a thorough review of our alumni association by-laws, as well as our policies and procedures, and are currently revising them.

At the HEAA annual meeting and breakfast, we were proud when it was announced that one of our own past presidents of the HEAA, Ronni Chernoff '67, was honored with the distinguished Helen Bull Vandervort Award. We were pleased to award another exceptional Human Ecology graduate, Jonelle Bradshaw '96, the Recent Alumnus Achievement Award.

Finally, we have just started a new group, known as the HEAA Regional Ambassadors, which is open to any member of the HEAA who would like to get involved or stay involved with the HEAA and the college. If you did not receive the letter of invitation but would like to join this group, please e-mail the new HEAA vice president, Mary Kahn, at [mask@aol.com](mailto:mask@aol.com). We welcome your assistance.

I hope to see you soon!

*Marcy Sonneborn Fabiani '73*

### Human Ecology Alumni Association 2006 Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award

The Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award has been presented annually since 1983 to alumni of the College of Human Ecology who have demonstrated those qualities exemplified by the late Helen Bull Vandervort '26. Those qualities include outstanding performance in service to the college and university, professional roles and/or volunteer roles and responsibilities, and contributions and honors as recognized by one's peers.

Ronni Chernoff '67 embodies the spirit of the Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award as demonstrated by her outstanding contributions to her profession and her continuing leadership and volunteer efforts with the College of Human Ecology and the Cornell community.

Ronni served as president of the Human Ecology Alumni Association from 2001 to 2003 and, in 2004, was honored as an emerita board member. She is a past member of the Human Ecology Advisory Council and, in 1990, was the college's first alumna to hold the distinction of the Dorothy Proud Lecturer in Nutritional Sciences. In addition to her service to the college, Ronni has been actively involved in the President's Council of Cornell Women since 2000 and the Cornell University Council, elected by the Board of Trustees in 1996 and 2002. Most recently, Ronni was nominated for the Franklin Rhodes Class of '56 Honorary Visiting Professorship at Cornell University for the 2006–2007 academic year.

Ronni is widely recognized as an expert in her profession. She is associate director for education and evaluation of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital; director of the Arkansas Geriatric Education Center; director of education in the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS); director of education for the Arkansas Aging Initiative; professor of geriatrics at the College of Medicine, UAMS; and professor of health behavior and health education at the College of Public Health, UAMS.

She has been involved in many professional activities at the national level. Ronni was a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging and chaired the National Nutrition Advisory Council for the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging from 1996 to 2001. She is currently a member of the Center on Medicaid and Medicare Services' panel on nutrition regulations in nursing homes.

A prolific author and editor, Ronni has edited five books and published 35 abstracts, 42 journal articles, and 106 other publications. She has given over 475 continuing education lectures across the globe during her career. Most recently, she was invited to speak in Japan on malnutrition in the elderly and in Hong Kong on nutrition and immune function.

Ronni earned an M.S. and M.Ed. in nutrition from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.



### Human Ecology Alumni Association 2006 Recent Alumnus Achievement Award

The Human Ecology Alumni Association Recent Alumnus Achievement Award has been presented annually since 1999 to alumni who demonstrate excellence and personal commitment through outstanding professional contributions in employment or volunteer activities, community involvement, and contributions to the college and Cornell.

Jonelle Bradshaw '96 personifies the qualities of the Recent Alumnus Award through both her contributions to the College of Human Ecology and Cornell and demonstrated excellence in her profession.

Jonelle is a dedicated volunteer for the university and college. She is a member of the Cornell University Mosaic Implementation Subcommittee and regional chair for programming on the Cornell University Black Alumni Association. She has maintained her connections to students by participating as a mentor and facilitator for a Human Ecology student leadership retreat, serving as a career panelist for the Human Ecology Association for Students of Color, and chaperoning for the Minority Hosting Weekend bus trip to New York City.

Professionally, Jonelle has an impressive record of focusing on education, workforce creation, and economic development issues. In 1999, she founded JBA Consulting, where she reviews federal and state legislation for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center to assess opportunities for at-risk student populations. She develops strategies for GED students to transition into job-training programs; and she develops education programs for college students, addressing such topics as employment law and ethics, with particular focus on Title XII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Since 2001, Jonelle also holds the position of associate director of training and development for St. John's University where she assesses employee needs, training initiatives, and achievement of strategic planning goals. She develops and executes assessment strategies to determine gaps and opportunities in key departments—a recent reorganization led to a \$1.7 million investment in infrastructure, staffing, and programming. Jonelle also conducts national benchmarking studies for public safety, customer service, diversity initiatives, and student affairs.

Additionally, Jonelle holds an adjunct faculty position at St. John's College, giving motivational speeches to students, faculty, and colleagues. She has also spoken at national conferences—including the keynote address at Catholic Charities' HeadStart to Employment Conference—and to local organizations such as the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center and Qwest Educational Initiatives, upon whose boards she sits.

A Human Service Studies major (now PAM), Jonelle Bradshaw was honored by the college as an Outstanding Senior. She won the prestigious Elsie Van Buren Award and served as chair of the Human Ecology Mentor Program as an undergraduate.



# Student Profiles

## TRUCE Internship Enthralls Nutrition Major

Amanda Zongrone could have gone back to suburban Greece, N.Y., that summer between her sophomore and junior years. Instead she chose the sweltering heat of New York City—and found life-changing conversations there.

"I could ask Ray questions you really can't ask anyone else, like how he understands the worth of his college degree," says Zongrone of Ray Figeroura, her supervisor at TRUCE Fitness and Nutrition Center, a division of Harlem Children's Zone. "Some people think it's only worth it if you graduate and make a lot of money, yet he works for a nonprofit for relatively low pay."

Having conversations like these with people who have chosen public service careers with organizations that work with New York City's poorest children, families, and communities is the *raison d'être* of research internships with the Cornell Urban Scholars Program. When she arrived in New York, Zongrone, who had been on a fast track to medical school, was rethinking her plans. She'd taken nutrition courses as part of the pre-med curriculum and had unexpectedly found the material fascinating. She'd also conducted two different research studies on obesity with two internationally recognized scholars, nutrition professors Gretel Peltó and David Levitsky, the S. H. Weiss Presidential Fellow in nutrition. And opportunities to shadow physicians, arranged through the club called PATCH (Preprofessional Association Toward Careers in Health), had been eye opening.

"I realized I could use my interest in science in a different way than being a doctor—perhaps more on the programmatic and policy end of things and with more involvement in research," Zongrone explains.

The internship at TRUCE gave Zongrone, who had already worked in youth development settings, a first chance to do so from a nutrition perspective. And to try her hand at stimulating life-changing conversations in others.

"We looked around their neighborhood and kids began to ask questions like: 'Why, when I



go to the Upper East Side are there fresh fruits and vegetables everywhere but there's nothing here but fast food?"

In response to the scarcity of nutritional food close at hand, Zongrone helped the eighth-graders at TRUCE to grow their own in an urban garden project.

On campus, just as at TRUCE, Zongrone is deeply involved in a variety of academic and extracurricular opportunities. At the end of her freshman year she became an officer with PATCH and participated in LeaderShape—a six-day residential skill development training institute to mentor undergraduates who promise to be tomorrow's leaders on how to lead with integrity.

Zongrone is involved in the arts as well. This year she'll be director of the *Vagina Monologues*, a play presented annually to raise awareness of and discourage violence against women. She also has been a tutor with the Friends of Farm Workers, a club that holds one-on-one weekly English as a second language tutorials at the residences of locally employed migrant workers.

The ease of involvement in so many adventures was something that initially attracted Zongrone to Cornell. "I've really had to make sure that I don't go overboard with that stuff and save time to study," she says with a laugh.

But study she does. Among her favorite classes were Professor Patsy Brannon's Maternal and Child Health. Zongrone found the class format (instead of tests she examined case studies and problem sets, then wrote papers) particularly effective in prompting her to think critically about nutritional issues during pregnancy, postpartum, and childhood.

After graduation? The Peace Corps, then a doctorate in international nutrition are what looks good right now.

"I'm keeping my options open," says Zongrone, on the eve of her senior year. "There's a lot of room for growth."

Metta Winter

## PAM Senior Sets Sights on Medical School

"I saw semi-third world conditions here in the United States six months after Hurricane Katrina."

So says Paulvalery Roulette '07, who spent spring break in New Orleans gutting houses filled with mud and garbage. "It was definitely a risky, life-changing experience."

Roulette sees volunteering with Katrina on the Ground—a nationwide effort of minority college students to assist in the city's recovery—as fitting in perfectly with all the college has taught him. For when Roulette, a Meinig Family Cornell National Scholar and varsity triple and long jumper as well, wasn't smashing down walls and carting out debris, he was making practical use of knowledge gained in his human development and policy analysis classes.

It's important to him that Human Ecology dean Lisa Staiano-Coico was one of the Cornell administrators who committed funds to sponsor 30 students' participation in Katrina on the Ground. Roulette participated because he saw that, although many of the people affected by the hurricane were African American, few of the college-age volunteers were minorities.

On campus, too, Roulette is committed to helping the minority community. Last year he co-chaired the Men of Color Council, an organization formed his freshman year by other minority students to hold leadership conferences, dinner meetings, and other events to support each other's academic success at Cornell.

"The unity and networking I've found among the men here is something I never experienced before," says Roulette, who was one of only nine African American men in his 400-member Long Island high school class. This year he's helping to organize more African American and Latino male mentors to participate in mentorship programs for Ithaca youth.

As for his own future, Roulette is aiming for medical school. His love of people, combined with a facility in the sciences,



has inclined him toward a career in medicine.

He's getting plenty of experience inside and outside the classroom. Take Development of African American children, taught by biracial graduate student Makela Parramore Wilbourn. In Wilbourn's course, discussions of research on the cultural and social influences on the development of African American children prompted eye-opening discussions among classmates who were two-thirds white females, one-third minority females, and two minority males.

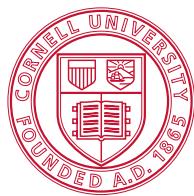
"Everybody loved the class because we dealt with race relations so openly, it changed the way we related to one other," Roulette says. It also changed his attitude toward conducting research himself when he realized that the research agenda of any field is shaped by who is choosing the topics, designing the studies.

"Whole segments of the population are being left out because those people aren't doing research," Roulette explains.

What he'll do about that can wait until next year. This summer Roulette is in New York City learning the public health side of medicine through a Cornell Urban Scholars Program internship at the city's largest public employee union, DC 37. His first day on the job Roulette was sent to Albany to lobby with the union's "Save Our Safety Net" campaign to influence the recommendations of the state's hospital closing commission.

"It's one thing to go into medicine to help people by diagnosing them," Roulette says. "But I'm learning that really effective doctors are a big part of their community; many whom I've met are also community activists."

Metta Winter



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