

Cornell CHRONICLE

A weekly digest of news from CHRONICLE ONLINE: www.news.cornell.edu

JUNE 3, 2011

University submits site plans for nets under, on bridges

Cornell submitted site plan applications May 31 with Ithaca's planning department to install nets underneath six bridges on and adjacent to the Cornell campus. Cornell also has applied to replace the metal bars now lining a seventh bridge, the Suspension Bridge connecting Fall Creek Drive and University Avenue, with vertical nets. On all the bridges, the nets would be made of low-visibility tensile steel mesh.

"We've taken care to submit designs that will preserve the aesthetic value of the bridges and vistas," said Susan Murphy, vice president for student and academic services. "We believe the designs also will make vulnerable members of our community feel safer and reduce the incidence of a highly lethal and potentially contagious form of suicide."

If the Planning and Development Board approves the site plans, the proposed nets would replace the temporary fences now on the Cornell-owned bridges. The city's Common Council will decide whether the nets should be installed on city-owned bridges; its decision is unlikely before fall 2011.

The nets are similar to those that San Francisco has approved for the Golden Gate Bridge and to those installed on several bridges in Switzerland. There have been no suicides or rescues from the Swiss nets since the first system was installed in 1999, said Cornell University Architect Gilbert Delgado. The systems are robust in construction and require minimal maintenance, he added.

— Susan Kelley

President welcomes grads to global CU family

Prospects for this year's 6,000 graduates look bright, said Cornell President David Skorton May 29 in his fifth Commencement address in sun-drenched Schoellkopf Stadium.

Despite tough economic times, more graduates this year have jobs or plans for graduate school lined up than last year's graduating class did.

"Equally important to your long-term success, though, will be what you've gained from being full and contributing members of the very special and multifaceted Cornell community and from the bonds to your families that are so evident today," said Skorton.

"Each of us is also part of a larger family: the nearly 150-year-old family of Cornell. This is a family that is also a community," Skorton said.

Skorton thanked graduating seniors Alex Silver and Jon Tai for their viral video tribute to Cornell, "which captures the bittersweet essence of this time."

He noted that members of the Class of '11 hold Marshall, Luce, Udall, Goldwater, Truman and Gates Cambridge scholarships, a Carnegie Junior Fellowship and National Science Foundation



JASON KOSKI/UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY

President David Skorton and Professor Robin Davison exit Schoellkopf Stadium after Commencement May 29.

Graduate Research Fellowships.

"Your success confirms that a rigorous Cornell education is a significant achievement and is recognized as such nationally and internationally," Skorton said.

More than 47 percent of the class has accepted jobs and 33 percent will continue their education, Skorton said, for a total of about 80 percent, up from 75 percent last year.

"Whether your passion is politics or public service, profes-

sional leadership or a more individualized pursuit, I encourage you to do what you've done here – to find some communities in which you feel safe and at home and but also to find others that will stretch and challenge you. It is through our communities that we amplify our individual abilities, combine our varied talents and ultimately forge the collaborative relationships upon which a functioning democracy depends," he concluded.

— George Lowery

Giuliani to students: Lead with optimism

In an age when information is available in seconds from all over the world, young people must develop the ability to think for themselves and hone their leadership skills, said former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani May 28 at Senior Convocation during Graduation Weekend.

The most important principle of leadership, he noted, is the ability to set goals based on strong beliefs. The second principle is optimism, which he defined as the ability to solve problems.

Third, recognize courage and find it in oneself. Contrary to what most people believe, courage is not fearlessness. Rather, it is the ability to chan-

nel the energy generated by fear into the fourth principle: "relentless preparation." That was the lesson that helped him the most, Giuliani said, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Fifth, value teamwork and find people who could help compensate for one's weaknesses.

Most important, he said, is to be available when things go wrong, not just for colleagues but also for friends and family. "Happiness in life is not just about your being what you want to be. Happiness in life is figuring out how you fit into this vast society, how you make your contribution," he said.

— Susan Kelley

Cornellians in the news

Who's asking?

"Every time the president circumvents the resolution, the more this ... becomes the norm." **Sarah Kreps**, assistant professor of government, on President Obama's failure to follow the 1973 War Powers Resolution, which prohibits U.S. armed forces from being involved in military actions for more than 60 days without congressional authorization. U.S. forces entered Libya March 21. **REUTERS, MAY 26**

Like rabbits

"At high density, deer will eat just about anything on the landscape. Orchard and nursery industry crops are particularly susceptible. It's almost impossible to plant without some kind of deer protection." **Paul Curtis**, an extension wildlife specialist, on the nationwide deer population explosion, from fewer than 500,000 nationwide in the early 1990s to 20 to 30 million today. **THE WASHINGTON POST, MAY 25**

Degree mills whine

"It's a case of be-careful-what-you-wish-for. Ballot-box stuffing is a venerable tradition. We couldn't expect political interests not to use any tool they have." **Cynthia Farina**, professor of law, on 90,000 comments from staff, students and parents at for-profit colleges to the Department of Education protesting a proposed new rule on student loan eligibility. **USA TODAY, MAY 25**

Bailed out

"If the Volcker rule gets defined the way it was originally intended to be defined, then they're probably going to need to divest their interest. But why kill the goose before you have to?" **Charles Whitehead**, associate professor of law, on a Citigroup fund that may become subject to a law Congress passed last year to force bank holding companies to cease betting with their own money. **BLOOMBERG NEWS, MAY 18**

For classes of '1s and 6s,' a Reunion marked by firsts

Cornell's Reunion 2011 weekend will offer a number of firsts, including the first-ever 80th Reunion and the first Reunion Zero, a gathering for the Class of 2011.

Reunion 2011, June 9-12, features events across campus for alumni from class years ending in 1 and 6 and their guests. The Olin Lecture, State of the University Address and Cornelliana Night will be streamed live on cornell.edu.

The Class of '31 has 30 living members and at least two (Rosemary Hunt Todd and Ruth Laible Tallmadge) intend to come for their 80th reunion. A new Reunion tradition – "Spirit of '31: Passing It Forward," June 9 in Statler Ballroom – will see the oldest classes welcoming members of the Class of 2006 to their first Reunion.

The 2011 Olin Lecture is "The Man Who Had It All and Gave It All Away," a dialogue between President David Skorton and philanthropist Chuck Feeney '56 June 10 at 3 p.m. in Bailey Hall.

Information on all events is available at alumni.cornell.edu/reunion. More highlights:

Thursday, June 9

- Hard-hat tour of the Johnson Museum's new wing, 3 p.m., registration required; call 607-255-6464. Also offered at 11 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

- Professor of equine medicine Doug Antzak '69 lectures on "Hybrids and Chimeras, Real and Imagined: Crossing Forbidden Boundaries in the Animal Kingdom," 4:30 p.m. in Goldwin Smith Hall's Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium.

A 5:30 p.m. reception follows in Kroch Library's Hirshland Gallery for the related exhibition "Animal Legends: From the Trojan Horse to Godzilla."

- Savage Club Reunion Show, 8:15 p.m. in Alice Statler Auditorium. Tickets \$20.

Friday, June 10

- "Then and Now," a Class of 1961 alumni panel, 10 a.m., Alice Statler Auditorium.

- The All-Alumni Affair, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Barton Hall, highlights Cornell's past, present and future with displays, food, music and activities. Advance registration or \$15 at the door, children ages 6-12, \$7.50.

- University Chorus and Glee Club, 9:15 p.m. in Bailey Hall. Tickets \$10 at www.baileytickets.com and the door.

Saturday, June 11

- Skorton delivers the State of the University Address, 10:30 a.m. in Bailey Hall. Open to registered alumni and their guests.

- Alumni Weekend Book Signing, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cornell Store. List of participating authors: www.store.cornell.edu/book/gbsigning.html.

- Allan Hosie Treman '21 Memorial Concert with a cappella group The Hangovers, 2:30 p.m., Cornell Plantations.

- University Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, 4 p.m. in Anabel Taylor Chapel.

- Cornelliana Night, 9:30 p.m. in Bailey Hall, with Cornell songs and recognition for Reunion attendance and giving.

— Daniel Aloï

Big Red Athletics



Senior Awards

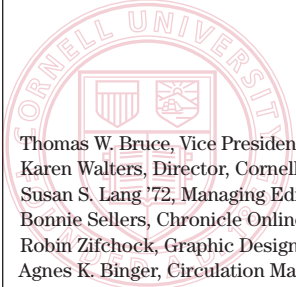
Seniors Elizabeth Dalrymple (softball), Catie De Stio (field hockey) and Mack Lewnes (wrestling) received the Charles H. Moore Outstanding Senior Varsity Athlete Award. Maddie Pearsall (gymnastics) and Colin Smith (heavyweight rowing) both earned the Ronald P. Lynch Senior Spirit Award, given to student-athletes whose leadership on and off the field models the ideals of the Big Red athletics department. Jack Dudley (men's lacrosse) and Karlee Overguard (women's ice hockey) were recognized with the Mario St. George Boiardi '04 Leadership Award.

Men's Lacrosse


Junior Rob Pannell was named the USILA's Lt. Raymond Enners Award winner as the Division I national player of the year and has repeated as the Jack Turnbull Award winner for Division I national attackman of the year. Pannell becomes just the 11th repeat winner in the 65-year history of the Turnbull Award and is the first-ever Cornellian to win the award twice in his career. A 2011 Tewaaraton Trophy finalist, Pannell owns the longest point-scoring streak in the nation, having registered at least one point in each of his 52 career games.

Women's Lacrosse

Junior Jessi Steinberg and sophomore Kate Ivory have been named to the IWLCIA All-Northeast Region second team. Steinberg was a two-time member of the All-Ivy first team and one of four unanimous selections in 2011. She led the team in goals (38), points (42) and game-winning goals (3), and was second in draw controls (23). Ivory makes her first appearance on an all-region team in 2011. A first-team All-Ivy selection, she led all conference players in both ground balls (37) and caused turnovers (23), while also ranking among the team leaders with 17 draw controls.



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Board of trustees told of successes in service, diversity

Recent universitywide accomplishments, employee concerns, faculty efforts to diminish student stress and progress toward diversity were the highlights of annual reports made to the Cornell Board of Trustees May 27 in Sage Hall.

President David Skorton began the board's open session by detailing the most recent successes of the past academic year, from the Corporation for National and Community Service's naming Cornell to the

2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll to Udall scholarship winners and athletics highlights including the women's polo team's 13th national title.

Tanya Grove, chair of the Employee Assembly (EA), who presented an annual report, said that many employees are feeling stress associated with real or perceived threats of job loss and an increase in responsibilities. The EA, she said, has

shared these concerns with the university's top administrators and approved an employee survey in the fall to generate qualitative and quantitative data on staff-related issues.

Dean of the University Faculty Bill Fry said in his annual report that the Faculty Senate has been exploring several issues in an effort to reduce student stress: a mechanism that would require face-to-face advising between faculty and students, pedagogi-

cal "best practices" and changes to the academic calendar.

Cornell's progress toward diversity and inclusion was summarized by Lynette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president for workforce diversity and inclusion. Of the 65 new faculty members who have accepted positions for the 2011-12 academic year, 48 percent are women and 19 percent are racial or ethnic minorities, she said.

— Susan Kelley

Vice president explains how rolling deficits are being paid down

Two years ago, the university was faced with a nagging, growing deficit, the result of a years-long rolling accumulation of debt that was projected to grow to nearly \$215 million by 2015 if the administration took no action. That so-called structural deficit will be nearly erased in fiscal year 2012, a year ahead of time, according to Vice President for Planning and Budget Elmira Mangum. And there are plans to reduce the annual operating budget deficit to \$15 million thanks to efficiency initiatives.

After the financial downturn in 2008, "there's a lot of good news going forward," she said, discussing the budget for fiscal 2012, beginning July 1. "We're trying to make sure that we have predictable, recurring resources to cover our predictable, recurring expenses. If we continue on the current course we will

have a sustainable budget for the long term."

Cornell's structural deficit was accumulated over the years by recurring investments in ongoing programs and activities. It is different from an annual deficit in that there has been no sustainable funding for the programs it supported and, until recent years, no dedicated strategy for paying it off. However, the administration has been chipping away at the problem since 2009, when the structural deficit stood at \$148 million. By fiscal 2010 it had been reduced to \$102 million and is expected to shrink to \$39.5 million by the close of fiscal 2011 on June 30. By the end of fiscal 2012, it will be nearly balanced with plans to pay it off completely in the future, Mangum said.

The university's ability to eliminate the structural deficit is thanks in large part to

the Administrative Streamlining Program, consisting of 10 cost-cutting initiatives that make centralized services more efficient. More than \$43 million of costs have been cut from the operating budget; the administration hopes to gain a further \$35 million to \$40 million of savings over the next three fiscal years.

Mangum was also optimistic about the fiscal 2012 operating budget of \$1.95 billion, which includes a \$30.6 million cut or 1.57 percent of the budget. That compares to a \$82.7 million cut or 4.35 percent on a budget of \$1.9 billion in fiscal 2011. Nearly half of the reduction in the fiscal 2012 budget is due to state funding cuts, which have decreased annual funding for operations of Cornell's contract colleges by 9.3 percent, or \$12.6 million.

— Susan Kelley

Provost affirms decision on support of Africana Studies

Provost Kent Fuchs issued the following statement June 2:

In the past six months, I have received many communications about the administrative unit to which the Africana Studies and Research Center should report.

Some recommended that Africana continue to report directly to the Provost, while others endorse the view that it should report to the College of Arts and Sciences.

After a careful review of these communications, and the suggestions made in meetings I have had with faculty and students, I have decided to affirm and implement as of July 1, 2011, the decisions that I announced in December 2010: 1) to provide

significant increased funding to recruit additional Africana faculty, 2) to provide resources for an Africana Ph.D. program, and 3) to have Africana administratively be part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

I remain convinced that the College of Arts and Sciences can and will provide important and necessary academic and administrative support to the Africana Studies and Research Center.

Eager to work closely and collaboratively with faculty, students, and staff in ASRC, the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences share my commitment to strengthen Africana so that it is a top nationally ranked program.

New book charts key economic, social trends in upstate New York

Cornell has released "Upstate New York in Profile," a chart book outlining key demographic, economic and social trends – including custom opinion poll data. The chart book was designed to provide valuable information for local officials, economic developers, entrepreneurs, school and health care administrators and public policy-makers in the region.

Produced by Cornell's Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI), the chart book is available free online at www.cardi.cornell.edu. It will also serve as a resource for conference participants at the inaugural "State of Upstate New York Conference: Resiliency, Partnerships and Innovations,"

in downtown Syracuse, June 8 and 9. The conference is open to the public.

"This chart book will provide useful data, survey information and links to additional resources so that stakeholders in the future of upstate New York can be on the same page with recent trends as they begin their discussions about how to best move forward with the various challenges and opportunities facing the upstate region," said Robin Blakely-Armitage, lead author of the chart book and CaRDI senior extension associate.

Additional information about the chart book and registration for the "State of Upstate" conference are posted at the CaRDI website.

Six plays, all set on campus, debut at Big Apple networking event

Six new plays by Cornell playwrights, composers and lyricists – including a comedy about cows discussing their fate at the College of Veterinary Medicine and the story of the trials, tribulations and dreams connecting generations of Cornell women – were showcased June 2 at the Snapple Center in midtown Manhattan.

Cornell Theatre Night featured short plays set on or around the Cornell campus. All were written, directed, performed, designed and produced by Cornellians.

"When I wrote my play, I had in mind a specific tree behind Sage Chapel, and I know another play is set at a certain bench in Collegetown," playwright Sheri Wilner '91 said.

The networking event, sponsored by Cornellians in Entertainment, gathered professional artists working in New York City, said Jason Brantman '97, who directed three of the plays. "The setting of the plays at Cornell helps people remember their Cornell experience and see the connections they have with each other," he said.

Bruce Levitt, professor of directing and acting, directed the other three plays and taught many of the event's organizers at Cornell. He said the event was initiated with a meeting at the Snapple Center, managed by Catherine

Russell '77. The organizers then issued a call for plays, which netted 17 proposals.

Aoise Stratford, a doctoral student in the Department of Theatre, Film and Dance, wrote "Open House" after she took her children to the Vet School's annual open house and saw a fistulated cow, one in which visitors can see into or insert a plastic-gloved arm into part of its stomach. The cows are used to aid in research and teaching.

"I remember thinking that it was incredible that we could do this kind of research," Stratford said, "but creepy at the same time."

Wilner based her play "Arts and Sciences" on a true story. In the play, a fine arts major painting a tree on the Arts Quad meets a plant pathology student intent on taking samples from the tree, which is dying.

"I have so many great memories of Cornell, but unfortunately great memories don't often make a great play," Wilner said.

The other plays staged June 2 were "Cox Library, 2:00 p.m.," a musical by Tony Hogrebe '04 and Danny Ross '06; "Triple Date," by Daina Schatz '03; "Saturday, 1:24 a.m.," by David L. Williams '98; and "Yawper on the Balch Bridge," by Lauren Feldman '01.

— *Kathy Hovis, Theatre, Film and Dance*

Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies moves to CU thanks to grants

Cornell soon will be home to the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies, thanks to two grants totaling \$470,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Annette Richards, professor of music, has been executive director of the center since 2007. The grant will help establish the program at Cornell and support its programs for three years.

Founded in 1979, the center is considered the country's pre-eminent organization for advancing historical keyboard music and instruments, largely through conferences, workshops, publications and a weekly radio program.

"It makes good sense to align Westfield with Cornell," Richards said. "Cornell has a distinguished record in historical performance, especially at the fortepiano; and Cornell, like Westfield, has made an unusually successful reputation for itself in the marriage of scholarship and performance at the highest levels."

Programs sponsored by the center have brought together leading performers, scholars and instrument-makers from around the world, often for events in collaboration with major cultural institutions.

Having Westfield at Cornell will help ensure that Cornell's collection of fortepianos, harpsichords and organs is well used and becomes a resource for performers and scholars, Richards said.

A new International Keyboard Competition and Summer Academy will be aimed at young performers, she said. "The goal is to combine performing on historical – or historically informed – keyboard instruments with learning about them. There is nothing like it in the United States or, especially where the fortepiano is concerned, in the world."

The project launches this summer with a fortepiano competition Aug. 1-6 at Cornell, with the academy the following week. The 2012 competition, for harpsichordists, will be in Washington, D.C.; and Cornell and the Eastman School of Music will host the 2013 competition for organists.

Richards is founding editor of the Westfield Center's annual journal, *Keyboard Perspectives*, focusing on interaction among scholarship, performance and instrument making. Cornell graduate students in musicology assist in its production.

— *Linda B. Glaser, College of Arts and Sciences*

This Week in Cornell History

Week of May 27-June 3

May 27, 1911 Cornell has one of its best athletic days ever. The crew teams won all three races, the track team won the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America championships, the freshman baseball team defeated Dartmouth College, and the varsity baseball team defeated Yale University in the 14th inning. John Paul Jones, Class of 1913, set the amateur world record in the mile run; he later set the first mile record officially recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations, the governing body today. A laudatory Boston editorial asked, "How does Cornell do it?"

June 1, 1957 Today is the birthday of Jeff Hawkins, Class of 1979, inventor of the Palm Pilot and Treo. It is also the birthday of Ernest Fox Nichols, D.Sc. 1897 (born 1869), who went on to become president of Dartmouth and then MIT; Frank Morgan, Class of 1912 (born 1890), the Hollywood actor who played the wizard in "The Wizard of Oz"; and Bryan Colangelo, Class of 1987 (born 1965), president and general manager of the National Basketball Association's Toronto Raptors.

June 1, 2005 Weill Cornell Medical College unveils a new Hippocratic Oath at its commencement. The committee that rewrote the oath considered the history of medicine, the enduring principles of medical practice and the profound social and scientific changes affecting the profession today. It also replaced phrases that have a religious connotation with ecumenical expressions, such as changing "I swear" to the secular "I vow."

Chronicle schedule

This is the last issue for this academic year of the Cornell Chronicle's print and e-newsletter editions; publication will resume Aug. 19. Chronicle Online – www.news.cornell.edu – will continue to post news daily throughout the summer. Enjoy your break!

CU in the City

Notables

Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., dean of Weill Cornell Medical College and Cornell provost for medical affairs, was honored May 20 by the National Lipid Association with its Distinguished Achievement Award for his contributions to advancing the use of lipid therapy for cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Joseph J. Fins was named the first recipient of a newly established professorship, the William Davis Jr., M.D., Professor of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell.

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spotlight: HISTORY

The new course Environmental History: The U.S. and Beyond (History 2581) will be taught by Aaron Sachs, associate professor of history, in the fall. It will explore the history of humanity's interrelationship with the natural world, drawing connections between past events and present environmental concerns.

Focused on U.S. history, the course will explore the geopolitical context of American environmental history and how "natural" forces have helped shape human history. Its interdisciplinary approach draws on history, ecology, public policy, law, economics, geography, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy and art history.

It will look at, for example, whether there's a link between the 1930s Dust Bowl and global warming; the role of germs in the colonization of North America; how humans have shaped the natural world through agriculture, urbanization and industrialization; and how cultural, scientific, political and philosophical attitudes toward the environment have changed over time.

Engineers 'learn to learn how' in communications course

On the first day of Engineering Communications 3500, when senior lecturer Rick Evans asks his senior-level engineering students how many consider themselves to be "communicators," few respond.

"You are all communicators," said Evans, director of Cornell's Engineering Communications Program, who works to make students appreciate just how much they will communicate as engineers. The course is one way in which their entry into industry or academia is balanced not just by learning, but "learning to learn how," Evans said.

As part of Cornell engineers' rigorous academic coursework, every student must fulfill a technical writing requirement. One way to do so is through the engineering college communications program, whose purpose, its website declares, is to "enable undergraduate engineering students to develop strategies for learning to learn how to act effectively and efficiently as communicators."

In other words, said Evans, it's not just about learning to write a technical report or memorizing tips on effective public

speaking, but an integral aspect of a professional engineer's life.

"What we talk about is using language as a form of social action," said Evans, whose teacher-colleagues are senior lecturer Penny Beebe and lecturer Sharon Ahlers. "We are trying to modify our students' notion of language use as either simply an exchange of information or a skill."

This theoretical framework is borne out in project work the students must complete in Evans' course. Requirements include managing a project with practical applications; often, this practicality becomes reality. For example, a student proposal about the feasibility of a new minor in sustainable energy systems helped form the basis for a new minor just approved by the college this year.

Other students redesigned the website of AguaClara, a student engineering group that designs water treatment plants in Honduras. "The strategy is not to create good writers, but to create effective doers and effective communicators in particular contexts," Evans said.

— Anne Ju

Class on garden-based learning develops useful products for Belize

Twelve undergraduate students embarked on a journey during spring break to discover their strengths as students, teachers and innovators as part of the Experiential Garden-Based Learning in Belize course this semester. They returned with ways to leave a permanent mark on the education they provided while in Belize.

The course, a joint effort between the Department of Horticulture and the International Agriculture and Rural Development program, emphasizes the integration of local agriculture, community food security and gardening through reflective writing and providing the opportunity to teach garden-based subject matter in the rural Toledo district of Belize.

Garden-based learning is an opportunity for academic service learning, which "consists of classes, activities and projects where gardening is used to integrate learning across disciplines, through active engagement and hands-on experience," explained the students in a May 2 seminar. The class, along with the instructor, two graduate student and a Cornell Cooperative Extension mentor, worked closely with the nonprofit Plenty Belize on the Garden-based Agriculture for Toledo's Environment (GATE) project in schools that serve rural Maya children.

While in Belize, the students taught children using the garden as a reference point. The class was divided into three teams, each with a different lesson plan: teaching the biology of plants found in the garden, conveying the importance of designing a functional garden and showing the connection between gardening and nutrition. At the end of the week, the students led a training session for 34 teachers in the Toledo district on how to incorporate

garden-based learning in their curricula.

"I think there were points on the trip at which the bar was raised regarding their own understanding of what they would be able to accomplish," said course instructor Marcia Eames-Sheavly, lecturer and senior extension associate at Cornell.

The students returned to Ithaca with concrete ideas on how to transform their experiences into meaningful projects, which they presented at the seminar. Each project will be incorporated into Plenty Belize's GATE program, though many of the projects also have relevance to the United States.

For example, Shauna-Kay Rainford '12, a natural resources major, created a brochure about the benefits and potential problems associated with the rapid construction of hydroelectric dams in Belize. Lindsay Myron '11 used her talents as a photographer to create a multimedia presentation for Plenty Belize's outreach program. Amy Jacobson '11 produced a vegetable growing guide for teachers that Plenty Belize has identified as pivotal to the success of school gardens.

Kristen Loria '11, who volunteers locally at the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School, created a garden-based pen pal curriculum to be used by teachers in the United States and globally.

Michelle Fonzi '11, who developed a handbook for teachers on garden layout, said that the most interesting part of the course was the ability to "bridge the gap between food and aesthetically pleasing gardens." Fonzi, a landscape architecture major, has "always been interested as a landscape designer in the interface between an ornamental garden and a small-scale farm. Learning about garden-based learning has been really eye opening."

— Kate Engler, writer intern

Cornell spinoff company provides portable ultrasound therapy devices for horses

Healing for horses has gone portable.

UltrOZ Elite Therapy System is the first wearable, therapeutic ultrasound system for the equine market. Nearly the size of an iPod Nano, these battery-operated systems fit within specially engineered neoprene leg wraps. With the device, horses can exercise or feed in the pasture unencumbered while receiving up to six hours of unsupervised ultrasound therapy.

ZetrOZ LLC, a business spinoff from Cornell's Department of Biomedical Engineering, has begun selling the device at FarmVet, a large distributor of equine products, that is its initial distributor.

For years, veterinarians have used ultrasound to reduce inflammation and promote healing in horses, but the equipment was bulky. The new device is simple to attach to a horse and provides comfort and reduces pain.

Ultrasound is acoustic wave energy that stimulates cellular activity through mechanical vibrations and micro-massages tissue at the cellular level. Ultrasound accelerates and compresses the inflammatory phase of healing, increases local circulation, boosts cellular permeability, improves collagen synthesis, decreases edema, and causes the release of cytokines and natural analgesics for pain control.

UltrOZ's system provides a consistent, controlled, easy-to-use method of providing long-term ultrasound therapy, said

George Lewis, a Cornell medical ultrasound researcher and founder of the spinoff company.

Lewis' hope for the device is to help people as well as animals of all types, and to make this medical therapy available to people at a low cost and with minimal invasiveness.

"Once it has FDA approval and people are wearing these systems worldwide, I hope that they will find themselves next to the Icy Hot patch on the shelves of consumer health stores," said Lewis, who developed his first portable ultrasound prototype as a graduate student at Cornell.

About two of every three competitive horses suffer an injury or chronic condition, and most can benefit from prolonged ultrasound therapy, he said. UltrOZ is recommended for use on injured tendons, splints, muscle tear, arthritis and bone fracture repair. The therapy is entirely nonpharmaceutical and can be used on performance horses without risk of side effects or testing complications.

The UltrOZ system was tested by equine veterinarians and therapists at the Rood and Riddle, and Hagyard equine hospitals. Veterinarians reported increased bone healing, quick reductions in inflammation due to splints, and increased rates of healing in tendon and ligament injuries.

Funding for part of this research was provided by the National Science Foundation.

Faculty Senate votes to end posting of median grades

It just got harder to shop around for good grades at Cornell. The Faculty Senate voted May 11 to stop posting course median grades on a university website. The resolution, aimed at ending grade inflation, passed by a margin of about 3-to-1, according Dean of the University Faculty William Fry.

The resolution states that students have been using online information on course median grades – halfway between the lowest and highest – to sign up for classes in which higher grades are awarded, contributing to grade inflation at Cornell. The Office of the University Registrar's website has reported median grades online since 1998.

Research by two Cornell professors provided the resolution's rationale. Assistant professor of economics Talia Bar, professor of marketing and economics Vrinda Kadiyali and an Israeli colleague of the two showed in a 2009 paper that the availability of "grade information online induced students to select leniently graded courses – or in other words, to opt out of courses they would have selected absent considerations of grades."

The Office of the University Registrar will continue to record median grades offline but make them available only to deans, department chairs and those needing the data for research.

The May 11 resolution reverses part of the senate's 1996 decision to post course median grades online and to include them on students' transcripts.

Plant breeders use genomic selection to improve crops in poor countries

Cornell researchers will use genomics to help smallholder farmers in at-risk areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America, thanks to a \$3 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The researchers say one of the best long-term solutions to increasing productivity is to improve the crop varieties that smallholder farmers grow.

They will use genomic selection to boost the rate of variety improvements in maize and wheat two- to threefold. It will be the largest scale test to date of the efficacy of genomic selection.

"Farmers with small holdings of land in developing countries play key roles in poverty reduction and food security but are under tremendous pressure to keep pace with the rising demand for food," said Mark Sorrells, who chairs Cornell's plant breeding and genetics department and heads the project. "Traditional solutions to increasing productivity typically entail

more effective irrigation and nutrient management, but both solutions are expenses that smallholder farmers can ill afford. Genomic selection is the next frontier for rapid genetic gains in maize and wheat."

"This project will ultimately help small farmers in developing countries increase their yields and improve their livelihoods," said Jean-Luc Jannink, quantitative geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service at the Holley Center for Agriculture and Health on the Cornell campus and an adjunct professor at Cornell.

Sorrells and Jannink will partner with the Mexico-based International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center.

Genomic selection combines powerful statistical methods with new DNA marker and sequencing technologies to select untested germplasm lines based on predicted performance.

— John Bakum, CALS

New graduate drowns in accident May 30

Kendrick Castro '11, age 22, of Reston, Va., died in a swimming accident in Fall Creek gorge May 30. He graduated May 29, receiving a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in information science, and had aspirations to continue composing electronic music following his graduation. Plans to commemorate Castro's life will be made in consultation with his family.

Memorials

A memorial service to honor **Zevi Blum**, professor emeritus of art who died Feb. 25, will be held June 18, 10:30 a.m.-noon in Sage Chapel.

The family of the late **Alfred E. Kahn**, the Robert Julius Thorne Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, who died Dec. 27, invite the public to a service, June 25, 1:30-3 p.m., in Kennedy Hall's Call Auditorium. A reception will follow at the A.D. White House.

>> The essentials <<<<

ideas>>people
>>details>>data
>>happenings

>Essentially NYC

Gumdrops and green design

Using gumdrops and toothpicks, more than 400 New York City schoolchildren imagined the possibilities of ecological design at an exhibit hosted by Cornell's Sustainability Research Facility student team at the Brooklyn Children's Museum's Earth Day celebration.

The kids clambered onto a play structure and chair assembled from design and environmental analysis associate professor Jack Elliott's novel Triakonta system, a sustainable architectural framework for furniture and buildings composed of geodesic metal nodes and wooden struts. Under and around the structure, Cornell students helped the children engineer their own replicas and designs with everyday materials.

Architecture student and SRF communications and publicity director Jesse McElwain '13 delighted in watching the "light bulb" moment when the children "recognized the similarity between the mini-structures they had created and Jack's modular structural system, and with it the possibilities of reconfiguration."

The Cornell students also hosted a gardening workshop for schoolchildren, where about 50 students learned about composting and recycling. But Elliott's jungle gym was the biggest hit. "The kids were all over it; we could not get them to leave," Elliott said. "It was a great opportunity to teach children young and old about sustainable design, geometry, scale and form. They had a blast."

— Ted Boscia

>Shelf Life

Keep in touch

Graduation may mean saying goodbye to late nights at Mann and Olin, but it doesn't have to mean leaving the library behind entirely.

Alumni can still use plenty of library resources, including a new database that provides access to tons of full-text articles. Project MUSE incorporates journals published by multiple university presses, and it covers a tremendous range of subjects in the humanities, social sciences and arts.

And you don't have to say goodbye to Cornell librarians, either - their services are available to alumni through the Ask a Librarian service. Visit alumni.library.cornell.edu/askalibrarian.html.

>Be Essential

Have a tip to share on something essential, interesting, hidden, strange or otherwise worth knowing about at Cornell? Send it to cunews@cornell.edu and include "Essential" in the subject line.

Undergrad student, alumni elected to board of trustees

Seven new members of the Cornell Board of Trustees were recently elected, with terms beginning July 1.

They are: Alexander William Bores '13, student trustee; Gregory Galvin, M.S. '82, Ph.D. '84, MBA '93, and Rana Glasgal '87, M.Eng. '92, alumni trustees; and Douglas L. Braunstein '83, Ruben J. King-Shaw Jr. '83, Chiaki Tanuma, MPS '80, and Karen P. Zimmer '91, M.D. '98, trustees-at-large.

The board of trustees helps determine major policy directions for the university and has an important role in safeguarding the integrity of the university. Cornell's 64-member board includes two faculty and two student trustees and one employee trustee as full voting members.

Bores is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and labor relations, with a minor in economics. Last year, as president of Cornell Students Against Sweatshops, Bores led a campaign for which the group was given the Sol Stetin Award for Social Justice by the American Labor Museum. He is president of Phi Alpha Delta.

Galvin, who lives in Ithaca, is president and chief executive officer of Kionix, which he founded in 1993 to commercialize a novel micromechanical technology pioneered by Cor-

nell researchers.

Glasgal, of Palo Alto, Calif., is associate vice provost for institutional research and decision support at Stanford University.

Braunstein, chief financial officer at JP Morgan Chase & Co., previously served as head of investment banking in the Americas, and has held other senior investment banking positions.

King-Shaw is chair and chief executive officer of Mansa Equity Partners, a health care private equity investment and advisory firm.

Tanuma is president and chief executive officer of Green House Group, a holding company for 35 companies, operating hotels, restaurants and takeout shops in Asia. (Tanuma's term will begin Jan. 1, 2012; Tanuma will fill the trustee vacancy that will be left by board chair Peter Meinig '61, who will step down Dec. 31, 2011.)

Zimmer is a pediatrician and the clinical director for ECRI Institute Patient Safety Organization, a nonprofit health services research agency.

The board also re-elected John A. Noble, Lubna Suliman Olayan, Lisa Skeete Tatum and Michael J. Zak.

The undergraduate and graduate student trustees serve two-year terms, elected in alternate years. The terms for alumni trustees are four years.

Cornell Hillel awards 2011 Tanner Prize to Robert J. Katz '69

Cornell Hillel's board of trustees has awarded the 2011 Tanner Prize to Robert J. Katz '69 "for his contributions to the Jewish people and to Cornell."

The prize will be presented June 6 at the Cornell Club in New York City.

Harold Tanner '52, chairman emeritus of the Cornell Board of Trustees, will present the prize bearing his name; Cornell President David J. Skorton will also speak at the luncheon.

The Tanner Prize, established

by Cornell Hillel's board in 2004, is awarded for making significant contributions to Cornell and to Jewish life anywhere, including, but not limited to, Cornell Hillel.

Katz, a senior director of Goldman Sachs and vice chair of the Cornell Board of Trustees, is chair of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute. He played a key role in creating a permanent home for its 52,000 Holocaust testimonies and for the educational programs built upon those testimonies.

6 THINGS TO DO

June 3-Aug. 5, 2011

1. The gift of photography

The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art's spring exhibition of contemporary photography, "Surreal/Subjective: Recent Photographic Gifts From Alumni," will be featured throughout Reunion Weekend (June 9-12) and continues through June 19.

The exhibition examines the changing conceptual and psychological import of photography, as seen in recent gifts to the collection from alumni donors including Arthur Penn '56, Ira Drukier '66 and Gary Davis '76.

The exhibition features work by Meghan Boody, Gregory Crewdson, Emmet Gowin, Ana Mendieta, Frederick Sommer '27 and many others. Museum admission is free. Information: museum.cornell.edu.

2. Happy birthday, Olin

Cornell Library is celebrating the first 50 years of John M. Olin Library this year, with a special exhibition through the end of 2011 and a birthday party Friday, June 10, 2-3 p.m. in Libe Café. The party features remarks from Anne R. Kenney, the Carl A. Kroch University Librarian. Birthday cake and light refreshments will be served.

"Olin@50: Inspiration Since 1961" is on display in Olin and Uris libraries from June 8 to Dec. 23. The exhibition includes photographs, drawings and artifacts highlighting a half-century of Olin's history and evolution; its role as one of the largest university research libraries in the country and its contributions to collaboration, research and scholarship. Information: olinuris.library.cornell.edu/olinat50.



PROVIDED

Olin Library turns 50. See No. 2.

3. Fly-fishing facts

Master angler Michael Lenetsky of the Ithaca chapter of Trout Unlimited will present "Introduction to Fly-Fishing in the Finger Lakes," June 10, 10 a.m., 102 Mann Library. Lenetsky will discuss fishing opportunities for fly-fishing enthusiasts of all levels, including where to fish and species to target during different seasons of the year. His talk is held in conjunction with the Mann Library exhibition "Rainbows and Plunge Pools: Fly-fishing and the Lore of the Streams." Information: www.mannlib.cornell.edu/events-exhibits.

4. Organizing organisms

Jay T. Groves will give a University Lecture, "At the Interface of Physics and Biology: Spatial Organization in Chemical Biology," June 16, 4-5 p.m., Hollis E. Cornell Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall. The lecture and a reception to follow in Weill Hall are open to the public. Groves is an associate professor of chemistry at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California-Berkeley. His research is in the physical chemistry and molecular organization of cell membranes. University Lectures are sponsored by the university faculty and bring speakers to campus who lecture on a single subject for a wide audience.

5. Remembering Zevi Blum

An exhibition and memorial service this month will celebrate the life and art of Zevi Blum '55, B.Arch. '57, professor emeritus of art, who died Feb. 25 at age 77.

Blum entered Cornell in 1951 as a fine arts major, changed majors to architecture and returned to teach drawing in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning from 1974 to 2002. He enjoyed a long career as an artist and illustrator of international renown, with his satirical drawings and etchings appearing in books and periodicals including *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review* and *Reader's Digest*.

"Zevi Blum: A Retrospective Exhibition" will be on display June 9-19 in John Hartell Gallery, Sibley Dome. A reception is planned for Saturday, June 18, 5-8 p.m. in the gallery. See Page 6 for memorial service information.

6. Summer Session events

The School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions presents 16 free lectures, performances and Arts Quad concerts from June 28 to Aug. 5, all open to the public.

Performance and concert highlights include the Ithaca Wind Quintet, June 28 at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts; Afro-funk band Ikebe Breakdown, July 1 on the Arts Quad; folk musicians Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, July 15 on the Arts Quad; Joe Crookston, July 19 at the Schwartz Center; music and dance by Vanaver Caravan, July 26 at the Schwartz Center; and pianist Jacqueline Schwab, Aug. 2 at the Schwartz Center. Lectures will be held Wednesdays in Kennedy Hall, with talks by Paul McEuen, July 6; Diane Ackerman, July 13; and Jon Kleinberg, July 20. Arts Quad concerts begin at 7 p.m., and all indoor events are at 7:30 p.m. Complete schedule: www.sce.cornell.edu/ss/about/events.