HumanEcology

COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY · CORNELL UNIVERSITY · VOLUME 47 · NUMBER 2 · FALL 2019

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APPLYING KNOWLEDGE

Capstone course connects student research with real-world policy

- **Feature:** The New MVR Hall
- **Research:** Water filtration through nanoscience
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College of Human Ecology

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ENGAGED TEACHING

Graduate students on the frontline of student learning

Graduate students are skilled partners in carrying out research, leading labs, developing new ideas and assisting in teaching. They help create and maintain much of the innovative environment that makes Cornell and the College of Human Ecology an ideal place for undergraduates to thrive.


Neo

"For me, I think that being a TA has so much impact in terms of affecting and making students interested in the materials," said Jeffrey Neo, a doctoral student studying Human Behavior and Design within Human Ecology's Department of Design + Environmental Analysis.

According to Neo, it is the greater one-on-one time with students that allow TAs to play an impactful role on a student's level of engagement in a class. "It's this so called desire that makes it enjoyable for me and an enriching experience for students," he said.

Increasing graduate fellowship funding is one of Human Ecology's top priorities because of its importance to the college's continued success. For more information on how you can show your support though gift giving, contact Jennifer Rouin at ejr68@cornell.edu.

Mark Vorreuter


Dunifon

I am delighted to introduce the fall issue of *Human Ecology* magazine, which is, once again, a showcase of the dynamic and impactful work happening at the College and just a snapshot of the breadth and depth of the innovative teaching, research and outreach that is our mission.

Inside, you will read about the amazing work of our faculty, students and alumni. We feature fascinating research taking place across the College, including leveraging fibrous nanoparticles to create filtration systems that capture contaminants in the manufacturing process, a new metabolic discovery that may inform solutions to heart disease and diabetes, and how drug monitoring programs are impacting the opioid crisis. We further spotlight the Martha Van Rensselaer Hall renovations and provide you with a view of what is to come in the near future. I am excited to report that the final phase of renovations will be complete by the start of summer next year. As always, we also highlight some of the amazing work of our alumni and their impact on the world as well as on the College community through volunteerism and giving.

As we rejuvenate our facilities, we also benefit from the privilege of hiring an unprecedented number of new faculty members in the last few years, all at the forefront of innovation in their fields and dedicated to the multi-disciplinary and applied focus of the College. I am so impressed and inspired by the evolution, mission and ongoing work of the College and am equally motivated by the vote of confidence from our generous supporters. Thanks to your support, we are able to enhance our students' experiences, continue to invest in our faculty, and so much more.

I am grateful for our alumni and other partners who are engaged in what we are seeking to accomplish! I hope you enjoy this issue and have a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,

Rachel Dunifon
Interim Dean

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Photo: Bob Handelman

MVR Hallway Rendering: Joanna Luh, Hyerin Lee and Yun Mi Koh

Capstone course impacts real-world programs

Human Ecology capstone courses allow undergraduates to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world settings. In PAM 4950: Capstone Projects Course, students are offered the opportunity to integrate and apply knowledge and skills they have learned in the PAM major by addressing real-world problems for outside agencies.

This year's class provided research support for a new parenting education program Cornell Cooperative Extension is piloting in the Tompkins County Jail. Using research methods to answer program or policy questions presented by a community partner, students worked in teams to frame interventions through social science research methods, conduct background research, and collect and analyze data.

"Students had the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills they learned in the major to help a community partner address pressing questions they are facing related to the design, implementation, and evaluation of their programs," said Maureen Waller, associate professor of Policy Analysis and Management. "This engaged learning project not only benefits our community partners, but also gives students valuable experience working on a collaborative research project, producing a high-quality report for community partners, and briefing stakeholders in a community setting."

Students briefed community partners on their research findings and recommendations, and produced a final report for stakeholders. Suggestions included access to transitional housing and career programming, connecting individuals to ongoing mental health and substance abuse services in the community post-release, and continued and separate support groups for previously incarcerated mothers, fathers and their co-parents throughout the reentry process.

"This experience also provides excellent preparation for the type of work many students will be doing after Cornell and for graduate school," Waller said.

– Stephen D'Angelo

4-H'ers sample careers, college life at annual conference

More than 300 young people from 45 New York state counties gathered on Cornell's Ithaca campus June 25-27 for the annual Career Explorations Conference, where they received a glimpse of university academics, campus life and career opportunities.

More than 20 programs spanning Cornell's breadth of disciplines were offered, giving young students a chance to explore diverse career fields and their educational requirements, as well as an opportunity to learn from graduate students and faculty members who served as program facilitators.

"Through Career Explorations, we want to connect middle and high school youth to Cornell University, spark their interest in careers and career pathways, help them development academic, leadership and life skills, and provide the opportunity to experience college life," said Alexa Maille, state 4-H STEM specialist and Career Explorations event coordinator.

New to this year's program was "Blue Jeans: Creation to Reuse," which was organized by the College of Human Ecology's Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design. The program followed the supply chain of denim – arguably the world's most worn pant fabric – from dyeing, weaving, fiber identification and tensile and tear strength evaluation to sustainability issues and new uses for old jeans.


4-H youth use a crockmeter to test color rub-off on denim.

Mark Vorreuter; R.J. Anderson

For Willow Hogan from Warren County, these experiences have helped her learn what college is all about and fine-tune her academic and career interests.

"I've been in 4-H for almost 13 years, and it's changed my life," she said. "By doing this program, I got to explore different fields, departments and subject areas that I was interested in and wanted to do but, honestly, to also find out what I did not want to do – which I think is very important. I really never would have been able to without programs like this."

– Stephen D'Angelo

Cornell program celebrates 50 years of nutrition education


Dollahite and EFNEP attendees

Over the last 50 years, more than a half-million children in New York state have benefited from the Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), a federal program delivered through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) that helps families with limited resources learn how to eat healthy meals on a budget and lead active, healthy lives.

To recognize a half-century of making a positive difference, 200 nutrition educators from throughout the state joined CCE staff and university faculty for a conference and celebration, June 17-18 at the Statler Hotel.

"Just think about all of the families that those of you and your predecessors have affected in New York state," said Jamie Dollahite, professor and director of the Northeast Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence, Food and Nutrition Education in Communities, which manages EFNEP.

"You've taught them to use their food resources to their best advantage," she said, "to eat better, to be healthier themselves, to have healthier children and, to develop self-esteem, to feel better about themselves as they graduate from our program."

Currently operating in 29 New York counties and in New York City, EFNEP is a collaboration among the College of Human Ecology, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and CCE.

The positive impact that community educators have had on New York state families is significant. According to EFNEP statistics, a total of 320,000 adults have been enrolled in the program over the past half-century; this has led to 1.3 million family members and more than 500,000 children experiencing improvement in their eating and health habits.

– Stephen D'Angelo

CUCE-NYC educator receives NYS Hometown Alumni Award

Jacqueline Davis-Manigaulte '72, a senior extension associate, director of community relations, and the family and youth development program leader for Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NYC, is the latest recipient of the Cornell New York State Hometown Alumni Award.


Jacqueline Davis-Manigaulte '72

Jesse Winter, Simon Wheeler

The celebratory community event, held May 8 at the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, brought together colleagues, family and friends of the Bronx native to recognize the longtime Brooklyn resident's decades of work with youth and family programs.

The Cornell University New York State Hometown Alumni Award recognizes Cornell graduates who return to their home counties or regions to start or enhance a business or nonprofit, and who regularly volunteer and are making an impact in those communities. Davis-Manigaulte was the first award recipient from the New York City area.

Growing up in Queens, she was intent on working in education and youth programming, and attended Julia Richman High School in Manhattan. At Cornell, where she studied child development at the College of Human Ecology, she designed a special degree program for herself, combining classes in human development and sociology with courses in the newly formed Africana Studies Center. She also designed her own honors research study that involved a Head Start center in her neighborhood in Queensbridge.

"It's clear that her education and her interests were a perfect fit for Cornell Cooperative Extension and are at the heart of her work [there]," said Joel Malina, vice president for university relations, "where she connects Cornell's expert research, programing and practices with youth, families and local communities."

– Joe Wilinsky

Gowayed joins FSAD as new Department Chair


Gowayed

This summer, the College of Human Ecology welcomed Yasser Gowayed as Chair of the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design for a five-year term. Gowayed previously was professor of mechanical engineering at Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

"When you have a department like ours, with outstanding faculty covering design, physical sciences, management principles, and history, the potential is unlimited," Gowayed said. "I saw the move to Cornell as a way to say that collaboration is our hope for the future, that we should infuse apparel design, fiber science and the human experience to develop innovative and creative solutions to better our lives."

Within his previous roles, he has been successful in forming research consortia between universities, industries, national laboratories, and small businesses, and leading research efforts funded by major entities including NASA, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce and Goodrich. Continuing this, Gowayed said that a primary goal is to help the department, faculty and students find their full potential by creating strong links with industry.

"To connect to the outside world and bring industry inwards into our department is vital as they need us and we need them to help move research and innovation forward," he said. "We want these relationships to be an interactive source of knowledge, experience and research. This is one of the things that I continue to think about."

Gowayed's research focuses on developing computational models and experimental techniques to further the understanding of the mechanical and thermal behavior of polymer and ceramic matrix composites. He is interested in novel teaching methods and cross-disciplinary educational paradigms, and has developed and taught non-traditional learning experiences – something he wants to ensure is a focal point for undergraduate and graduate students within FSAD.

"We have fertile grounds for growth and innovation. The more energy and effort we put into it, the more of an outcome we will get, and we are hoping that that is potentially unlimited," he said. "I think this department will have a major role to play in guiding the research, technology and trends of the future."

– Stephen D'Angelo

Cassano appointed Director, Division of Nutritional Sciences; Musick appointed Chair, Policy Analysis and Management


Cassano


Musick

Patricia A. Cassano, professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences, began her role as director of the Division on July 1 after serving as associate director for more than two years then as interim director for more than a year. She is appointed to the directorship for the next three years.

"It is an exciting time in the field of nutrition, and the Division is strongly positioned for a bright future," Cassano said. "My goals include supporting the success of our junior faculty through mentoring and other initiatives, assuring the continued excellence of our graduate program by increasing efforts to recruit top students, and fostering an innovative approach to undergraduate education with exciting new additions to the curriculum."

Cassano, a chronic disease epidemiologist with a research program that focuses on nutritional genomics and a specialized expertise in the etiology of respiratory diseases, is also a professor of healthcare policy and research at Weill Cornell Medicine, director of Graduate Studies for the minor field of epidemiology, director of Cochrane U.S. Network Affiliate Center at Cornell, and she leads the WHO/Cochrane/Cornell University Summer Institute for Systematic Reviews in Nutrition for Global Policy Making.

Kelly Musick, professor of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM), has taken on the role of chair of the PAM department, an appointment that also began on July 1. She served as the department's interim chair last year overseeing department administration.

"Building on conversations with faculty, I have three goals as I begin my term: expand the scope of our policy research and teaching, encourage collaborative research through grant development and partnership with social science centers, and promote diversity in our faculty and graduate programs through coordinated training opportunities and fellowships," Musick said.

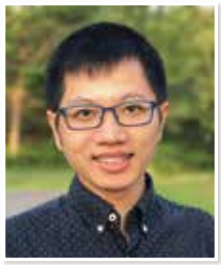
Musick also serves as the director of the Cornell Population Center. Her research focuses on family change and social inequality, publishing on women's childbearing intentions, the quality and stability of cohabiting relationships, social class differences in family life, parenting, and the mechanisms linking family environments and child well-being.

Cornell University Marketing Group; Mark Vorreuter

NEW FACULTY

Roger Figueroa
Assistant Professor
Division of Nutritional Science

Janet Loebach
Assistant Professor
Design + Environmental Analysis



Victor Wenze Zhong
Assistant Professor
Division of Nutritional Science

What is the primary focus of your research?

My research combines concepts and methods across disciplinary boundaries to examine interconnections between the social and behavioral determinants of health, with a particular focus on children's energy-balance behaviors in underrepresented and low-income communities.

My research focuses on understanding the relationship between contemporary children and youth and their everyday environments, including their home, school and community. This includes examining how children perceive, use and interact with the built and natural environment, and how this interaction supports or hinders their development, health and well-being.

The overarching goal of my research is to advance our understanding of the etiology, progression, and management of cardiometabolic diseases including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Highly interdisciplinary approaches are used spanning the following disciplines: nutrition, epidemiology, omics and health informatics.

What attracted you specifically to Cornell's College of Human Ecology and your department?

I was truly impressed by the breadth of disciplines and fields represented in both CHE and DNS. As an interdisciplinary scholar, it encouraged me to be part of a supportive environment for conducting research that is cognizant of the importance of "contexts" that shape human health.

The commitment to research and outreach that genuinely aims to improve the lives and health of people and communities. I also appreciated the College's interdisciplinary structure and approach. I am also grateful to be working with such a diverse group of colleagues in D+EA who are using innovative strategies to better understand how we can design environments and products that can support, ease or enrich lives.

Human Ecology and the Division provide exceptional administrative, professional and startup support for junior faculty to ensure their success. Further, the organic integration of a variety of disciplines and diverse faculty expertise within and across College departments provides an ideal environment for someone like me who focuses on utilizing multidisciplinary knowledge to solve pressing nutrition problems locally and globally.

How would you say your research is improving lives, a core mission of Human Ecology?

Our interdisciplinary work improves lives by conducting rigorous academic research that informs prevention efforts toward childhood obesity and health disparities in underserved communities. As a new faculty member returning to the Land-Grant environment, I am eager to leverage the assets that transcend boundaries across disciplines and sectors within the College, and at Cornell broadly, to continue improving people's lives.

I actively work to honor the rights and address the needs of children and youth by investigating how built and natural environments can support healthy development and by ensuring that their voice is heard within research and decision-making processes. My research is also continuously seeking innovative approaches that are well-suited to young people, and which can powerfully illustrate children's environmental behavior and interests such as child-produced videos, design plans or community maps.

Understanding the association between diet and cardiometabolic diseases and identifying optimal diet at individual and population level for preventing and managing cardiometabolic diseases are public health research priorities. My research uses large sample-size and high-dimensional data sets to investigate dietary associations with cardiometabolic diseases and underlying mechanisms. Findings will contribute new knowledge to informing people to adopt healthy dietary behaviors, ultimately improving people's health.

Provided

FIBER FILTERS

Cleaning water with nanoscience

Hinestroza presents his research in Japan

The research lab of Associate Professor of Fiber Science Juan Hinestroza is using metal oxide nanoparticles – particles less than 100 nanometers in dimension – to create filtration systems designed to selectively capture or decompose contaminants such as dyes from textile manufacturing, arsenic from fracking, mercury and cyanide from coal mining, and insecticides and fertilizers from agricultural production.

Indigo used to dye textiles such as blue jeans – a process that involves repeated washes and produces massive amounts of contaminated water – goes back into the water stream and creates negative environmental and health consequences, largely in parts of the world with limited environmental regulations.

"Indigo creates problems for organisms living in the water," Hinestroza explained, "darkening it and decreasing the amount of sunlight that can penetrate the water, which decreases the ability of the organisms living there to capture oxygen, asphyxiating them. It contaminates the drinking water of people living downstream, and they swim and shower in that water, causing skin problems."

Hinestroza's research takes advantage of the porosity of natural fibers such as cotton or fique by incapsulating nanoparticles of different metal oxides into cavities in the fibers. This creates nanoreactors where the water polluted with indigo comes into contact with manganese oxide nanoparticles and is broken down into smaller molecules that eventually become carbon dioxide and water, the process of oxidation.

"Materials on a nanoscale behave differently than they do at a larger scale. The property that enables the chemical reaction is amplified if the dimensions of the material are smaller. At a smaller size there are more atoms on the surface of the material, with a higher number of atoms you have an increased surface area and increased chances for the chemical reaction."

In lab testing, Hinestroza's fiber filtration removes around 98% of indigo in five minutes.

Although the filters could be used as water enters a treatment facility, Hinestroza explained that the filters are more effective where the contamination is the most concentrated – at the source.

"We envision putting this into the factory water system. Basically, we fill a pipe with these fibers and as the water goes through the pipe system the indigo is decomposed, before going back into the water stream."

This same technology could be utilized in laundromats and residential applications to remove micropollutants found in water streams, such as microplastics or pharmaceuticals like diabetes and birth control medications that are eliminated from the body and end up in rivers and lakes.

"The next step in our research is exploring the use of the same materials to capture or decompose other contaminants, whether from agriculture, from mining, manufacturing, or from your home," he said.

– E.C. Barrett

LEGACY TRIBUTE

Frey named Vincent V.C. Woo professor


Frey


Woo

Professor Margaret Frey was named Vincent V.C. Woo Professor in Fiber Science and Apparel Design on July 1. Alice Woo MS '75 established the professorship in 2014 to honor her father Vincent V.C. Woo, a successful textile entrepreneur and philanthropist in China and Hong Kong, who passed away in 1981.

"My father's livelihood was in textiles, so I find this to be a very fitting tribute to his legacy," Woo said of the professorship, which is intended to help advance the department's cutting-edge research, and nurture the future leaders of the global fashion and textile industry.

Born and raised in rural Qiaoqi, China, Vincent V.C. Woo left home as a young adult to learn the textile trade as an apprentice in Shanghai, where he eventually started his own mill. Moving to Hong Kong in 1949, he founded Central Textiles, highly regarded for decades for its fine yarn and fabrics.

Frey, along with being a professor within FSAD, is Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs at Human Ecology. Her research in the area of micro and nanofibers has demonstrated that functional surfaces for capture and isolation of specific compounds can be effectively created using nanofibers, including applications ranging from air and water filtration to lab-on-chip micro chemical analysis systems.

– Stephen D'Angelo

Dave Burbank; Mark Vorreuter; Freepik; Provided

NATIONAL STATURE

Ceci elected president of national psychology society


Ceci

Stephen Ceci, the Helen L. Carr Professor of Developmental Psychology in the Department of Human Development, has been elected president of the Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science, a society of the American Psychological Association. His term began in August.

Ceci's predecessors include some of the icons of psychology, such as B. F. Skinner, E. C. Tolman, J. J. Gibson, Clark Hull, Gordon Bower, E. O. Hebb. The society focuses on training and education, outreach, public policy and supporting research through advocacy. As president, Ceci will have an opportunity to help shape national policy related to cognitive science. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the recipient of numerous national and international awards in psychology.

"This appointment attests again that some of the best scholarship and academic leadership comes from interdisciplinary departments like Human Development, with a rich environment to support integrative basic and translational science," said Qi Wang, chair and professor of Human Development. "Ceci's election is the latest example of the preeminence of the HD faculty and the most recent evidence of the department's national stature and eminence."

"Ceci's election is the latest example of the preeminence of the HD faculty" – Qi Wang

The society is a scholarly organization of psychologists in the area of cognitive science and general experimental psychology. Its goals are to promote, advance and increase inclusion and exchange of ideas among scholars in the many subfields of experimental psychology and the many topic areas of cognitive psychology, both in basic and applied research.

Its members are employed in a variety of settings including universities, colleges, government and industry, and are united by their commitment to the development of experimental psychology as a science.

– Stephen D'Angelo

HEALTH WARNINGS

$1.4M e-cigarette policy grant awarded to four-college team


Avery


Mathios

A research team of social scientists spanning four colleges across Cornell University has won a $1.4M R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to inform policymaking on requiring warnings on advertisements for E-Cigarettes.

Within the study "The E-Cigarette Population Paradox: Testing Effects of Youth-Targeted Population Warnings for E-Cigarettes among Two Key Populations," Alan Mathios and Rosemary Avery from Human Ecology's Department of Policy Analysis and Management will act as co-Investigators alongside colleagues from Cornell Law and College of Veterinary Medicine. Principal investigators for the research, Associate Professors Sahara Byrne and Jeff Niederdeppe, are based in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The team will use a mobile experimental lab to conduct tightly controlled eye-tracking experiments with populations typically underrepresented in such research. The aim is to identify constitutionally viable warnings that can curtail youth e-cigarette uptake.

"Our research team is very excited about our recent project that will examine what types of warnings on e-cigarette advertisements and promotional material will be most effective deterring youth from vaping products and yet avoiding unintended consequences," Mathios said.

The team recently completed a five-year $3M R01 that informed U.S. policymaking regarding warnings on combustible cigarettes. Three publications resulting from that project were cited in the FDA's new rule proposals that would require new cigarette health warnings with graphic color images, such as what a smoker's lungs look like, on packages and advertisements to promote greater public understanding of the negative health consequences of smoking.

– Stephen D'Angelo

PRESCRIBING HABITS

Research casts spotlight on drug monitoring trends

More than 2 million people in the U.S. are currently addicted to opioids and approximately 130 people die each day from overdoses. The opioid crisis – in which millions of people across the U.S. have become addicted to prescription painkillers – remains a growing problem, and was declared a public health emergency by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2017.

Health economist Colleen Carey, an assistant professor in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, is studying one solution to this devastating problem: state-level prescription drug monitoring programs, or PDMPs.

PDMPs work like this: A state collects data from pharmacies on how often patients receive prescriptions for opioids and from whom. Doctors can check how many prescriptions a patient has filled in the past and whether they are "shopping around" for drugs from other doctors. Although 27 states established these databases from 2000 to 2010, with more doing so since, most doctors were not using the data.

Over the past 12 years, states began passing laws that require doctors to check the databases before prescribing opioids. The first was Kentucky in 2012, and since then 42 more states have enacted these laws.

Carey, along with two colleagues from the University of Michigan, has written two papers that measure what effect these policies have on the opioid crisis on the whole.

"One thing that has interested me about this topic is that the problem began in the medical industry," Carey said. "This wasn't driven by drug cartels in its initial form. For me, that raised a lot of questions about the power that we give to doctors and the ways in which the medical community polices itself or fails to police itself."

The most recent paper, which is under review, compares two states – Kentucky, the first to enact a strict PDMP, and Indiana, which did not have a strict PDMP at the time of the analysis (Indiana has since passed a stricter law).

Their analysis found that, relative to Indiana, forty percent of doctors in Kentucky who were considered "low-volume" prescribers of opioids stopped prescribing the medications all together after the strict policy took effect. Other Kentucky doctors prescribed opioids to about 16% fewer patients.

Carey

The analysis also found that doctors stopped prescribing to patients whose history suggested they were getting opioids from multiple doctors. However, doctors also reduced prescribing to patients with no recent opioid use, suggesting that patients who were recovering from an injury or surgery were also less likely to receive opioids.

"Overall, I would say our research has demonstrated the policies are helpful," Carey said. "Getting the medical industry out of the drug distribution business is a good thing. Unnecessary prescriptions were a corrupting problem, and I remain horrified that this went on as long as it did."

Carey does highlight two potential downsides to strict PDMPs. First, there is a chance that these policies are preventing some patients who truly need pain relief from getting it. And there is a second potential problem: When PDMPs prevent drug addicts from getting opioids from their doctors, they may be turning to illegal sources and more dangerous drugs, such as fentanyl and heroin. But there is not currently good data to find out if this is actually happening or to what extent, Carey said.

There are also tricky calls for doctors, such as when a patient's previous record could suggest abuse, but might also suggest a legitimate problem with pain. Still, the research demonstrates the policies are helpful on the whole, she said.

"It turns out if we get the data in front of physicians, they change their prescribing habits," she said.

– Sheri Hall

CIPA Wins NASPAA Competition on Data Science in Public Affairs Education

Fitzpatrick, Day and O'Toole

A report on a Data Science Curriculum for Public Service by Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA) authors has been selected by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) as one of three winners of a white paper competition.

Written by CIPA Director Maria Fitzpatrick, Engaged Learning Associate Elizabeth Day, and Executive Director Thomas O'Toole, the paper addressed the question: "What are the elements of successful curricula or pedagogical models that

Mark Vorreuter; pexels; Provided

Sloan Program welcomes first Executive MHA class

Thirty-nine health care professionals from across the nation are participating as members of the inaugural class of the Sloan Program's Executive Master of Health Administration degree.

The students participate in online classes, while concurrently continuing their careers, and meet in-person for two weeks on the Ithaca campus and one weekend in New York City during the 18-month curriculum.

"Our program's goal remains the same: to provide a rigorous education to health care professionals who, for personal and professional reasons, cannot take two years off and move to Ithaca for a residential degree but seek to have greater impact and leadership opportunities," said Mariya Thompson, director of executive education for the Sloan Program.

"They are an incredibly diverse group, coming from all parts of the U.S. and one from Vietnam and from a variety of health care sub-sectors including hospitals, clinics, long-term care, insurance, pharmaceutical, biotech, consultancies, government and others," she said. "This diversity of perspectives adds tremendous richness to the group discussions."

Sloan leaders have been impressed at how close the class of health executives have become in just the first few weeks of the program.

"We were hoping to form a close-knit group through the shared cohort experience, but I don't think we expected the level of cohesion we witnessed at our first on-campus intensive in June 2019, just five weeks into the program," Thompson said. "Our students work together, help each other, and communicate through various platforms within and outside of the course structure."

Students in the program have opportunities to network with residential Sloan students, and residential students have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants for some of the Executive MHA classes.

First cohort of the Sloan EMHA program.

Executive MHA student Karen Burke is currently the associate director for research compliance at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Sloan Program stood out to her because of its small size, she said.

"I knew I'd be able to develop meaningful relationships to support professional growth," she explained. "This degree is certainly an important step for continued advancement within my field and I believe it will be valuable in supporting any potential 'pivots' that I take down the road in my career."

The program was also appealing, Burke said, because she truly enjoys her job and she didn't want her career to lose momentum by taking several years off. "Completing this program online through Cornell allows me the opportunity to attend remotely without short-cutting the educational experience," she said.

This class will finish their studies in December 2020. Before then, in May 2020, the Sloan program will bring in a new cohort of at least 40 health care professionals to begin the next round of the program.

Learn more at human.cornell.edu/sloan/emha.

– Sheri Hall

both develop capacity to solve public policy problems and leave explicit space for local experimentation and modification?"

According to the authors, a current explosion of data availability provides new opportunities for making more informed decisions and providing better information to citizens, yet relatively few public servants have the appropriate training to do so. The CIPA proposal emphasized the need for all Masters of Public Affairs students to become literate in data science tools.

"We argue that the lack of basic understanding of data science by most public affairs graduates, and the associated inability to manage high-quality data use by governments and business, necessitates basic data science training for all students instead of, or in addition to, specialized data science tracts," the authors wrote.

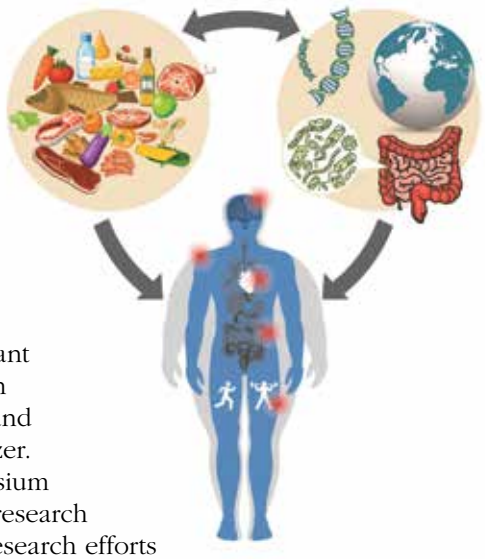
Over 30 proposals were submitted to the NASPAA, Schmidt Futures, and the Overdeck Family Foundation sponsored competition. CIPA will use the $10,000 award to seed teaching and engaged learning projects around data analytics within the program.

– Stephen D'Angelo

Mark Vorreuter; pexels

OPTIMAL HEALTH

Precision Nutrition Symposium fosters intercampus research



The cost of diet-related chronic disease – including obesity, cardiovascular disease and some forms of cancer – may soon exceed $1 trillion per year in the United States.

This reality highlights a critical need for researchers and clinicians to better understand and quantify the cause-and-effect relationships between the foods we consume and poor health outcomes. And differences in patients' genetics, disease history, physical activity and "food environment" – the physical, social and other factors that affect the availability and accessibility of food – highlight the importance of tailoring dietary guidelines in more precise, individualized ways.

To help bring attention to these questions, Cornell hosted a Precision Nutrition Symposium, Oct. 14-15, designed to foster the development of collaborative and multidisciplinary working groups from Cornell's Ithaca and New York City campuses.

"While we currently provide dietary advice to populations through mechanisms such as the U.S. Dietary Guidelines, there is a growing understanding that subgroups of people differ in their responses to food intake," said Anna Thalacker-Mercer, assistant professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and symposium lead organizer. "The goal of the symposium is to highlight ongoing research and to catalyze future research efforts to generate the evidence needed to define optimal dietary intakes for health."

Precision nutrition refers to the tailoring of nutrition to individuals or groups of people to account for differences in the response to dietary intake with the goal of optimizing the prevention and treatment of disease and the maintenance of health and wellness.

The symposium brought together investigators from Cornell's Ithaca campus, plus Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech in New York City, to advance research on precision nutrition and address knowledge gaps. This diverse group of researchers bridged expertise in nutrition, immunology, genomics, metabolomics, proteomics, systems biology, engineering and computational approaches to advance researcher and clinician understanding of how nutritional needs change with age, disease and other factors.

"The unique strengths of our faculty across the three Cornell campuses will allow us to develop new multidisciplinary approaches to address key questions in our understanding of how diet, nutrition and the microbiota influence health and disease," said David Artis, director of the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation and the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Faculty organizers of the symposium include professors Thalacker-Mercer, Joeva Barrow, Martha Field, Zhenglong Gu and Saurabh Mehta from the Division of Nutritional Sciences, on the Ithaca campus, and Dr. James Lo in the Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"The Division of Nutritional Sciences, the largest academic unit in the U.S. dedicated to studying nutrition, identified advancing precision nutrition as a major focus in its five-year strategic plan in 2017," said division director Patricia Cassano. "The multidisciplinary faculty in the division are actively committed to working with partners across the Cornell community to fulfill our mission to improve human health and well-being globally through nutrition."

The symposium is funded by a 2019 Intercampus Research Symposia Grant through Cornell's Office for Academic Integration. Additional funding was provided by the Division of Nutritional Sciences, the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation at Weill Cornell Medicine.

– Stephen D'Angelo

Mehta, Lo, Barrow, Thalacker-Mercer, Field

"Cornell is a terrific institution and both the Ithaca and NYC campuses have a lot of complementary expertise to offer. Initiatives like this one serve to strengthen and formalize many of the connections between the two campuses – and forge enhanced collaborations that can drive new advances in science and medicine."
– Dr. James C. Lo, assistant professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine

Mark Vorreuter, Provided

MVR HALL 2020

College of Human Ecology

Checker Board Square: Northeast View

NEW SPACES PROMOTE COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION, SHOWCASING THE COLLEGE'S LEGACY AND VISION

"As we lay the cornerstone of this great building, it is not its material expression in brick and stone and steel that I would have you consider. Rather it is to its significance as a symbol of new and vital forces arising to meet strenuous modern problems."

-Flora Rose, co-director of the New York State College of Home Economics, on the occasion of the dedication and opening of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, 1933.

HUMAN.CORNELL.EDU/RENOVATIONS

Auditorium Lobby

The Phase 3 renovations of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, which began in August 2018, are nearing conclusion and are the final phase of a complete upgrade to the MVR facilities. However, the project is more than just updates to systems and interior design. In its essence, the renovations are a commitment to the philosophy originally set for the College by Martha Van Rensselaer and the innovative, multidisciplinary institution it has evolved into over time as Human Ecology.

Beyond improvements to the building's envelop, utilities and infrastructure systems, these renovations promote connectivity, circulation, space layout, and functionality. By enhancing the quality, productivity and overall experience in Martha Van Rensselaer Hall, the College is strengthening its mission to improve lives into the future.

"The Future MVR Hall" renderings, highlighted throughout this section, were created by Design + Environmental Analysis students Joanna Luh '21, Hyerin Lee '20 and Yun Mi Koh '20.

College of Human Ecology student interns who have worked on the MVR project over the years: Tiffany Zara Peterson D+EA '08, Katherine Mooney D+EA '10, Laura Huacuja D+EA '12 MA '13, Connie Weiqi Huang D+EA '17, Kristen Thompson D+EA '17, Samara Petigrow D+EA '16, Eden Brachot D+EA '15, Russell Womer D+EA MA '11, Sara Patterson D+EA '08, Hyerin Lee D+EA '20, Erin Johnson D+EA '10, Joo Young Ro D+EA '12, Brie Reid D+EA '12 MA '13, Joanna Luh D+EA '21, Yun Mi Koh D+EA '20, Lucia Song D+EA '16, Kendra Hayes D+EA '15, Kathryn Smith D+EA '18, Cerise Marcela D+EA '12 MA '13, Ethan Arnowitz D+EA '15 MA '17, Laura Lumadue D+EA '14, Hannah Zalusky D+EA '14, Susanne Katz D+EA '12

Auditorium Lobby

TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES FOR THE FUTURE

Historic Amphitheatre

A primary focus of the renovations is to create teaching and learning spaces more representative of what students and faculty need now, versus what they needed in 1933. Along with technology and capacity to support teaching, research and outreach, this includes creating flexible spaces where the College community can gather and interact. The updated building will pull spaces together to create environments that help break down departmental silos and increase the integration of community among undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff.

Auditorium Southeast View

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

The College of Human Ecology's multidisciplinary style is a key aspect to its research and teaching, as well as a unique strength that attracts many faculty and students to study and work in the College. Within this approach, certain design elements of the renovation were chosen to enhance this philosophy. For example, the use of glass throughout the design creates views into the work taking place around the College. The placements of department main offices, meeting rooms and work rooms were carefully considered and positioned to promote engagement and opportunities for students, researchers and faculty to blend and mix.

Seminar Room First Floor

HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Doing well means eating well. Human Ecology students prefer a healthy and organic café that prioritizes food and aesthetics. The menu within the new Martha's will be based on the Mediterranean diet, providing a variety of 'conveniently healthy' personalized meals for students, faculty and staff. All packaging and apparel will be made of recyclable or compostable materials, ensuring sustainability.

Chef Chloe

The New Martha's

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Sustainability is a core value at the College, woven throughout the institution's facilities, research, and courses offered to students. Keeping with this value, Phase 3 of the MVR renovation project, similar to past construction, is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold or platinum status, which are the two highest achievements within the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The focus on LEED credits by facility managers within the renovation is human-centered, focusing on areas in controllability, lighting, ergonomic, inclusive design, indoor air quality, etc. This careful attention to the interactive aspects of the renovation is intended to create a healthier building for both the environment and occupants inside.

Highlights of all phases of construction:

- More than 1,050 tons of waste diverted from landfills through recycling and reuse.
- Retained and restored 60% of furniture, including refurbishment of period pieces.
- New furniture purchased for the MVR '33 project is Greenguard indoor air certified.
- Updated glass facade allows for "daylight harvesting" to provide abundant natural light.
- Utilizing efficiently controlled lighting levels to lower energy usage by lights.
- 91% of the lumber used was certified as sustainably harvested.
- 24% of materials were manufactured and extracted within 500-miles of Cornell.
- 35% of the total dollar value in material is in recycled content.
- "Low emissions" carpeting, furniture and building materials improve the indoor air quality.
- Preferred parking for low-emitting vehicles and an electrical vehicle charging station installed.

Preservation

Mark Vorreuter

Phase 1: 41,908 SF

Phase 2A (Administration area): 11,146 SF

Phase 2B: 53,276 SF

Phase 3: 116,568 SF

COMPREHENSIVE RENOVATIONS

Human Ecology faculty are recognized as global leaders in their fields. Their research and instruction focus on the interaction of humans with their biological, economic, social and physical environments. Within this focus, multidisciplinary and collaborative approaches are encouraged and supported.

MVR was originally designed and constructed as home to the College of Home Economics. This Georgian Revival style brick building was built between 1931 and 1933 with state appropriations of just under $1 million. Since this time, MVR has seen little change to most major building systems.

MVR Hall has undergone two previous phases of renovation totaling 222,898 SF of work and $75,930,974 in collaboration with New York State. The most recent phase, Phase 3 of the project, involves the renovation of six floors in the center corridor and five floors in the west corridor of the Martha Van Rensselaer '33 building, a total of approximately 105,000 GSF.

It will see repairs to the building envelop, upgrades to building utility and infrastructure systems, along with improvements in connectivity, circulation, space layout and functionality. Further, through the renovations, the College seeks to provide high level laboratories, design studios and instructional facilities with the highest level of innovation, technology and capacity to support its mission.

Completed in 2012, the Human Ecology Building added 88,228 SF of state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research in science and design on Forest Home Drive. Facilities include a new art gallery, teaching and research labs, design studios, a wood shop, administrative and faculty offices, and conference and seminar space for the college. To connect HEB with MVR, the 5,348 SF Human Ecology Commons was built, which also acted as a large, open, multipurpose interior space.

STATE SUPPORT, STATE AND GLOBAL IMPACT

High-quality education, research and public engagement are the cornerstones of the College and its departments. As a land-grant institution, the College of Human Ecology has a commitment to make contributions in all of its fields of knowledge to help improve the quality of life in New York state, the nation and the world.

PRESERVING OUR PAST

The many historical or legacy spaces within the original architecture were and are important to the College. Retaining and maintaining the architectural elements and historic finishes pays respect to where Human Ecology came from structurally and spatially, but also philosophically.

Green Room – The updated design of the Green Room will restore the historic qualities of the spaces while developing its use as an active learning environment.

Historic Green Room

The Green Room South View

HUMAN ECOLOGY'S "POLYFORM"

NEW SCULPTURE EMBODIES THE MISSION OF THE COLLEGE, SHOWCASES PUBLIC ART AT CORNELL

One centerpiece of the updated Human Ecology facilities, "Polyform" is a 34-foot-wide kaleidoscope of folded, laser-cut steel cellular components formed by responsive glass walls, which visually expresses the College's mission and impact.

A shimmering sculpture designed by Jenny Sabin, the Arthur L. and Isabel B. Wiesenberger Assistant Professor of Architecture at Cornell, the project was initiated by then Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean Alan Mathios, who asked Kay Obendorf, MS '74, PhD '76, Professor Emerita of Fiber Science, to work with Sabin on the design. Plans for "Polyform" were unanimously approved by the Committee on Outdoor Art at Cornell, which enhances the use of the Cornell campus as a forum for the creation and display of artistic installations.

Through the use of materials and structure, "Polyform" is said to capture the spirit and movement of Human Ecology. Described as a 'glass jewel,' the mission of the college is translated in the use of responsive materials that enable their color and transparency to change depending on the orientation of the viewer.

"By bridging the nano scale to the human scale, "PolyForm" promotes communication and active exchange across disciplines," Sabin said. "The project integrates environment and community through advancements in computational design, emerging materials, and contemporary digital fabrication techniques to generate a responsive and ornamented architectural intervention that envelopes and activates daily routines and exchanges at CHE and beyond in the broader Cornell campus."

Designed to be walked through by visitors, the final piece will be located on the pathway at the south end of Martha Van Rensselaer Hall after the building is renovated.

Sabin, Obendorf and Mathios view a quarter-scale model of "Polyform"

Mark Vorreuter

Exhibition Spotlight

Revolution & Restraint: Reconstructing Masculinity Through Menswear, explored how notions of masculinity are reimagined and reconsidered cross-culturally and exposed how everyday fashions may inhibit or liberate the men who wear them. Curated by Tori Pietsch '19 and funded by the Charlotte A. Jirousek Fellowship in the Cornell Costume & Textile Collection.

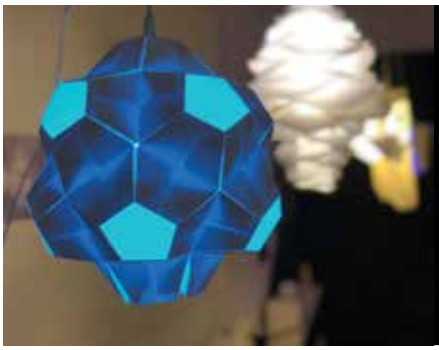
Tori Pietsch

Fashion & Feathers, explored the complex and nebulous space between inspiration and exploitation by displaying fashion items alongside bird specimens, illustrations and video footage. Curated by Denise Nicole Green, assistant professor of Fiber Science and Apparel Design, John Fitzpatrick of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Vanya Rohwer of the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates.

John Fitzpatrick, Vanya Rohwer, Denise Green and Rachel Dunifon

Full Circle, the 14th Annual Barbara L. Kuhlman Scholars' Group Exhibition, showcased innovative fiber arts and wearable artworks created by seven FSAD students. This year's exhibition theme 'full circle' allowed students to showcase varied interpretations from the cycle of seeking beauty to exploring the meaning of 'circle,' and from rites of passage to nature and the cosmos.

Yvonne Schichtel, Marlee Weill, Alexandra Champagne, Liliana Minerva, Livia Caligor and Lauren Forstenhausler. Georgia Manning, not pictured.



Luminare, with DEA 1100 offered during the summer session, the three-week intensive program offered students applied design thinking and three process-to-finish design projects focused on the themes of light-fixture design, process visualizations and light-bulb package design.

red yellow blue, a DEA gallery exhibit, was an independent study by Jenifer Duong and June-Summer Kim featuring classic chairs along with fabric swatches promoting the resources available in the Design Resource Library. The library inspires students with the most up-to-date materials and innovative resources for interior designers, product designers, ergonomists and facility planners.

Cornell Costume & Textile Collection's storage renovation. Thanks to the generosity of over 100 different donors, including generous gifts from alumni John Foote '74 and Kristen Rupert '74, and Peter and Rae Messer Reilly '63, the redesign renovated the facility from top to bottom and improved climate control conditions, all to support the ongoing use of the collection.

Mark Vorreuter; Provided

THE MARKET FOR HUSBANDS

Do Unmarried Women Face Shortages of Partners in the U.S.?

Fewer couples are tying the knot. Currently, barely more than half of adults in the U.S. say they are living with a spouse. In fact, according to some estimates, the marriage rate is the lowest in at least 150 years. It is the lowest share on record.

According to new research by Daniel Lichter, professor of Policy Analysis and Management, one explanation for declines in heterosexual marriage is a shortage of economically-attractive men for unmarried women to marry.

Published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, this new study reveals a significant scarcity of such potential male spouses. Lichter and fellow researchers developed estimates of the sociodemographic characteristics of unmarried women's potential spouses who resemble the husbands of otherwise comparable married women. These estimates were compared with the actual distribution of unmarried men at the national, state and local levels.

Women's potential husbands had an average income that was about 58% higher than the actual unmarried men currently available to unmarried women. They also were 30% more likely to be employed and 19% more likely to have a college degree.

The researchers found that racial and ethnic minorities, especially black women, face serious shortages of potential marital partners, as do unmarried women with either low or high socioeconomic status.

"Most American women hope to marry but current shortages of marriageable men – men with a stable job and a good income – make this increasingly difficult, especially in the current gig economy of unstable, low-paying service jobs," Lichter said. "Marriage is still based on love, but it also is fundamentally an economic transaction. Many young men today have little to bring to the marriage bargain, especially as young women's educational levels on average now exceed their male suitors."

– Stephen D'Angelo

Lichter

"Many young men today have little to bring to the marriage bargain, especially as young women's educational levels on average now exceed their male suitors."
– Daniel Lichter

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

New metabolic discovery may inform heart disease, diabetes solutions

Science may be inching closer to thwarting obesity, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes, as Cornell biochemists have uncovered a key step in how the human body metabolizes sugar, according to new research published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Martha S. Field, assistant professor of Nutritional Sciences, has identified two enzymes called sorbitol dehydrogenase (SORD) and alcohol dehydrogenase 1 (ADH1) that convert sugar erythrose into erythritol.

This reaction represents the final step in the conversion of glucose to erythritol in human metabolism.

Scientists had previously thought that only plants and microbes could turn glucose into the sugar alcohol erythritol. The 2017 discovery by Patricia Cassano, professor of Nutritional Sciences, that humans have this capability unveils possible solutions for persistent human maladies.

Field

"Your normal diet contains fruits, vegetables and beans and you will inevitably ingest sugar alcohols," said Field, who is senior author on the paper. Knowing how the body makes sugar alcohols, she said, opens an array of new possibilities for treatment and prevention of heart disease and Type 2 diabetes.

Previous research had shown that elevated levels of erythritol in blood plasma are associated with future increased fat storage

John Munson; Mark Vorreuter; Pexels

MONETARY WISDOM

Want the money now or later? It may depend on your age


Loeckenhoff

Imagine winning the lottery and having it pay out over a scheduled period of time. Would you want the largest payments right away? Or would you rather start small and save the biggest windfall for later?

Your choice may depend on how old you are, according to new research from Corinna Loeckenhoff, associate professor of Human Development. The finding could have real-life implications.

"Retirement income is shifting from defined monthly pensions to flexible payouts from 401(k)s and other retirement savings plans," Loeckenhoff said. "This means that retirees now have more control over when they spend their money, and spending too much of one's nest egg in early retirement could, of course, spell trouble down the line."

Fortunately, older adults do not appear to pursue immediate gratification at all cost.

In Loeckenhoff's paper, "Age Differences in Intertemporal Choice: The Role of Task Type, Outcome Characteristics, and Covariates," researchers asked nearly 300 people of different ages how they would distribute a series of monetary gains and losses over time. Confirming prior findings by the researchers as well as from peers within the field, most participants preferred to get their winnings sooner rather than later and were more likely to postpone their losses. However, preferences for payment schedules differed by age. Older adults were more likely than younger adults to schedule the largest payouts first, the researchers say.

The study included a second task that asked participants to make trade-offs between a smaller payout available immediately and a delayed larger payout. In this setting, where asking for an earlier payout was costly, no differences based on age were found.

According to Loeckenhoff, this suggests that "retirement advisers can help older adults to make responsible choices by clearly spelling out the hidden costs of spending down one's savings too early."

More research is needed to understand underlying mechanisms, Loeckenhoff said. Although the present study examined a range of potential contributors – from subjective health to perceived time left in life – none of them could account for the observed age effects. Also, the amount of money at stake ($150 vs. $1,500) and the length of the delay (i.e., months vs. years) did not affect the pattern of findings.

In future work, the authors hope to examine a wider range of potential explanations and extend their findings beyond laboratory studies to real-life retirement savings scenarios.

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Aging.

– Stephen D'Angelo

and weight gain, so erythritol serves as a biomarker for weight gain, possible heart disease and diabetes.

"That raises the question: Are elevated levels of erythritol in plasma a causal factor in weight gain and, if so, could this newly discovered metabolism be a path toward intervention in our fight to combat obesity?" Field said.

Doctors and scientists have long known that "central adiposity" gain refers to an increase in fat mass around the mid-section – the so-called "beer belly" – and that this "visceral adipose," stored in the abdomen, is metabolically active and associated with risk for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes, Field said.

Young adults who exhibited central adiposity gain over the course of 35 weeks had plasma erythritol levels 15-times higher at baseline than those with stable adiposity over the same period. Field said erythritol also was identified as one of seven metabolites in plasma that predicted the onset of Type 2 diabetes – over a 20-year period in adults – from a heart disease risk study.

"Taken together," she said, "these data suggest that plasma erythritol may not simply reflect elevated blood glucose, but rather may signal or lead to metabolic changes that cause weight gain and/or diabetes. Understanding genetic and metabolic differences associated with obesity and designing successful interventions is imperative."

In addition to Field, the paper, "Unexpected Roles for ADH1 and SORD in Catalyzing the Final Step of Erythritol Biosynthesis," was authored by Lisa Schlicker (first author), Alexander Heinz and Karsten Hiller of Technische Universitat Braunschweig, Germany; Doletha Szebenyi, director, MacChess, Cornell; and Cornell doctoral student Semira Ortiz.

–Blaine Friedlander

Mark Vorreuter

HEAA President's Corner Fall 2019

Casanova and Peck


Homecoming


Just Juniors


What I Wish I Knew event

Greetings Alumni Association Members,

It is our on-going pleasure to share periodic updates on the activities of the Human Ecology Alumni Association Board. As our board of dedicated volunteers continues to reach a greater and greater number of alumni, we are thrilled to have welcomed new members this year from a diverse cross section of geography, class year and industry, bringing fresh perspectives and ideas as we strive to build and enhance connections between the College of Human Ecology and alumni.

Last spring we began hosting web-based career development "Huddles" with young alumni. Our first webinar featured board members **Arnaub Chatterjee Sloan '07, CIPA '08** and **Shannon Bol '89** moderating a discussion on navigating a career in healthcare. Another session is in the works on the topic of non-traditional careers for Human Development majors. We plan to offer additional Huddles in 2020 aimed at connecting younger and more experienced alumni on career topics of interest.

We enjoyed seeing many alumni at the Human Ecology tailgate at Homecoming last September. What a fun way to re-live our college days, connect with alumni and students, and cheer for the Big Red football team! This will become an annual event so mark your calendar for next year.

We hope to see you on January 14, 2020 in New York City for our annual Signature Event. This very special evening will feature a panel of Human Ecology alumni experts including **Lindsey Boyd '98, Leslie Josel '85, Ian Shea '96, Wendy Sterling '99** and moderated by **Lisa Drayer '96** who will address the topic of wellness: physical, environmental, emotional, intellectual and more. The event will include plenty of time to network and meet other alumni and current students who are in New York City during winter break.

We are proud to partner with Human Ecology Career Services to give students advice, internship and job connections by leveraging our own career experiences and networks. We have helped facilitate traditional and virtual opportunities for job shadowing, internships, and summer or permanent jobs in the fields of medicine, finance, media and design, among others. We are always striving to expand this relationship, so if you have internships or job opportunities for CHE students in your place of work, please email heaad@cornell.edu.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming year!

Rachel Casanova '95
David Peck '91
Co-presidents

Andréa Meadow Danziger '88
Vice President

Human Ecology Alumni Association Board

As a graduate of Human Ecology, you are a member of the College's Alumni Association. You are represented by our HEAA Board – volunteers from around the country who are working on your behalf to support the interests of our alumni association and the College.

Bob Handelman; Mark Vorreuter; Provided

IN MEMORIAM

Priscilla (Coffin) Baxter '40
Rose (Nardi) George '40
Elizabeth (Howe) Hyde '41
Betty O. Bowman '43
Janet Pond Goodman '43
Gracia (Byrne) Ostrander '43
Barbara (Smith) Baughman '44
Maryellen (Severinghaus) Bowers '44
Nanette (Zorn) Schneiderman '44
Margaret (Eldredge) Hummel '45
Lina Nelson (Colacicco) '45
Janet (Eagle) Peeler '45
Jeanne (Krause) Thompson '45
Aleta Getman Huston '46
Sadye Pearl Appleby Young, PhD, MS '46
Helen Allmuth Ayer '47
Elsie (Hendrickson) Becker '47
Barbara Denk '47
Constance F. Ferris '47
Elizabeth (Garnsey) Gilbert '47
Georgia (Franklin) Olsson '47
Bernard Ackerman, PhD, '48, MFS '49
Jane (Bowers) Bliss '48
Vivian Hoffman Miller '48
Sally (Richards) Miller '49
Elizabeth (Allison) Cameron '49
Rev. Dr. George L. Campbell, Jr., '49
Ruth (Cornwell) Hack '49
Harrison B. Kinney, MFS '49
Anita (Morris) Lear, MS '49
Mary (Baxter) Barger '50
Betty (Hollenbeck) Davidson '50
Lori (Heyman) Gordon '50
Helen (Cudworth) Metzinger '50
Nancy (Hinner) Heller '51
Doris Jean (Stilwell) Rowe '51
Phyllis Meyer Simons '51
Marian (Roberts) Woodhead '51
Marjorie (North) Backus '52
Eleanor A. Carey '52
Jean (Brown) Craig '52
George T. Fitzelle, PhD '52
Sister Sheila O'Friel, MS '52
Carol Whitney Harrington '52
Barbara (Snowman) Chase White, MS '52
Charles N. Wilkins, Jr., M.D., M NutriSci '52
Ann (Marquardt) Boehm '53
Lois (Hoyer) Jaggard '53
Ann (Wheeler) Kassel '53
Margaret (Bundy) Bramhall '54
Ellen Barber Fonda '54
Evemarie C. Gilfillan M NutriSci '54
Donna K. Noyes '54
Shirley House Spencer '54
Leslie Papenfus Reed '54
Jean (Keller) Miller, M.D., '55
Carol (Bewley) McIntosh '56
Janice E. Woodard, PhD, MS '56
Gene (Stimart) Beardsley '57
Patricia (Noecker) McDonough '57
Nien (Liu) Chang, MS '58
Sandra Ellis Lomker '58
John K. Walthew, MS Ed '58, PhD '64
Emmagene (Fisher) Woehrle '58
Barbara S. Beaman '59
Jacqueline (Grant) Lewis '59
Dorothy (Heidemann) Lombardi '59
Diane (Cestari) Andrewes '60
Rita A. Connelly, MS '60
Nancy (Gray) Allen '61
Joan Blondin, MD, '61
James T. Doherty, MPA '62
Carmen Luz (Santiago) Ramos, MS '63
Susan M. Daly '64
Miriam T. Nathan-Roberts '64
Judith Schneider Stern, PhD, '64
Marilyn (Barnes) Miller '65
Sharon (Edelman) Sheiman '65
Harlan H. Holladay, PhD '66
Joanne (Pakel) Ikeda '66
Ramon B. Cardenas, MA '67
Elizabeth (Greenslade) Vanderploeg '67
Jennifer (Sohn) Appleby '68
Lynne (Holliday) Beller '68
Candyce (Smith) Russell '68
Margaret Ellen Greene Nicklin '69
K. Brendi Poppel '70
Deborah (Dowling) Paul '71
Joan I. Korins '72
Millicent (Minor) Williams '73
Robbie (Walker) Chatman '75
Christine Anne Yankus-Eng '75
Joel M. Ray '78
Anita Schonberger Keel '80
Patricia (Hand) McDonald, MPS '80
Margaret A. McGuire '81
Deborah Pickhardt '81
Marjorie (Lail) Kearl '82
Randall P Kirk, MS '84
Gary M. Cutick '86
Heidi Glaesel Frontani '87
Dana (Rudy) Nottingham '87
Kathy L. Radimer, PhD '90
Christina R. Smith '90
Roberta M. Stinson, MS '90, PhD '94
Gerren Joseph Faustini '04
Krista M. Speicher '11
Jamie Felice Cantor '14
Nelson H. Rose, CIPA
Simone Clemhout, Professor Emerita
William D. White, Professor Emeritus

Patti Papapietro, student counselor and advisor at Human Ecology, passed away on July 17 after a lengthy battle with illness.

Will White, professor emeritus in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and former Director of the Sloan Program in Health Administration, passed away on October 11.

Simone Clemhout passed away on October 6, at age 85. In the late 1980s, she retired from Cornell as a full professor in the Department of Consumer Economics and Housing.

2019 HEAA ALUMNI AWARDS

Each year at Reunion, the College of Human Ecology Alumni Association (HEAA) honors a select group of students and alumni, recognizing their outstanding work and potential. We are pleased to announce this year's winners of the Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award, the Outstanding Senior Award and the Recent Alumni Award.

Green '79 and Begler '08

The Helen Bull Vandervort Alumni Achievement Award

Cynthia B. Green '79, Ph.D.

Throughout her career, Cynthia B. Green '79, Ph.D. championed the notion that to make sound policy choices and provide effective services, public officials must be faithful stewards who prepare and use accurate, transparent information, regularly informing their constituents about what is being accomplished with their money.

Green majored in Human Development at the College of Human Ecology, mentored by Professor Urie Bronfenbrenner and Jerome Ziegler, who was Dean of the College during that time. She received an M.A. in Urban Affairs and Policy Analysis from the New School and a Ph.D. in Public Finance from New York University.

Green's career began at Columbia University's Conservation for Human Resources, where she helped develop innovative approaches to pressing social policy issues facing New York State, including housing the homeless and providing health care for the uninsured. Asked if New York could afford to implement these recommendations, Green turned her trained eye to the State's budget and found an enormous deficit.

This spurred New York City's Citizens Budget Commission to ask Green to create and direct a New York State-oriented watchdog to complement their City-focused operation. She became widely regarded as the person who single-handedly brought accountability to the State. Her research exposed New York's hidden multi-billion-dollar accumulated deficit and arcane budget maneuver of papering over annual operating deficits through billions of dollars in short-term borrowing, costing taxpayers millions annually in unnecessary interest costs.

Pressing the State to improve its finances and operations, she blazed a path for debt and budget reform, successfully leading the effort to outlaw financing operating deficits with short-term borrowing. Responsible for saving New Yorkers billions of dollars and likely averting bankruptcy, Green was honored by the Governmental Research Association for her work on debt reform in New York State and received its annual Award for Special Achievement.

Green was appointed to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the national organization that establishes the rules for how America's 90,000 state and local governments must report on their finances. She was the first GASB member – and the only one during her ten-year term – who was not an accountant, but a user of financial information, bringing the perspective and needs of citizens and taxpayers to the board's attention. Green was just the second female member in the organization's history and the only female member for seven years of her term.

A staunch advocate for government performance reporting and management, she developed and directed the Association of Government Accountants' award program recognizing outstanding government performance reports. She designed and led Pew Charitable Trusts' study on states' use of cost-benefit analysis, and was also a professor at the New School, teaching Public Policy and has authored many publications.

Her volunteer service includes: Cornell University Council, President's Council of Cornell Women, Class of '79 Officer, and, formerly, the Human Ecology Dean's Advisory Council. She is a board member at Community Access and Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, previously serving on NYS Child Welfare Finance Commission and NYC Mayor's Management Report Roundtable Commission.

Green and her husband, Lee Cohen, are proud parents of Claudia Cohen '09, Ben Cohen and Aliza Cohen '18.

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Recent Alumni Award

Gizelle Begler '08

During her time in the College of Human Ecology's Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, Gizelle Begler explored her passion for her Egyptian-American culture through design, interned with Giorgio Armani and Tommy Hilfiger, won the outstanding student award consecutively every year, and was the first Cornell student to win an award from the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, an influential industry nonprofit.

Upon graduating in 2008, Begler was recruited by formalwear boutique Sugar Plum NY and was made head designer. Soon after, she moved to Kuwait to explore the opulent fashion scene, and was selected to design couture for the Kuwaiti Royal family. A year later, she moved to Egypt, where she founded her fledgling company, Gizelle Couture, an eveningwear label dedicated to offering Middle Eastern women the gown of their dreams. Each gown was personally designed for the client's body, personality and vision with a commitment to local sourcing, innovation and craftsmanship.

As Gizelle Couture became a premier name in evening and bridal wear across the region, Begler made splashing headlines in the media, from Enigma Magazine, Egypt's #1 fashion magazine, to Marry Me, Egypt's #1 wedding guide. Gizelle Couture became one of the most coveted labels in the country, a namesake label among Gulf-Arab princesses, Egyptian celebrities, and all contenders for the 2011-2012 Miss Arab World Competition. A connoisseur of local sourcing, she even launched a small factory to manufacture uniforms for international organizations such as Allianz Insurance Company.

In 2016, Begler received the heartbreaking news that her mother was diagnosed with a terminal illness and returned to the U.S. to care for her. It was during that time she became Creative Director of Haute Hijab, and in just two years she has helped grow the business from a team of three to a team of thirty.

Now regarded as the leading hijab brand in the nation, Begler has had her luxury hijab collection featured in Elle, Harper's Bazaar and Vogue. Within her role, Begler pioneers expression, style and empowerment for hijab-wearing women across the globe in an attempt to create a world where women can feel comfortable and confident in their hijab.

Outstanding Senior Award

Nicole Agaronnik '19

Nicole Agaronnik '19 graduated with honors and high distinction from the College of Human Ecology with a major in Nutritional Sciences. She is a former professional ballroom dancer with several national and world titles. These include being ranked in the top five in the country at the United States National Amateur Dance Sport Championships and top five at the Embassy Ballroom World Championships.

After concluding her dance career, she became a certified wheelchair ballroom dance instructor with the American Dance Wheels Foundation, and launched their disability advocacy initiative. Through lectures and performances, she uses this art form to engage in advocacy for people with disabilities. She has showcased this nationally and internationally including at academic medical centers, hospitals and rehabilitation centers, the Pan American Games Closing Ceremony, the U.S. National Dance Sport Championships, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

Agaronnik has extensive research experience on the topic of disability and healthcare, with multiple lead-author publications in medical journals that address factors contributing to healthcare disparities for people with disabilities, including accessibility barriers to equitable healthcare. At Cornell, she explored her interest in nutritional science through an honors thesis on the behavioral regulation of eating behavior with Professor David Levitsky. Her thesis was lauded as a top abstract in the Bio-Behavioral Section at The Obesity Society's 2018 international conference.

On campus, Agaronnik was greatly involved in disability advocacy through her roles as the Co-President of the Cornell Union for Disability Awareness, the Editor-in-Chief of the Cornell Undergraduate Disability Studies Journal, and as a student representative on the Presidential Task Force for Campus Climate. She was also a chapter leader in the Curvy Girls Scoliosis International Support Group and has volunteered with the Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine, allowing her to use her personal experience to raise scoliosis awareness.

Agaronnik has been recognized for her service and leadership as a Meinig Family Cornell National Scholar, Harry S. Truman Scholarship finalist, and a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor Award for Student Excellence.

A UNIQUE PATH

Melissa Musiker '03

Melissa Musiker DNS '03 is not where she thought she would be when studying nutritional sciences as an undergraduate. Ten months into her role as Senior Director of International Public Affairs and Issues Management for corporate McDonald's in Chicago, the Rochester, NY native reflected on how chance, tenacity, and a little levity, have shaped her career.

After completing her dietetic internship also at Cornell, Musiker taught breastfeeding to new mothers for nine months with Cuyahoga County WIC. She then moved to D.C., where she worked with pediatric HIV patients in the ICU at Children's National Medical Center.

Burning out and desiring a career with more growth potential, she decided to attend Georgetown for a master's degree in public policy, focused on health policy.

After graduating she took a position with Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), a trade association of the food industry. When three colleagues above Musiker in the nutrition science hierarchy left GMA in quick succession, she rapidly became a key player in major nutrition decisions on behalf of the packaged food industry. During that time, Michelle Obama made nutrition and healthy eating her signature issue, bringing food policy to the forefront.

"I was doing media appearances, speaking engagements, meetings with the White House," Musiker said. "It was crazy and amazing and fast-paced and I was in the middle of some incredible things."

"I deeply appreciate the way Cornellian's treat each other – whether they know each other or not – with responsibility and kindness."
– Melissa Musiker '03

From GMA she moved on to working in public affairs at APCO Worldwide, a global communication consultancy. Through a client assignment, she and her team were tasked with identifying thought leaders


Melissa Musiker '03

and mapping their relationships and the flow of information to help companies make corporate strategy decisions. The project, a first of its kind, turned into a multi-million-dollar startup within APCO run by Musiker.

Today, Musiker leads public affairs for 119 McDonald's markets, all but the U.S., and oversees a team spread out between Chicago, D.C., London, Brussels, and Hong Kong.

"We are the second-largest private employer in the world, so that's a lot of people we touch on a daily basis and our value chain is even bigger than that. It's a tremendous responsibility and our scale is so significant that just little changes can have a tremendous impact on the world. It's exciting and daunting at the same time."

Musiker, who met husband Adam Tope '02 when they were part of the Cornell in Washington program in 2001, said the Cornell community is unlike any she has encountered.

"I deeply appreciate the way Cornellian's treat each other – whether they know each other or not – with responsibility and kindness," she said. "That sense of community transcends graduation and continues for the rest of your life. It's one of the most incredible things about the school."
– E.C. Barrett


Emi Day '09

CHARTING HER COURSE

Emi Day '09

We live in a digital era in which people spend large portions of their days connected to the Internet via computers, phones, tablets, watches, smart speakers, security systems and more.

Architect Emi Day D+EA '09 explains that this digital world is a powerful part of how people experience the spaces where they live and work. In true Human Ecology fashion, she is positioning herself to work at the intersection of two fields – architecture and technology – to make connections between physical spaces and the digital world.

Day's vision began with a design project in Portland, Oregon when the architecture firm where she worked was hired to help remodel a large public high school to transform the learning environment.

"Most of the kids at the school have their own devices – this is their reality now; it's a huge part of their life," said Day, a licensed architect with master's degrees in architecture and educational leadership. "So, I lobbied for creating a digital experience throughout the school

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WORK HARD, GIVE BACK

Victoria Ifan '12


Victoria Ifan '12

The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, Victoria Ifan PAM '12, grew up in a home that prized hard work, making the most of opportunities and giving back to the community. Ifan credits these values and the experiences of her parents with making her the driven, passionate and collaborative leader she is today.

In her new position as Vice President in Edelman's health division, Ifan is the day-to-day lead on her accounts, working with pharmaceutical companies to develop plans for their products, advance discussions around key policies, and create campaigns to connect with relevant patient communities and advocacy groups.

"The pharmaceutical companies I've worked with are more and more interested in having direct conversations with patients," Ifan explained. "So, their strategies have become less about using TV ads and more about creating resources and the space for patients to have conversations about their health."

Ifan is currently overseeing public relations (PR) activities for a drug developed to treat late-stage kidney disease and another for the treatment of opioid use disorder. She described PR work, particularly for pharmaceutical companies, as being "behind the curtain."

"As a consumer, I can empathize with patients and all the emotions they might be feeling around their diagnosis and treatment journey," she said. "I also get to see the work these companies are doing to help patients, including learning the ten-to-thirteen years of research and development that goes into creating a drug and speaking with the scientists who are working day-in-and-day-out to solve such complex problems, like cancer."

Ifan said people are often surprised to learn that her degree was not in communications or journalism, but she feels that studying policy analysis and management with a focus on healthcare better prepared her to understand the healthcare landscape and the nuances of how it operates.

"I developed foundational analytical and critical thinking skills while at Cornell, which I use daily," she said.

Last year Ifan's family started a nonprofit organization, Adopt A Village Foundation, in support of her late father's birth village Ikyumbur, Mbatiav in Benue State, Nigeria, continuing the work he had long been doing to uplift his hometown.

"My dad was my number one fan and cheerleader, always encouraging me to be my best self. He was such a big proponent for working hard, giving back to the community and loving those around you. Those passions have become a big part of who I am and how I view life."

Although the organization is still in its infancy, Ifan and her family have already been able to fund building a well in the village and are raising funds toward building a new bridge for better access to resources and hope to one day build a school.

– E.C. Barrett

that would engage students and enhance learning."

The school agreed and Day found a digital experience agency to help with the project pro bono. The school opened this fall to rave reviews and the project inspired Day to expand her career.

Last summer, Day left her role as a project architect and engagement strategist to become a producer at the creative agency Instrument, which builds apps and websites for large brands. "I'm strategizing to move into a hybrid role that will span the digital experience and my architecture background."

No stranger to charting her own course, after freshman year in the College of Art, Architecture and Planning at Cornell, Day took a year off to help rebuild New Orleans and other Gulf Coast towns after Hurricane Katrina, working with Habitat for Humanity, Hands on New Orleans and the Salvation Army.

"I really invested in helping to rebuild those communities, which gave me a lot of insight into how you design for people," she said. "I was out there meeting people and kind of putting together my own major."

"HumEc was such a great home for me." – Emi Day '09

When she came back to Cornell, she switched to Design + Environmental Analysis, majoring in Human Factors & Ergonomics. "I knew I wanted to study how space affects people," she said. She also joined the crew team, which she credits with helping her focus her energy and passions.

After Cornell, Day earned master's degrees in architecture and educational leadership from the University of Oregon.

Day said her experience at Human Ecology taught her the value of exploring her interests to build a fulfilling career. "HumEc was such a great home for me. Through it all, I've learned that you don't have to follow a straight path because I just followed my heart and I got here."

– Sheri Hall

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AMPLIFYING IMPACT

Nathaniel Houghton PAM '11


Nathaniel Houghton '11

In his junior year, Nathaniel Houghton PAM '11 co-founded the Congo Leadership Initiative (CLI) with Robert Kumkum and Emmanuel Baraka, after meeting them during a sophomore year trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

For nearly ten years CLI has offered leadership training for young entrepreneurs throughout the DRC, with a focus on culture and context-specific curriculum, entrepreneurship for social good, and giving girls and women equal access to leadership training. Since inception, the program has trained over 2,500 youth in leadership soft skills and entrepreneurial hard skills, and started a low-interest microfinance program. CLI graduates have gone on to start approximately 450 businesses and community projects across the DRC, impacting thousands of lives.

"We currently have eight active sites across the country," Houghton said. "One of our youth was elected to parliament, others have gone on to be doctors or lawyers. All of them are positive, productive, selfless leaders at all stations in society, which is what we set out to do."

In his time at Cornell, Houghton ran philanthropy for Phi Kappa Tau, volunteered as an after-school tutor through the Public Service Center, and helped run the Cornell United Way campaign.

"Cornell in and of itself is a deeply service-oriented institution and has been since the very beginning. It's part of the DNA of the school. I happen to think Human Ecology is the most Cornell-y of the colleges in a sense. In the same breath as the academic mission is the public service orientation."

Until a few months ago Houghton was the President of the Human Ecology Young Alumni Council, which he described as one of the best experiences he has had since graduating. Houghton said he believes in giving back to Cornell because it amplifies the impact of your giving.

"If you give a dollar to Cornell it can create more than that in societal impact. What graduates end up doing afterward and even what they do while they're on campus, that's the most compelling case to me."

– E.C. Barrett

WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Arnaub Chatterjee Sloan '07 CIPA '08


Arnaub Chatterjee Sloan '07 CIPA '08

In the past 15 years, Arnaub Chatterjee Sloan '07 CIPA '08 has worked in nearly every sector of the health care industry, from a consultant focused on the pharmaceutical and information technology industries, to serving in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services working on medical fraud and the Affordable Care Act, to acting as director of data science for the drug-maker Merck.

Further, he also completed internships in hospital administration, health insurance, and with a political group lobbying for a single-payer health care system.

Today, Chatterjee is a senior vice president at Medidata Solutions, one of the world's largest clinical trial software companies. His work is focused on tapping data sources to better understand and ultimately treat patients.

Chatterjee comes by his interest in health care honestly, having three generations of doctors in his family. He even completed pre-med requirements as an undergraduate majoring in molecular biology at the University of Michigan. However, he has found himself more drawn to the policy and business aspects of the health care system.

And he's using his wealth of experience to give back to the College of Human Ecology.

Chatterjee is a member of the Human Ecology Alumni Association Board of Directors, a lecturer in the Department of Policy Analysis and Management where he teaches a class on big data in health care, and a mentor to students in the Sloan Program for Health Administration. In addition, he teaches a required health policy course at Harvard Medical School for first year medical students.

"My experience allows me to take what's happening in a real-world setting and tie it back to an academic setting," he said. "In health care, it's really important to understand how all of the pieces are interconnected and how the systems interact."

At Human Ecology, Chatterjee focuses on helping students understand the opportunities available in the health care system so they can find a role that fascinates them.

"I love being connected with students," he said. "Opening their aperture to different opportunities is something I am passionate about. Since I was a student, the health care system has changed considerably and the available jobs have also changed. Ten years ago, you wouldn't think about getting a health care job at a company like Google, but that's an option now."

– Sheri Hall

Cornell University Marketing Group, Freepik, Provided

Amy Riolo '95

DEGREES: Bachelor of Science, Textiles and Apparel

POSITION: Award-Winning Author, Chef, Television Personality, Cuisine and Culture Expert

College of Human Ecology

IN MY WORK, I FOCUS ON TYING TOGETHER CULINARY, CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL STRANDS IN ORDER TO GIVE PEOPLE THE BACKGROUND NEEDED TO LITERALLY DIGEST CULTURE, AS WELL AS TO LEARN FROM AND BE INSPIRED BY ONE ANOTHER.

Without my well-rounded Human Ecology education, I'd only know about food, and would not be able to relate cuisine to other aspects of daily life.

i am *connecting cultures through cuisine.* human ecology

College of Human Ecology

Learn more about the College of Human Ecology at human.cornell.edu

College of Human Ecology

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The design of many historically significant spaces within Human Ecology's MVR Renovations will preserve and restore the original qualities of spaces while developing their use as more modern teaching and learning environments. Innovative active learning spaces, such as the College's Auditorium, will increase student engagement, foster higher information retention and a deeper understanding of course materials, compared to traditional classroom setting instruction. The room will be able to transform into a space ideal for lectures, discussions, group presentations, team projects and collaborative study.

Photo courtesy of the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.
Future MVR Auditorium rendering was created by D+EA students Joanna Luh, Hyerin Lee and Yun Mi Koh.