

# HumanEcology

COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY · CORNELL UNIVERSITY · VOLUME 45 · NUMBER 1 · SPRING 2017



## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IMPACT

Faculty shines in cross-college, cross-campus collaboration



- ◀ Textile fiberizer recycles used clothing
- ◀ Ultra-efficient LEDs power indoor agriculture



Cornell University

# STRATEGIC THINKING



As he completes his 28th year of service to the United States, **Colonel Isaiah Wilson III, MPA/MA '98, PhD '04**, remains passionate about his work.

His career in defense and global affairs began when he was an Army Apache helicopter pilot. "I'd been very much involved in national security and public affairs as a practitioner," Wilson says, "particularly with the crises in the years coming out of the Cold War." After seven years immersed in conflict situations, Wilson attended graduate school at Cornell. He learned the policy and theory behind all he had seen first-hand and experienced his "intellectual birth."

Thanks to his studies at CIPA, Wilson is now a sought-out military strategist. His work dramatically shapes military operations. He documented and analyzed the Iraq war and peace plans – and was among the first to publicly speak out about the lack of an exit strategy – and worked as the resident strategist for General David Petraeus. After teaching strategy at Cornell and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Wilson has spent recent years at U.S. Central Command in Florida as Chief of the Commander's Initiatives Group (CIG), designing and implementing plans for Afghanistan.

Wilson doesn't like to call himself an "expert," but when it comes to military strategy, he clearly is one. He notes that his job is to bring people together, "to identify all the key players and to knit these groups together in an effective and winnable way." He likes the idea of "whole of community" and "whole of government" solutions. As he moves into retirement, he intends to continue this work as a specialized strategist.

He credits his Cornell education with setting him on his journey. "It allowed me to be schooled within the prescribed boxes," along with finding "encouragement to endeavor outside the box, and frankly, to move beyond boxes altogether."  
– Amanda K. Jaros

# FUNDING Collaboration



As Alan Mathios enters his final year as the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean of the College of Human Ecology, an alumna has established a fund in his honor. **Susan Deitz Milmoe '71** established the Mathios Fund for Cross-College Collaboration, which will support interdisciplinary work between the College of Human Ecology and other colleges within Cornell.

Milmoe first met Mathios when she was asked to serve on the Dean's Advisory Council. "Alan is a leader, a statesman, a collaborator, a visionary, and a friend," she says. "I admire his ability to dissolve barriers and unite disparate factions in order to realize valuable synergies. Among his many accomplishments, I'm most inspired by his cross-college-collaboration efforts."

Milmoe worked in the apparel industry for decades, most recently as the vice president of merchandising and strategic planning for Royce Hosiery Mills. Since her elementary school years, Milmoe wanted to work with clothing. She began sewing lessons at age seven and attended classes at a design school in New York City at 13. She earned a bachelor's degree in textile and clothing design from the College of Human Ecology just two years after the university changed its name from the College of Home Economics. Milmoe also holds an MBA from New York University.

"As Alan nears the end of his last term as Dean, and I near my 50th reunion, I wanted to show my appreciation for all he has done to define the mission and elevate the reputation of the College both on campus and around the world," Milmoe says.

Milmoe is a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women and has served on the Cornell University Council, Cornell University Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations, Cornell Adult University Board, and Human Ecology Alumni Association Board.  
– Sheri Hall

# By the Numbers

**Nannette Nocon '82** is a 2017 recipient of the internationally recognized ATHENA Award. Nocon, who owns Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, was honored by the Women's Council of Rochester, New York, an affiliate of the Rochester Business Alliance.

The award is presented annually by member organizations of the non-profit ATHENA International to recognize the achievements of women leaders and inspire others through their example. After starting as a nutrition major at Cornell, Nocon launched her career as a dietetic technician in a nursing home but could not shake the feeling that she was not realizing her full potential.

"I started asking around and found that about a third of the people I spoke with studied something different than their job at that time," says Nocon. Armed with this insight and new confidence, she "switched from counting calories to counting money" in 1984.

Although Nocon did not fit the ideal profile of a married, 30-something Ameriprise (then IDS) advisor, her persistence nevertheless landed her a job with the company. Since then, she has used her strengths and love for numbers – Nocon and her



sisters used to work on math workbooks for fun in the summer months – to build a thriving business helping clients achieve their financial goals.

The ATHENA award committee also took into consideration the time and energy Nocon invests to support education and the arts in Rochester, where she settled some forty years ago. "The community has been so good to me, and giving back is my way of thanking them," she says. "I am deeply humbled by the award and feel that it is a call to do even more."

– Olivia M. Hall