Too many good photos

It was easy to pick three compelling photos from each category, this year’s judges would say – but not so easy to narrow down to a first, second and honorable mention photo – and even more difficult to choose one best photo of them all.

It’s your turn now.

This year, contest organizers are inviting each Cornell employee to vote for their top photo from among the first-place winners that the judges have chosen for each category: Adults (“Weekend in Havana”), Animals (“Symphony of Feathers”), Cornell (“Stars above Sage”), Humor (“Lining Up”), Landscape (“LaCorbiere”), Nature (“The Road Less Traveled”), New Entrants (“Grace”), Special Effects (“No one else wants to meet with me”), Structures/Buildings (“Skylight”) and Unspecified (“Fireboat”).

To vote, go to the photo gallery and click on each photo to see it in its correct proportions. Decide on the one photo of the ten shown that you believe deserves to be honored as the “People’s Choice,” and email your choice, by title, to Aggie Binger, akm4@cornell.edu, using your Cornell email address. Note: Only one vote is allowed per person, and only members of the Cornell community with NetIds are allowed to vote.

In the meantime, the judges will choose their top choice. If they differ, both the people’s choice and the judges’ choice will be recognized as the best photo for the 2016 contest. Who says you can only have one winner, when we have such talent at Cornell?

One voting submission per employee. Deadline for voting: Nov. 14.
The people’s choice and grand prize winners will be announced next issue, along with all runners-up and honorable mentions.

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**Campus activities to focus on veterans, military personnel**

Cornell will honor veterans and military personnel through an array of activities leading up to and including Veterans Day, Nov. 11. For the first time, Cornell will light McGraw Tower green on Veterans Day, to recognize and honor the service of veteran students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The McGraw Tower lighting is part of the national “Greenlight A Vet” campaign, which asks Americans to change one light in a visible location in their homes or offices to green to show support for veterans. University officials say the lighting will become an annual event.

**“Greenlight A Vet’ aims to build a bridge for veterans and civilians to connect and start a conversation,” said David Outlaw ’17, president of the Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association. “Cornell will light McGraw Tower green, so even if we can’t always see our veterans, they can always see our support.”**

Also on Veterans Day, the Veterans Colleague Network Group and the Cornell Reserve Officers in Training Corps invite all Cornell students, staff, faculty, retirees, spouses and partners to accompany them in a Moving Flag Tribute, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., starting at Ho Plaza. This tour of campus honors all veterans and active duty and reserve servicemen and women, and the goal is to keep the flags moving throughout campus during those hours. Cornell community members are asked to sign up in advance – individually, with a friend or with a group of people.

Already launched is an Adopt a Soldier Program, which runs through Nov. 11. The Veterans Colleague Network Group has set up boxes at locations across campus to collect donations of snacks, food and personal care items for a deployed soldier and her unit stationed in Afghanistan. The program seeks foot powder, eye drops, baby wipes, lip balm and sunscreen, in travel-size packaging. Preferred foods include: freeze pops, Caribou coffee, Nutter Butter cookies, Reese’s Puff Cereal and Honey Comb cereal.

Collection boxes are located at Humphries Service Building trades area in the basement or the upstairs break room; Balch Hall, first floor, to the right in the breezeway; Barton Hall, second floor, outside the Air Force ROTC Office; 130 Day Hall; 252 Emerson Hall; East Hill Plaza, 337 Pine Tree Road; 120 Maple Ave., kitchen area; and Seneca Place, fifth floor, Suite 500.

The Veterans Colleague Network Group, the Southeast Asia Program, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and the Waypoint Foundation are hosting the photographic collection of Glenn Hoover ’68, a Vietnam veteran, through Nov. 30 in the Willard Straight Hall Art Gallery. Hoover will give a presentation Nov. 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the art gallery on the collection and his book, “Innocent Souls: Vietnam 1968,” which portray the living conditions in Vietnam during the war and the lives of the military personnel deployed there.

A new university veteran website will launch Nov. 7 at military.cornell.edu with links to information and resources tailored to the needs of active duty personnel and veterans; current and prospective students and employees; and local community members. The website is the result of a collaboration between the Division of Student and Campus Life, the Division of Human Resources and the Office of the Vice Provost, with substantial contributions from staff and students in Cornell’s military community.

For other upcoming activities, see http://vcng.cornell.edu/category/events/.

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Human Ecology celebrates staff achievements

College of Human Ecology faculty and staff gathered for their annual Service Awards and Staff Recognition Ceremony Oct. 11 in Martha Van Rensselaer. The ceremony honored staff who had achieved milestone years of service, and also those recognized for their exceptional contributions to the college in the past year.

This year, 33 employees received milestone certificates. As a group, the honorees have provided 500 years of service to Cornell.

Additionally, 10 staff members were recognized for service above and beyond their roles, providing exceptional service and helping advance the mission of the College of Human Ecology. These individuals were nominated for the College of Human Ecology Staff Recognition Award, and included Marianne Arcangeli, Courtney Crawford, Angela Downing, Kim Fenner, Elizabeth Hays, Laura Huizinga, Cheryl Miller, Tracey Sherwood, Karen Steffy and Cindy Thompson.

Of these nominees, Arcangeli was the recipient of the College of Human Ecology Staff Recognition Award. The administrative assistant and student services representative for the Department of Human Development, Arcangeli is often the first person students come to when seeking advising support, and she takes pride in helping students get answers. Beyond assisting students, Arcangeli performs vital tasks in the department, including managing content for the Human Development website, acting as a guide for visiting lecturers and guest speakers, and organizing events to support undergraduate education. Additionally, Arcangeli stepped up to fill in a staffing gap for three months, taking on even more responsibilities to keep things on track and maintain the department’s high level of success.

*Taylar Clement ’19 is an ILR student, working with Lucy Pola, assistant director for human resources in the College of Human Ecology.*

Halloween Happenings

About 25 staffers dressed in costume for this year’s Halloween Happenings, held Oct. 31 at the Cornell Cinema, Willard Straight Hall, including one team of eight from the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department who all dressed to look like their leader, senior lecturer Mark Wysocki.
Costumes were judged on the basis of Best Department, Most Original, Funniest and Scariest. Wysocki’s group came in first for best department; most original went to Kimberly Ramsay (ILR - Yang-Tan Institute), a Mandalorian Knight; funniest to Kristopher Barth (CIO-CIT Infrastructure), the Rapper Trapper; and scariest to Brian Hurley (IPP), a Hillary/Trump look-alike. This year’s judges were Marilyn Willkins (human resources), Tracey Davenport (physical sciences) and Jessica White (computer science). Dan Biechele (procurement) served as emcee.

“Congratulations to all who participated, both those who dressed in costume and those who cheered them on,” said Cheryl McGraw, employee outreach and events manager, Division of Human Resources.

The event was sponsored by the Cornell Recreation Connection and Cornell Dining Services.

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**Networking thrives at Town/Gown Resource Fair**

The third annual Town/Gown Resource Fair connected outreach programs and resources at Cornell University, Ithaca College, Tompkins Cortland Community College and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga (TST) BOCES with area educators, business people, veterans, scholars, government officials, community organizers and members of the general public. Another upside to the fair – held Nov. 2 at The Space @ Greenstar – was the networking opportunity for the college reps and other presenters.

“I’ve done a lot of networking this morning,” said Benay Rubenstein, director of the College Initiative Upstate, a program of Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Tompkins County that creates opportunities for people with criminal justice violations. “In Tompkins County, many formerly incarcerated people live below the radar. The fair helps me learn about opportunities that I can share with them and also let other organizations and agencies know about the efforts of the College Initiative Upstate.”

Sonja Baylor, staffing consultant for Cornell Workforce Recruitment and Retention, said the fair gave her an opportunity to connect with human services agencies that work with individuals to identify local employment opportunities. “These connections help us to recruit local talent to Cornell employment opportunities,” she said.

Susi Varvayanis, senior director of Cornell’s Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST), said the fair provides her with connections to the local community that she can pass on to BEST program Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars. BEST helps prepare students at Cornell for careers in industry, government and communication in addition to traditional academic careers, she said, so making these connections through the fair is helpful.

Two human resource leaders from Ithaca College – Michelle Rios-Dominguez, senior recruiter for diversity and community outreach, and Kirra Franzese, director of talent management – said they were pleased to be invited to exhibit at the fair, helping strengthen their collaborations with Cornell and other community partners.

Nearly 20 Cornell programs – including the Office of Engagement Initiatives, Local Roads Program, Public Service Center, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, Mann Library and Cornell Cooperative Extension – were represented at the event. Other academic exhibitors included representatives from the external relations, student activities and Biz programs at Tompkins Cortland Community College; Ithaca College’s Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs, and the Office of Human Resources; and TST BOCES.

“We are always pleased to see the professional networking connections the fair makes possible, as well as to see individuals from the general public visit the booths. We appreciated having Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College join us this year as co-sponsors and to help showcase resources from each campus with an outreach component that might benefit a local community organization or resident,” said Susan Riley, Cornell’s deputy director of community relations, who helped organize the event.
Women's hockey game benefits United Way Nov. 12

In its annual game to benefit the United Way at Tompkins County, the women’s hockey team will face off against Yale in Lynah Rink, Nov. 12 at 3 p.m.

A dollar for everyone who attends will be matched by William Henry Miller Inn and other sponsors and donated to United Way of Tompkins County. Also benefitting the United Way: raffles of prizes and gift certificates from Taverna Banfi, Cornell Cinema, Cornell Dining, the Schwartz Center, Cornell Athletics and other offices will be held during the game.

Hockey game tickets are $6 for adults; $5 for seniors; and $4 for Cornell staff with Cornell ID card and children K-12, sold at the door or by calling 607-254-2327.

New Learning Management System for Cornell non-credit learning

A cross-campus effort to better manage non-credit learning at Cornell is now bearing fruit. Cornell’s Division of Human Resources, Cornell Information Technologies (CIT), the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, and the Research Division have teamed up with other campus units to implement a new Learning Management System (LMS) that will consolidate many online and instructor-led courses and trainings under the umbrella of CULearn.

To accommodate the launch, the current CULearn will be offline Nov. 4 from 5 p.m. to Nov. 7 at 8 a.m.

The new LMS will feature a new look and feel, plus a more robust and user-friendly interface.

Online and compliance trainings currently managed in CULearn will continue. Added to the LMS will be registration for all instructor-led courses offered by CIT and Organizational and Workforce Development (OWD). This includes CIT instructor-led courses such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud, and many technical courses; and OWD’s Leadership, Administrative and Management Academies, as well as professional development programs such as Franklin Covey.

Features of the new Learning Management System

- Learners – anyone with a Cornell NetId – can register for a broad spectrum of Cornell non-credit courses and training opportunities in one location; build a professional development transcript; plan learning to take in the future; and see assigned and completed learning and certifications on a personalized dashboard.
- Managers can view at a glance the teams’ learning transcripts, easily reviewing and managing compliance trainings and staff development opportunities.
- Learning administrators and managers will have access to custom pre-built reports and dashboards to fit their needs (i.e. track the status of required training and completion rates).
- Enhanced filtering allows users to sort and find courses by category, keywords, location and date; or browse the entire catalog or calendar.

The URL will remain the same – culearn.cornell.edu – but a new CULearn landing site will offer users Net ID login access, resources and support. Regular users do not need to update their bookmarks, although they may need to refresh the page or clear the cache.

Training and support
If you experience problems logging in beginning Monday, Nov. 7, or need help getting started, please see the resources on the new CULearn website, or contact the IT ServiceDesk.

Drop-in support sessions will be available throughout the fall for LMS users at every level (i.e. learners, managers, instructors, administrators). Bring your questions and receive one-on-one consultation with Cornell’s CULearn manager:

- 9 a.m.-noon Tuesdays and Thursdays: Nov. 8-Dec. 15 (excluding Nov. 24), at G25 Stimson
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. Nov. 9, 15, 22, 30; Dec. 7, 14 at the Division of Financial Affairs Training Room, East Hill Plaza.

Ashley Fazio is the director of communications for the Division of Human Resources.

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Baker Pet Talks: Tips from Cornell experts

A free public conversation with some of Cornell’s experts in veterinary science and medicine will be held Nov. 9, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Baker Institute for Animal Health, 235 Hungerford Hill Road, to address animal behavior problems.

Animal specialist Pam Perry, DVM ’85, Ph.D. ’11 will discuss cat behavior problems, including destructive behavior and house soiling and Michelle Bamberger, M.S., DVM ’85 will discuss such problems with dog behaviors as separation anxiety and aggression, as well as provide guidance for preventing problems before they start.

Free parking available. The talks will also broadcast as a webinar; see www.vet.cornell.edu/baker for information.

Baker Pet Talks are presented by the Cornell Feline Health Center and the Baker Institute for Animal Health.