Office professionals recognized for their caring, contributions

Twenty-nine years have passed since ILR School professors Jennie T. Farley and Alice Cook held a National Secretaries Day symposium and brown bag lunch for an audience of about 50.

On April 26, more than 600 office professionals attended the Jennie T. Farley Office Professionals Celebration and had the opportunity to welcome Cornell’s new president, Martha E. Pollack, eight days into her tenure.

Saying that staff are the unsung heroes of the university, Pollack accepted a welcoming gift of an orchid from the event’s planning committee. Mary Opperman, vice president and chief human resources officer, thanked Pollack for attending and said that Farley, who co-founded the Women’s Studies Program and was widely known for advancing the status of women workers, would be pleased that Pollack is at the university’s helm.

Opperman also thanked Cornell’s office professionals for the work they do. She said office professionals are always ready to take on new technologies and adapt to organizational changes, and outside of work they can be found engaged in volunteer efforts, caring for children and parents, helping friends and neighbors, or getting involved in sports or the arts or other activities. Calling them “the magicians who every day transform the often overwhelming and seemingly impossible into reality,” Opperman urged the audience to remember to “take care of yourselves.”

“I am inspired by the resourcefulness and compassion of our office professionals,” she said. “We celebrate your contributions today, and we depend on them all year long.”

Juxtaposing the past and the future, keynote speaker Greg Morrisett, dean of the Faculty of Computing and Information
Science, highlighted how technology has disrupted certain kinds of work since the advent of the personal computer and the internet, but also has created new opportunities.

While emerging technologies may affect work in the future, especially in areas such as admissions and employment hiring, Morrisett said, people should not be too worried that automation will eliminate jobs, because other things will come along that will require new jobs, or require the caring and thoughtfulness that only people can provide. “We have to be willing to learn and adapt to new systems,” he said.

Cornell is the ideal place for doing that, Morrisett said. Here, “you get to see the future early on.”

“All of us get a chance to influence the next generation and orient their thinking around the right way to adapt and to use these technologies,” he said. “You are not machines; you are caring, careful, committed people. That matters so much more than a machine.”

The program also featured entertainment from student groups Touchstones, After 8 and Sabor Latina Dance Ensemble, and many door prizes.

The event was sponsored by the ILR School, the Office of the President and the Division of Human Resources.

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**Employee Assembly announces new officers, members**

After a campus-wide election, the Employee Assembly has announced that Bruce Roebal will be the new College of Arts and Sciences representative to the EA.

Also new to the assembly are three representatives who ran for uncontested positions: Marjorie Mosereiff, College of Architecture, Art and Planning; Chris Dawson, College of Engineering and Computing and Information Science; and Dustin Darnell, Infrastructure, Properties and Planning. Peggy Andersen and Hurf Sheldon were elected by a caucus of the Cornell Retirees Association to share the seat representing retirees.

Remaining vacant seats are in the School of Hotel Administration, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the affinity group for disability concerns. The EA will look to fill these in the fall.

The EA has elected new officers for 2017-18. These are: Ulysses Smith, chair; Jeramy Kruser, executive vice chair; Robert Morris, vice chair for operations; Carrie Sanzone, vice chair for communications; and Pilar Thompson, parliamentarian.

Committee chairs are: Carrie Sanzone, communications; Laura Johnson-Kelly, employee welfare; Jeramy Kruser, executive; Suzanne Wilcox, personnel policy; Tanya Grove, staff recognition, awards and events; and Kevin Fitch, transportation task force. To be filled shortly: committee chairs for elections and for employee education and development.

All staff members are invited to join any of the EA’s committees noted above. If interested, go to https://dashboard.assembly.cornell.edu/ea/committees for more information or contact assembly@cornell.edu.

EA meetings are open to everyone. President Martha E. Pollack and Vice President Mary Opperman will be guest speakers at the last meeting of the academic year, to be held May 17 at 12:15 p.m. in 401 Physical Sciences.

For a listing of all EA members, see http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA/Members.

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**Bring a Child to Work encores past successes**
More than 300 children registered for Cornell’s Bring a Child to Work Day, held April 27. A wide range of activities was offered throughout the day, some popular from years past and others new this year.

Cornell Dining provided pizza-making, cupcake and cookie-decorating sessions, which, according to Cheryl McGraw, event coordinator for human resources, always fill up quickly. Similarly, the open paddling sessions on Beebe Lake, offered by Cornell Outdoor Education, are always popular.

Also popular: The Bhangra and Raas dance groups led some high-energy activities, while activities by the Cornell Police and the Reserve Officers Training Corps demonstrated the rigor and precision that these units require.

New this year was a Geocashing/Scavenger Hunt on the Arts Quad.

Bring a Child to Work Day is held annually and is sponsored by the Division of Human Resources.

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**Lindsey Hadlock: On the run**

By profession, Office of Media Relations coordinator Lindsey Hadlock can be found any place on campus, connecting local, regional and student media with Cornell’s faculty, students and administrators. She says she really likes the relationship-building that comes with her job, making connections and “sharing fun and interesting Cornell research.”

Outside of work, Hadlock completed the Boston Marathon, April 17.

The 26.2-mile run took Hadlock 5 hours, 12 minutes and 3 seconds to finish. She was cheered on by her father and his fiancé, her mom and stepfather, and her brother and sister, who all stood at different mileposts to lend their encouragement.

“There are so many people – it’s just crazy,” she said, noting that about 30,000 runners from around the world competed and hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the entire route. “They cheer you on by name; it really helps,” she said. She was in the last wave of runners and ran to raise funds for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute team.

“All the money I raised will go to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute’s Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Cancer Research,” Hadlock said, who is only $800 short of her goal of $5,000, with a mid-May deadline for last-minute contributions.

Hadlock has been familiar with the Boston Marathon since she was a child. Her father lived in Boston and his office overlooked the finish line. Her uncle ran the marathon several times.

At Ithaca College, Hadlock was involved in athletics, participating on the women’s crew team. After graduating in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in communication management and design, she worked as the event director for the Ithaca Children’s Garden Tough Turtle Obstacle Course race in Ithaca; helped with Judy’s Day at the Cornell Botanic Gardens and the inauguration of President Elizabeth Garrett at Cornell; and organized Cornell’s 2015 New Student check-in.

In 2015 Hadlock ran her first full marathon race, the Empire State Marathon, and ran multiple half-marathon races to prepare for the Boston Marathon. When some friends recently moved from Ithaca to Boston, she applied for the Boston Marathon and trained for it after work and on weekends.

Will she race the Boston Marathon again? Maybe, she said. But one thing, she admits, is for sure: whether at work or around town, Hadlock is on the run.
Cornell alum to discuss "Understanding Implicit Bias"

In a return engagement, Cornell alumnus Christopher Dial ’04 will discuss how unconscious bias can influence behaviors and decision-making in a seminar, “Understanding Implicit Bias,” to be held May 15, 1-3 p.m., in the Hollis E. Cornell auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall (Room 132).

Dial, who graduated from the College of Human Ecology, is the lab manager of the social cognition laboratory and instructor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. His research focuses on the inferences humans make about social groups, their automatic assessments of others, and how these thoughts and feelings outside of conscious awareness shape social perceptions, judgments and actions.

The May 15 seminar will explore how humans can make mistakes, even in big, important, thoughtful decisions, and how – without realizing it – their minds can lead to behaviors that don’t align with their personal values. By identifying and understanding these unconscious biases, participants will learn how to make smarter decisions in their careers, families and communities.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Dial now lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, after time in New York City, where he worked as a teacher at Mahalia Jackson Elementary in Harlem, and as a statistical analyst with the Center for Children and Technology. Christopher is on the board of the Cambridge Moishe House (a program for post-college Jewish adults) and is a former board member and ongoing volunteer with Sibling Connections, a non-profit that reunites brothers and sisters who have been separated by their placement in foster care.

The seminar is free and open to Cornell staff members. Registration is required.

The seminar is sponsored by Cornell’s Inclusive Excellence Academy and Alumni Affairs and Development division. Visit www.diversity.cornell.edu/iea for more details and to register.

Cancer Resource Center seeks speakers to share experiences

The Cancer Resource Center (CRC) is often asked to speak to various local groups about the experience of having or caring for someone who has cancer. To meet this need, the CRC is creating a speaker’s bureau – a roster of individuals available to speak with groups about being a cancer patient, survivor or caregiver.

“More than anything, groups want to hear about the human experience of having cancer. The primary requirement is the willingness to share one’s personal story,” said Bob Riter, executive director. “Cancer is a scary disease, but it’s less scary when we talk about it.”

Speakers are asked to share their personal experience, not to give medical advice. It’s fine to say, “This is what I did.” It’s not fine to say, “This is what you should do.”

“In particular, we hope to recruit speakers from the Cornell community because the majority of our requests come from Cornell classes and organizations,” said Riter.

“Many students have a family member with cancer, but may have felt awkward asking that person questions,” he said. “In a classroom setting, the students often open up and ask questions that range from the very practical to the existential.”

Most CRC presentations involve three-to-five speakers, each of whom tells his or her own story for about five minutes. Time then is allotted to questions and answers. A staff member from the CRC is present to guide the discussion.

In addition to class presentations, CRC sometimes receives requests from students who wish to interview cancer patients
and/or survivors as part of a class project.

“Signing up for the speaker’s bureau will make you aware of the requests that we receive, in the hopes that you’ll be able to participate in some of them,” said Riter.

To register or for more information, contact Riter at bob@crcfl.net or at 277-0960.

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**Spend a Saturday in New York City**

The first day-trip of 2017 to New York City, sponsored by the Cornell Recreation Connection (CRC), is May 13. Sign up early to ensure that these trips continue.

The CRC calendar includes trips on the second Saturdays of May, September, November, December and possibly July if there is interest.

The discounted fare for these trips is $54 per person, round trip, for Cornell employees and up to four guests.

Contact Swarthout Coaches at http://www.goswarthout.com/tours/cornell-faculty-tours-31.html to make a reservation. Full payment is due at the time of reservation. All tickets are non-refundable.

Itinerary for “Day on Your Own in NYC” trips

- 6:30 a.m.: Bus leaves Cornell’s B-Lot (you must have your boarding pass to board the bus).
- 11:30 a.m.: Bus arrives at New York City with drop-offs at Bryant Park and Macy’s (34th Street and 7th Avenue).
- 8 p.m.: The bus leaves from Bryant Park ONLY at 8 p.m. sharp, returning to Cornell at about 12:30 a.m.

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**Bike to Work/School Day May 19**

Cornell Transportation Services and Cornell Recreational Services are teaming up to celebrate National Bike To Work/School Day with the Cornell community. Several tables will be staffed at multiple locations across central campus offering goodies May 19 from 7-10 a.m. for people who cycle in that morning.

To build up anticipation for the day, these offices are offering pre-event prize giveaways: the first one, below, is valued at more than $159.

Details can be found at https://www.facebook.com/CornellUniversityTransportationServices/videos/1926063127669555/.

To enter the drawing:

1) Like the Post/Video listed above.
2) Like the following Post -> https://www.facebook.com/events/1163426307026993/.
3) Share this post https://www.facebook.com/events/1163426307026993/ on your personal timeline with the ability for the public to view it.
Reminder: Annual supplier show June 1

Procurement Services will host its annual supplier show June 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Barton Hall. The event provides an opportunity for members of the Cornell community to meet Cornell’s contract suppliers, learn about their products and services, and hear about the savings and efficiencies they provide.

Register online to be eligible to win door prizes. You must attend the show to qualify to win, but you do not have to be present at the time of the drawing to win a prize.

More than 100 suppliers are expected to be present, representing a wide range of products and services, from audiovisual equipment to lab supplies to web design.

Visit with Cornell departments – including Fleet Services, Print Services, CIT Custom Development, R5 Operations, The Cornell Store, Campus to Campus Bus, Mail Services, Energy and Sustainability – and stop by the Procurement Services booth to ask questions or request a demonstration of procurement tools, including e-SHOP, Spend Viz, Find a Supplier and the Procurement Gateway.

The day preceding the show, the sixth annual Supplier Recognition Awards will be presented to formally acknowledge those suppliers who have performed best in the areas of product and service quality, pricing, order fulfillment, customer satisfaction and social responsibility. Suppliers who have met or exceeded standards in all these areas consistently in every quarter of the past year will receive top recognition, while suppliers who have met these criteria for the final two quarters will receive honorable mention. Look for Supplier Recognition Award-winners in the center of the show.

Copies of the sustainable purchasing brochure will be available, with information on how members of the Cornell community can help Cornell achieve its sustainable campus goals.

Lunch will be available for purchase at the show from Panera Bread for $7.

Contact the show organizer with questions: Alyssa Kessler, phone: 315-422-9400, or email: alyssa@theeventscompany.com.