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Halloween Happenings highlights humor, pays tribute to Hart



More than 200 staff members donned creative costumes for the 15th annual Halloween Happenings contest, Oct. 30 at the Cornell Cinema, Willard Straight Hall.

Contestants were judged for four categories:

- Scariest: first place to Donald Trump (Brian Hurley, Infrastructure, Properties and Planning), second place to The Grim Reaper (Brian Goodell, Infrastructure, Properties and Planning)
- Funniest: first place to the Pirate (Peter Magnus, Library IT), second place to the Film Director (Jeffrey Hetzel, School of Hotel Administration)
- Most Original: first place to Three Blind Mice (Developmental Sociology: Linda Warner, Cindy Twardokus and her daughter, Katrina Twardokus, Terri Denman), second place to Marie Antoinette (Jenn Thomas-Murphy, Soil and Crop Sciences)
- Best Group or Department: first place to Beetle Juice (Biotech Dept.: Kirsten Richardson; Beetlejuice – Alec Immerman; Lydia – Emily Sampson; Delia Deetz – Tami Magnus; Miss Argentina – Kirsten Richardson), second place to Swarm of Mosquitos (Entomology: Ethan Degner, Laura Harrington, Virag Khetani, Sylvie Pitcher, Talya Shragai, Erica Tennant, Susan Villarreal, Grace Winhoven).

Emcee'd by LiLynn Graves, College of Engineering, the event not only showcased 20 individual or group contestants, but featured special tributes to the late Judy Hart, long-time member of the Planning Committee, Cornell Recreation Connection (CRC) and emcee of at least 10 Halloween Happenings.

“She made this event so much fun,” said Judi Eastburn, retiree, recalling especially 2008, when Hart came dressed as Sarah Palin. Eastburn and Janet Beebe, Recruitment and Employment Center, who had organized the first Halloween Happenings, were also thanked by the committee with flowers.

Betsy Shrier, Human Resources, spoke of Hart’s love of pirates and all things Halloween, as well as her sense of humor and her impact “on so many lives,” during Hart’s years as a Cornell employee, many of them within Human Resources.

Judging the event were Marilyn Willkens, Human Resources, and Pam Dollaway and Marty Rauker, both from Student and Campus Life.

Photo contest first-place winners

And the Grand Prize Winner for the 2015 Pawprint photo contest is ... no, wait! There is no winner of the grand prize yet.

Cornell staff and faculty still need to pick the "People's Choice."

This year, the contest organizers are asking each Cornell employee to vote for their top photo this year from among the first-place winners that the judges have chosen for each category of photos: Adults (Headman Has a Smoke), Animals (Eagle Owl Touchdown), Cornell (A Glimpse of Light), Humor (Need a Corkscrew), Landscape (Evening Jaunt), Nature (Calamari to Go), New Entrants (Huh?), Special Effects (Fall Pond in a New Light), Structures/Buildings (Sunrise Pier) and Unspecified (A Fanciful Dive).

Voting is easy: go to <http://pawprint.cornell.edu/?q=node/4530>, and pick the one photo of the ten shown that you believe deserves the grand prize.

One submission per employee. Deadline for voting: Nov. 12.

The grand prize winner will be announced next issue, along with all runners-up and honorable mentions.

Reminder! Take it outside: A winter stroll with President Garrett

Winter might be on its way, but Cornell is overflowing with opportunities to reduce stress by staying active, going outside and getting in touch with nature.

To demonstrate just how rewarding it can be to get outdoors regardless of the weather, President Elizabeth Garrett, Provost Michael Kotlikoff and Vice President Ryan Lombardi invite Cornell students, staff and faculty and members of the Ithaca community to join them for a cold weather walk in the Beebe Lake area, **Sunday, Nov. 15, at 9:30 a.m.**

The loop walk will commence at Appel Commons, proceed around Beebe Lake, divert to the Mullestein Winter Garden and the Nevin Welcome Center in the Cornell Plantations, and return to the point of origination at Appel.

"Pop-up" stations and signs along the route will help participants stay active in cold weather by providing information on such topics as:

- Renting cold weather gear from Cornell Outdoor Education
- Reducing stress through exercise
- Using nature to reduce stress and increase physical and mental health

- Appreciating the Cornell Plantations in cold weather
- Hiking in winter

Hot chocolate will be served at the Nevin Welcome Center, and the Cornell Wellness Program will give free Cornell hats to the first 50 people to arrive for the walk.

Human Ecology recognizes staff for service, contributions

More than 85 College of Human Ecology faculty and staff gathered October 13, to honor staff members who had achieved milestone years of service and recognize those who made for exceptional contributions to the college during the past year.

Forty-three employees received milestone certificates, totaling 680 years of service to Cornell. Staff members who have exceeded their roles to provide excellent service and help advance the mission of the college included six employees – Ruth Campbell, Tina Daddona, Terri Jackson, Terry Mingle, Kenna Snow-Tompkins and Patty Thayer – and the Human Ecology Facilities team: Peggy Emerson, Jim Hatch, Tony Pesco, Lance Streeter and Jeff Surine.

Kenna Snow-Tompkins, administrative assistant for the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs and the Office of the Registrar, received the 2015 College of Human Ecology Staff Recognition Award. She has been nominated for the staff award numerous times in the past, gaining attention year after year for her hard work, dedication and cheerful nature. This past year, Snow-Tompkins provided exceptional service to the college during the illness and following the sudden passing of associate dean Carole Bisogni. During this time she played a key role in ensuring that multiple academic processes flowed seamlessly and in providing a smooth transition for the new associate dean.

Snow Tompkins' calm demeanor, positive attitude and great institutional knowledge were critical during this very difficult time, said Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean Alan Mathios.

- Lucy Pola is assistant director of human resources, in the College of Human Ecology

Winfield describes personal victories at ADA conference

At a half-day conference Oct. 28, held on campus in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Angela Winfield, J.D. '08, program manager for the Northeast ADA Center in Cornell's [Employment and Disability Institute](#), recounted how the ADA has shaped her life.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications and governmental activities. Most people have heard of the ADA, Winfield said, but few have thought about the difference the law has made in the lives of those with disabilities. Winfield said the ADA has helped her overcome numerous obstacles – from being able to get an education to landing a job, dealing with public agencies and finding accommodations in public places.

Winfield, who is legally blind, was diagnosed with a number of eye conditions when she was four years old. As a child, she did not consider herself disabled, even when at age 10 she had to wear “coke-bottle” lenses or when she learned she could not get her driver's license. “My identity was not tied up in being a person with a disability.... I didn't use a cane; I didn't have a seeing-eye dog,” she said.

In her sophomore year at Barnard College, Winfield became completely blind.

“I came to Cornell as a law student; I was the first blind student in about a decade ... it was a new experience for the faculty and staff,” she said. Winfield worked closely with Student Disability Services, her dean and the registrar’s office to get textbooks in an accessible electronic format.

The next major hurdle was employment. After about 50 interviews at a conference, she was called back for a number of in-person interviews, which also went well until one interviewer asked her how she could be an attorney and not see. She answered, “Maybe you couldn’t do it if you couldn’t see, but I know myself and I can do this job.”

Winfield did not get a job offer from that interviewer, though she did from other firms. She accepted the offer from Hiscock & Barclay in Syracuse (now known as Barclay Damon, LLP), where she represented individuals and private-sector companies in disputes at trial and on appeal. This firm was willing to learn about her accommodation needs, and when she came back to Cornell as a staff member, she found the university just as welcoming.

State and local government agencies present other hurdles, but Winfield worked with an ADA coordinator at her town hall and now gets her bills in a readable PDF format.

Public accommodations are still a challenge, she said, because of people’s preconceptions, especially about service dogs. When she and her husband, who is also blind, went on a cruise, they filled out a lot of paperwork to bring their service dogs. One day, they were sitting on the top deck of the ship when a woman who assumed that they could see and that their dogs were pets asked how they managed to bring their dogs on board, because she missed her dog and would have brought it if she had known it was possible.

Winfield’s husband quipped, “Well, first you have to go blind.”

Disability should be considered in the context of diversity and inclusion, Winfield said: “The ADA has given me a solid foundation for access. My life would not be the same without it; I wouldn’t have had the opportunities, the access, the support and the mechanisms for getting accommodations when I need them.” She was appointed to the American Bar Association’s Commission on Disability Rights this year.

But there is still work to be done. The ADA is the floor, not the ceiling, Winfield said.

Cornell Police stop shaving to support cancer research



The Cornell University Police Department (CUPD) is suspending its current clean-shaven facial hair policy for one month to

allow staff members to participate in the national benefit, No-Shave November.

For this event, members of CUPD are donating their own money to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to fund research for childhood cancer. The goal of No-Shave November is to increase awareness of childhood cancer by growing hair in defiance of the ways in which cancer treatments often cause patients to lose hair. Members are donating the money they typically spend on shaving and grooming for the month to help St. Jude and aid those fighting the battle.

CUPD members can grow a presentable beard that must be maintained and follows the department's guidelines.

Resource fair connects Cornell with local community

On a chilly Friday morning Oct. 30, representatives from more than a dozen of Cornell's departments and offices assembled at The Space @ Greenstar for the second Cornell Resource Fair, where area residents who work for and with local government, K-12 and not-for-profits were invited to learn about the university's outreach programs.

Educators, local businesses people, veterans, scholars and community organizers engaged with staff from a wide range of departments, including the Public Service Center, the Local Roads Program, Mann Library, Cornell Design Connect, the Cornell Center for Materials Research and the Cornell Farmworker Program. About 60 people attended.

The diversity of participating organizations reflected the many levels of Cornell-Ithaca engagement, said Susan Riley of Cornell's Office of Community Relations, a co-organizer of the event.

Chris Kai-Jones, student engagement coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County (CCETC), which co-sponsored the fair, stressed the organization's involvement in the county's efforts to achieve its strategic goals. CCETC's participation is a reiteration of extension's mission to "connect educators on campus with the larger Tompkins community and to augment and strengthen the relationship," he said.

Other participants included The Cornell Commitment, which provides volunteering, leadership and paid work opportunities that involve engagement with the local community for Cornell students, and the Cornell STEP program, which offers tutoring, planning, preparation and advising services to underrepresented and disadvantaged students from the Ithaca City School District pursuing careers in STEM fields.

Members of the Department of Astronomy informed visitors about opportunities for young and adult space enthusiasts. One of the most popular booths belonged to the Cornell Center for Engaged Learning + Research, which highlighted some of its recently developed engagement programs.

As the day advanced, it became clear that guests were not the only ones benefiting from the gathering. Throughout the fair, presenters engaged in a lively exchange among each other. The fair provided an opportunity for professionals employed at different institutions within Cornell's structure to introduce themselves to each other and to consider potential cooperation.

The first Cornell Resource Fair was held in 2012, and Riley and others expressed hope of making it an annual event. The fair was held in cooperation with TST BOCES, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and the Community and Regional Development Institute.

Giorgi Tsintsadze '17 is a writer intern for the Cornell Chronicle.

Snow removal procedures and preparing for winter weather

Note: See also related story, [Reviewing inclement weather staffing plans](#)

With November already upon us, the time to prepare for winter weather is here once again. Last year, the month of November brought the Ithaca area almost 10 inches of snow at the onset of one of the coldest and snowiest winters in recent memory. It seems the forecasts for this coming winter are different from those of last year, but of one thing we can be certain: Inclement weather will come to Ithaca, and it will most likely arrive at the most inconvenient of times!

The Cornell Grounds Department would like to remind the Cornell community that proper dress, footwear and vehicle tires are the key tools to navigating winter weather.

- Snow removal: When roads, sidewalks and steps become snow-covered or icy, plowing and de-icing operations will begin. While it's snowing, travelers can encounter slippery or snow-covered conditions across campus at any time.
- Parking lots: Snow clearing will begin when snow accumulations reach two to four inches. De-icing is done as needed depending on precipitation type. Generally, if snowfall occurs during working hours, the entrances and main aisles are cleared. Overnight, once vehicles have vacated the parking lots, we clear the lots in their entirety. This process can take up to ten hours to complete and sometimes requires assistance from outside contractors, depending on snow depth and ice accumulation. Residential lots may take up to 24 hours to clear after a snowfall event.
- Challenges: A substantial snowfall may require several days to fully remove snow and de-ice all areas. Heavy or dense snowfall is often the most difficult to clear and requires more heavy-duty equipment and contractual assistance – and increases the potential for equipment breakdowns. Emergencies such as water main breaks and sewer backups, or special deliveries to essential service docks, will take priority and may draw resources away from parking lot snow-removal efforts.

Each year, the Grounds Department puts a plan in place for orderly and prioritized snow removal. Each storm presents a different challenge, so flexibility and adaptability are key to all of us reaching our destinations safely.

- Kevin McGraw, interim director, Grounds Department

There's an app for Cornell Dining

This week Cornell Dining announced the launch of [Cornell Dining Now](#), a mobile-friendly Web app that provides users with an interactive campus dining guide, complete with dining locations, hours of operation, menus and meal plan options. Visit the page and click the "Add to Home Screen" icon.

Developed specifically for mobile users, Cornell Dining Now updates throughout the day and allows users to sort eateries by distance relative to their location; get alerts for special events or promotions; add funds to and manage Cornell Dining meal plans; and send feedback to Cornell Dining staff.

“Our primary objective was to bring about a better dining experience all around, and that starts with providing ease of access to menus and dining options on campus,” explains Gail Finan, director of Cornell Dining. “Cornell Dining Now is intuitive, easy to use and helps us continue raising the bar for dining services.”

To make the most of Cornell Dining Now, allow it to use your location on your mobile device.

Cornell Dining, consistently ranked in the Princeton Review's top 10 in best campus food, operates 29 on-campus eateries and serves more than 26,000 meals a day.
