



The Latest in Pawprint: March 11, 2016

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Garrett memorial gathering set for March 17 in Bailey



A memorial gathering for President Elizabeth Garrett will be held Thursday, March 17, at 3 p.m. in Bailey Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

Cornell leaders, family members and friends are expected to speak, and the Cornell University Chorus and Glee Club will perform. The event will be live-streamed on [CornellCast](#) and on the [In Memoriam page](#) that launched March 10.

Condolences have come from across the country, and visitors to the In Memoriam page can read those reactions and share their own messages and memories. The page also features photo and video galleries from Garrett's tenure as president, and a link to [Cornell Chronicle coverage](#).

Memorial funds established

The Marmor and Garrett families ask that memorial gifts be directed to either Student Scholarships in memory of President Elizabeth Garrett, in support of students with need on the Ithaca campus, or to the President Elizabeth Garrett Fund for Colon Cancer Research at Weill Cornell Medicine. [Gifts to either fund can be made online](#), by calling 1-800-279-3099, or by mailing a check to Cornell University, P.O. Box 25842, Lehigh Valley, PA 18003-9692.

ILR senior describes path to understanding unconditional love



In the March 3 Soup & Hope talk, Amy ElSayed '16, from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, described how she has grown to understand unconditional love through her relationships with her parents.

“The things I know about love can be outlined in three statements,” she said in opening her remarks at Sage Chapel. “Love is blind and protective. Love is pain. True love is unconditional.”

When ElSayed was little, her mother would comb her hair, ask her about her day, tell her she was beautiful and say that she loved her unconditionally. “Some days, she would ask me to define what she meant by unconditional. I would tell her that it meant she loved me no matter what,” ElSayed said.

Her father, an Egyptian-American immigrant who learned English as a taxi driver in New York City, would come home from work and ask ElSayed, “Do you know how much I love you?” She would open her arms as wide as possible and he would answer, “More than anything in the world.”

As she grew up, ElSayed also learned that love is blind. Her father opened his own restaurant and, with its long hours, ElSayed rarely saw him. They drifted apart. That distance became even greater when he decided to expand his business in Egypt, while ElSayed, her sister and her mother remained in New York. As he spent most of his time there, the distance between them grew – but they did not discuss it.

As the time her father spent in Egypt increased, and as he became increasingly distanced from his family in New York, ElSayed felt rejected. (“Rule #2: Love is pain”). It took her several years to learn that feeling that pain meant that she still loved her father.

“I couldn’t stop loving my father as my father,” she explained. Without saying so, she and her father agreed not to talk about certain subjects (love is protective). Making it clear that she was not suggesting that people stay in unhealthy situations or unproductive lifestyles, ElSayed said that love is about truly accepting that you can love someone in spite of limitations in the relationship. “That, my friends, is rule number 3. Love is unconditional.”

ElSayed’s message for the Soup and Hope audience? “When you feel blinded, and you’re hurting, and long for protection, think about how that feeling is a derivative of love. Every hurt that you’ll experience comes from the ability to love and be loved. And that is a blessing in disguise.”

March 17 Soup and Hope postponed

The March 17 noon Soup and Hope talk by Chief of Police Kathy Zoner has been postponed until April 14. Zoner is a 24-year veteran of the Cornell University Police and was sworn in as chief of police in 2009, the first woman to serve in that capacity at Cornell. Her April 14 Soup and Hope talk will be at Sage Chapel.

The next Soup and Hope talk will be March 31 by The Rev. Clark R. West, at noon in Sage Chapel. West has served for the past seven years at the chaplain for the Episcopal Church at Cornell. West's grandfather, sister and brother-in-law are all Cornellians. West, his wife Sarah and their three young children live just off campus.

Campus finds 545 ways to streamline university business

The campus community came together last fall to assess processes and procedures, and recommended 545 ways to cut the Big Red Tape.

Responding to President Elizabeth Garrett's call in August 2015 for Cornell University to reduce bureaucracy and improve support services to faculty, students and staff, college and administrative leaders worked with their staff members to suggest improvements in their areas and across the university. These improvements range from enhancing such automated processes as e-SHOP and improving the effective use of such software solutions as PeopleSoft and Workday, to making it easier to travel abroad or to find a room for a meeting on campus. They also include suggestions for better training, easier access to data, and simplifying such processes as adding or dropping courses, submitting grants, managing budgets and securing tenure.

"Your input and the resulting aggregated data will be very influential as we move forward together with the overall effort to improve how we fulfill our missions of teaching, research and creative work, and public engagement," Garrett wrote to deans, vice presidents and vice provosts in mid-February.

Since then, members of the Division of Financial Affairs, under the leadership of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Joanne DeStefano, organized the suggestions into three categories: 129 describe recently completed projects, 200 are proposals for streamlining at the university level and 216 propose improvements at the unit level.

Focusing on the university and unit level proposals and consolidating duplicate suggestions resulted in about 125 unique proposals for further scrutiny. Those suggestions – found on the [Financial Initiatives](#) website – address four themes:

- move the university further away from paper forms and manual processes;
- provide better data-reporting tools for decision-making and better coordination of requests for reports;
- increase coordination or centralization of services, especially in information technology and international operations; and
- establish a universitywide system to manage facility, space and event planning, and reservations.

"President Garrett's streamlining efforts have the potential of not only increasing efficiency at the unit level around campus, but also producing a smarter and more consistent approach for administrative and academic leadership," said DeStefano.

"Through the identification of redundancies and a commitment to cooperation among departments and units, we expect to create an organization that is more agile and resilient, from top to bottom, than ever before."

Central unit leaders have received the recommendations made by campus partners, and they are working with their staff members to assess and prioritize these suggestions, as they continue to work on the priorities they identified themselves. Since about 70 percent of the suggestions concerned IT services and applications, Cornell Information Technologies (CIT) has already begun to evaluate the more than 60 services it currently offers against campus needs.

CRC New York and Niagara Falls trips



The Cornell Recreation Connection (CRC) has organized monthly New York City day trips (August 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10) and a trip to Niagara Falls, July 23.

All trips are on Saturdays and the discounted fare for these trips is \$50 per person for Cornell faculty, staff, retirees and up to four guests.

Contact Swarthout Coaches at <http://www.goswarthout.com/tours/cornell-faculty-tours-31.html> to make a reservation for all trips. Full payment is due at the time of reservation.

Niagara Falls trip, July 23

- Depart Cornell's B-Lot at 6:30 a.m. and spend the day on your own in Niagara Falls.
- By pre-arrangement, guests can be picked up at Thruway Exit 42. There will be only a brief rest stop on the way to Niagara Falls. Feel free to bring food with you on the bus.
- From your drop off at the Niagara USA Official Visitor Center, you can choose to visit the Cave of the Winds, Maid of the Mist, Niagara Adventure Theater, Aquarium of Niagara or Ride the Niagara Scenic Trolley (see <http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/> or <http://www.niagara-usa.com/> for more information and attractions costs).
- Alternatively, you can choose to be dropped off at the [Seneca Niagara Casino](#).
- Pick up at both locations will be at approximately 8 p.m. to return to Cornell. A pick-up schedule will be shared on the bus that day.

New York City Day Trips: August 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10

- 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 in NYC with drop offs at Bryant Park and Macys (34th St. and 7th Ave).
- You will spend the day on your own in New York City.
- 8 p.m.: The bus leaves from Bryant Park only at 8 p.m. sharp, returning to Cornell at about 12:30 a.m.

Auction results in; community carnival ahead

Nearly 200 Cornell community members bid on about 70 items Feb. 26 to raise money for the Cornell United Way Campaign. The online auction raised \$6,119, with about 600 bids entered.

If you did not get a chance to bid and still want to contribute to the campaign, another special event is scheduled for this Sunday: the annual Hilltop Jamboree March 13, 1-5 p.m. at Barton Hall. Geared for the local community and family members of all ages, the jamboree will feature festival food – such as cotton candy and pizza – displays, games and inflatables.

Participants are asked to pay what they can (the suggested donation is \$5 for parents and \$3 for kids). All proceeds will be donated to the United Way.

The Hilltop Jamboree is sponsored by the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, the School of Hotel Administration, the ALANA (African Latino Asian Native American) Intercultural Board, and the Center for Intercultural Dialogue. Contact asm293@cornell.edu for more information.

Help international families improve their English skills

“Community ESL at Cornell” offers conversation classes for spouses and partners of international students and for visiting scholars. Students in these English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are typically visiting scholars with good reading ability in English and who are experts in their fields in their home countries, spouses of these scholars, and graduate students. They come from all over the world to study at Cornell for a few months or a few years.

The Community ESL at Cornell program seeks volunteers to teach next fall and thereafter, focusing on conversation skills. Each class meets for two hours per week and students can enroll in three classes per week. Middle and advanced-level classes are offered.

There is no particular curriculum. Students are not charged for ESL classes and teachers are not paid – the rewards of teaching come in the forms of making friends and gaining teaching experiences. Those interested in volunteering can sit in on a current class or two, either in the day or evening until May. If interested, contact Irene at ijkl@cornell.edu, or call 607-539-6251.

Community ESL at Cornell is cosponsored by Cornell’s International Students and Scholars Office.

Cornell helps prepare employees for citizenship exam

Cornellians interested in preparing to become naturalized U.S. citizens are invited to participate in a free series of classes focused on the civics content of the exam.

The Community Learning and Service Partnership (CLASP) will offer a civics short course, which meets for four class sessions (the first, March 9, has already passed but individuals are welcome to attend the remaining three classes). The classes will be held the following Wednesdays at 3:40-4:30 p.m., Room 119, Kennedy Hall:

- March 16
- March 23

- April 6

These civics class sessions are open to all Cornell employees and adult family members. The classes will be taught by students and instructors of the education course, “Partnering for Citizenship.”

To participate, email clasp@cornell.edu. Questions? email clasp@cornell.edu or call 255-7633.

Reminder: Call for nominations for employee awards

Nominations are sought for two employee awards given by the Employee Assembly – the Opperman Award for Staff Advocacy and the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service.

Opperman Award for Staff Advocacy

At any time during the year, staff members can nominate a Cornell staff or faculty member or academic professional who consistently demonstrates commitment to encouraging and supporting staff excellence. The deadline for submitting nominations for this spring’s recognition event is March 15. More information:

<http://assembly.cornell.edu/EAAwards/EA-Opperman> or by contacting the Office of the Assemblies at 607-255-7075 or assembly@cornell.edu.

George Peter Award for Dedicated Service

Faculty, staff and students can nominate a staff member at any time for the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service. This award is given to staff members who consistently demonstrate a high degree of excellence in the performance of their duties, extend themselves to help others and exceed the normal expectations of their job responsibilities. Nominating materials are at <http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA-GeorgePeter/Home>.
