



## The Latest in Pawprint: September 23, 2016

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### United Way leaders stress basic needs in campaign kickoffs



#### [DAY OF CARING](#)

#### [CORNELL UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF](#)

Back-to-back United Way events – the Tompkins County campaign kickoff Sept. 15 and the Cornell United Way Campaign kickoff Sept. 16 – stressed the importance of helping friends and neighbors in need through the organization.

Speaking to the crowd gathered for the Cornell United Way Campaign kickoff in Willard Straight Hall’s Memorial Room, Cornell senior Adam Shelepak ’17 urged the audience to join the efforts of Cornell’s “caring and engaged” students by increasing faculty and staff participation in the United Way. He said the Cornell Student United Way campaign has received top national recognition but won’t be satisfied with the status quo: “The students need your leadership, and the community needs your heart.”

This year’s United Way of Tompkins County Community Campaign goal is \$2,037,800; the Cornell campaign goal is \$750,000. The campaigns run through the spring semester.

Noting that most Cornell students will only be here a short amount of time, Shelepak challenged those who “have lived in our communities for decades but have never given to the United Way” to give. “For Cornell to succeed, Tompkins County needs to succeed, and that means everyone, from all demographics and circumstances,” he said.

Shelepak’s remarks were echoed by Cornell United Way Campaign co-Chair Andy Noel, the Meakem\*Smith Director of Athletics and Physical Education, who focused on the needs in the Ithaca area that United Way agencies try to meet.

“There is dire need in our community. There are homeless children in our community, hungry children in our community. ... I am extremely motivated by the sense of purpose we all need to have to help those who are in need,” he said.

Campaign co-Chair Kathy Zoner, chief of Cornell Police, seconded Noel’s observations that people are “stretched for food, shelter, clothing,” and she asked the Cornell community to stretch its giving this year.

Local leaders also stressed the need for giving. UWTC President James Brown thanked Cornell for its support of the United Way, annually contributing about 40 percent of the county’s campaign goal, while Joe Mareane, Tompkins County administrator and chair of the 2016-17 Community Campaign, said, “Smart people know that there are needs in our community that are real, that are urgent ... and that won’t be addressed without funds provided by the United Way.”

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick ’09 pointed out that in spite of his growing up poor, he was given opportunities to succeed and attend Cornell, and the United Way gave him a way to give back. As a student, a young professional and now as mayor, his work with the United Way gave his life a purpose, he said.

The previous day, the county United Way campaign kicked off the 20th Stephen E. Garner Day of Caring at Stewart Park. Volunteers organized more than 8,000 pounds of food and personal care items donated to the UWTC for distribution to local food pantries and community organizations.

Cornell staff, faculty and students can designate their contributions to one or more UWTC member agencies or to United Way campaigns in other counties, or they can be unrestricted and will support education, financial security and health programs. Because the UWTC meets all its overhead costs through corporate partnerships, 100 percent of every gift to the Cornell United Way campaign goes to agencies.

Proceeds from the Homecoming 5K run in Newman Arboretum Sept. 24 at 8:30 a.m. and the 10th annual A Cappella United concert Sept. 25 at 3 p.m. in Bailey Hall will benefit the United Way.

For more information, see [Cornell’s United Way](#) webpages or those of the [UWTC](#).

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## **All faculty, students, staff have voice in campus governance**



At many universities, the term “shared governance” refers to the role faculty play in shaping the academic environment.

Since the 1970s, “shared governance” at Cornell has had a much broader meaning. Here, faculty, undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, and staff members are all represented and have a voice in university concerns through two

formal channels: the assemblies, including the faculty Senate; and the campus representatives elected to serve as full voting members of the Cornell Board of Trustees.

Current elected trustees are Yamini Bhandari '17, undergraduate trustee; Dara Brown '13, now a first-year Cornell Law student; Chad Coates, advising dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, elected by employees; and faculty trustees Mariana Wolfner, the Goldwin Smith Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Bruce Lewenstein, chair of the Department of Science and Technology Studies and professor of science communication.

Members of the [Student Assembly](#) (SA), [Employee Assembly](#) (EA), [Graduate and Professional Student Assembly](#) (GPSA) and faculty [Senate](#) are elected by their constituencies; members of the [University Assembly](#) (UA) are selected by the members of the other assemblies.

“The administration takes seriously the advice and recommendations brought by shared governance groups regarding university policies and other matters,” said Joel Malina, vice president for university relations. “The president and senior staff regularly attend assembly meetings and communicate with them on matters of concern to the Cornell community. We also benefit greatly from the expertise and diverse perspectives that Cornell community members bring to the many standing and ad hoc committees – both within the assemblies and across campus – in which they are involved.”

The [UA](#), in which all constituencies are represented, has responsibility for the Campus Code of Conduct and focuses on issues affecting a substantial segment of the Cornell community, such as campus traffic and parking, diversity and inclusion, and the environment and sustainability. The UA is chaired by Gabriel Kaufman '19.

The 19-member [SA](#) deals with quality of life issues for undergraduate students and allocates the annual \$3.5 million student activity fee. “This year, we will be re-evaluating our structure to make sure that we are representing students in the most effective way possible,” said Jordan Berger '17, president of the SA. “We will also be working with various student organizations to advocate for affordability on campus.”

The [GPSA](#) includes representatives from each graduate field and the professional schools. According to current GPSA President Nate Rogers, a graduate student in the field of mechanical engineering, one of the GPSA’s most important initiatives has been the [Graduate and Professional Community Initiative \(GPCI\)](#), a needs assessment and strategic plan written in collaboration with the Graduate School. The GPCI takes a holistic approach to improving the graduate and professional student experience, Rogers said.

Rogers continued, “The GPSA is a great way to have your voice heard by administrators and other decision-makers.” This year, the GPSA plans to focus on discussions about graduate student unionization, updating and revising the GPCI, procedures for student complainants, and overhauling communications to students.

According to Barbara A. Knuth, senior vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, the shared governance partnership with the GPSA is highly valued and effective. “Together, we’ve made significant progress on the GPCI, including improving support for students with families; greatly clarifying workers compensation eligibility and other support for students with injuries; planning for expanded graduate/professional student housing; improving on-campus parking options; increasing coordination and impact for our diversity and inclusion programs; and increasing graduate student stipends.”

Graduate students also are part of the shared governance of the Graduate School, with two voting members on the [General Committee of the Graduate School](#), the administrative, legislative and judicial body of the Graduate School.

The [EA](#) recently reorganized to better represent the more than 8,000 staff members on campus. It makes recommendations concerning the university’s human resource policies and issues affecting employees, recently working on eliminating the box on Cornell’s job application form indicating past criminal convictions and advocating for a name change to Cornell Plantations.

According to Ulysses Smith '14, chair of the EA and lead diversity and inclusion strategist in the Department of Inclusion and Workforce Diversity, the EA hopes to create a staff engagement plan similar to the GPCI based on the results of an upcoming employee survey. “The engagement plan will provide a long-term framework for addressing the needs of our diverse staff community and ensure that there is a mechanism for institutional accountability for the items outlined in the plan,” he said.

The [Senate](#), comprising about 100 members, is the governing body of the university faculty. Senators are elected by faculty in

Cornell's schools and academic departments in Ithaca and Geneva. Also serving as voting members are the university president, dean of the faculty, associate dean and secretary of the faculty, and the two faculty trustees.

According to Charles Van Loan, dean of the university faculty, the collective wisdom of the faculty is expressed through the [Senate](#), its [committees](#), and the faculty forums that it sponsors. "For the Senate to be successful, it must be proactive, thoughtful, democratic and responsive in its dealings with the administration," he said. "The Senate must be an interesting colloquium that anticipates issues and then sets the stage for their solution."

This year, he said, the Senate will spend time on matters that relate to the College of Business, Cornell Tech, the academic calendar, the criteria for promotion to the emeritus rank, the program review process, the preservation of academic freedom and curriculum issues that relate to liberal education. In addition, the Senate will work with the GPSA and the SA on various climate issues that affect both students and faculty.

"In its essence, shared governance provides processes to elect representation, to voice dissent and approval, to hear and be heard, and to foster change," said Gina Giambattista, director of the Office of the Assemblies. "Through the assemblies and faculty Senate, everyone in Cornell's Ithaca and Geneva communities has the opportunity to participate in campus governance."

For more information, including [meeting times](#), see the [Office of the Assemblies](#) and the faculty [Senate](#) webpages.

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## **Cornellians motivated to run and walk to work**

Staff members comprised more than two thirds of the total 376 Cornell community members participating in National Run/Walk @ (To) Work/School Day September 16. In addition to 263 current and 15 retired staff, 37 faculty and four emeritus faculty, 13 undergraduate students, 29 graduate students, six post doctoral students and 15 spouse/partners) took part in this event. Ten participants utilized the Lab of Ornithology trails, 72 utilized Beebe Lake loop, and 39 utilized the East Hill Rec Way.

Winning one pair each of running or walking shoes from Finger Lakes Running & Triathlon Company were Misa Suzuki, Asian Studies, and Kathy Bunting-Howarth, New York Sea Grant.

Liz Fabis, Landscape Architecture, and Rebecca Merritt, Facilities Information Group, each won a Petzl headlamp (great for running, walking, hiking, biking); Adam Brazier, Center for Advanced Computing, and Jinhee Roper, Infrastructure Properties and Planning, each won a Cornell insignia water bottle from The Cornell Store; and Christopher Riley, Music, won a model Campus-2-Campus bus from Cornell Transportation.

Winning a 24-oz. container of Cornell Dairy Yogurt were: Catherine Spirito, Biological and Environmental Engineering; Shannon Armstrong, Johnson Student Activities and Special Events; Nina Piccoli, alumna; Melisa Hubisz, Biological Statistics and Computational Biology; Karen Kudej, English; Richard Marisa, Cornell Information Technologies; Caleb Dexter, Cornell Police; Renee King, Applied and Engineering Physics; Lindsay Martin, Johnson; Laurie Johnston, Human Resources.

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## **Faculty, staff invited to host a "home plate"**

Home Plate is a new program, sponsored by the Student Assembly's City and Local Affairs Committee, to enhance community relationships through regular dinners between small groups of Cornell students and Ithaca-area residents.

It gives students the opportunity to better know their community and its residents, while off-campus individuals and families enjoy having engaging students over for a meal and conversation.

Participants host a group of Cornell students at their residence twice a semester. (Hosts can welcome a group of three-to-four students, or larger, while some have co-hosted with neighbors.)

For more information about Home Plate, visit <http://cornellhomeplate.com> or e-mail [jpg233@cornell.edu](mailto:jpg233@cornell.edu). Home Plate is supported by the Division of Student and Campus Life and the Office of Off-Campus Living.

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## Reminder of finances, retirement planning workshops

The following workshops will be offered at G10 Biotechnology Building unless otherwise noted. Free and open to all faculty, staff and students.

**Health and Money: A Powerful Link:** This Fidelity webcast features personal finance journalist Jean Chatzky and Dr. Michael Roizen, of the Cleveland Clinic, who will discuss women's unique challenges in living healthy financial, mental and physical lives. Offered twice: **Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. or Oct. 18 at 3 p.m.** [Register](#) to view the webcast from your computer.

**Pre-Retirement Planning:** This in-person and webcast program, presented by Benefit Services, provides information on transitioning into retirement and the effect on your benefits. See the [web page](#) for the webcast and to download the Retirement & Beyond booklet.

- **Endowed employees: Oct. 18, noon-1:15 p.m.,** at G01 Biotechnology Building
- **Contract college employees: Oct. 26, noon-1:30 p.m.,** at G01 Biotechnology Building.

**Smart Money Moves in Your 20s and 30s:** MetLife presents ten relevant smart money tips, from creating a budget to establishing an emergency fund, to making the most of retirement savings, **Oct. 19, 2016, noon-1 p.m.,** at G10 Biotechnology Building. Register by going to [www.MetLifePlanSmart.com](http://www.MetLifePlanSmart.com) (enter Cornell) or call 866-801-3547.

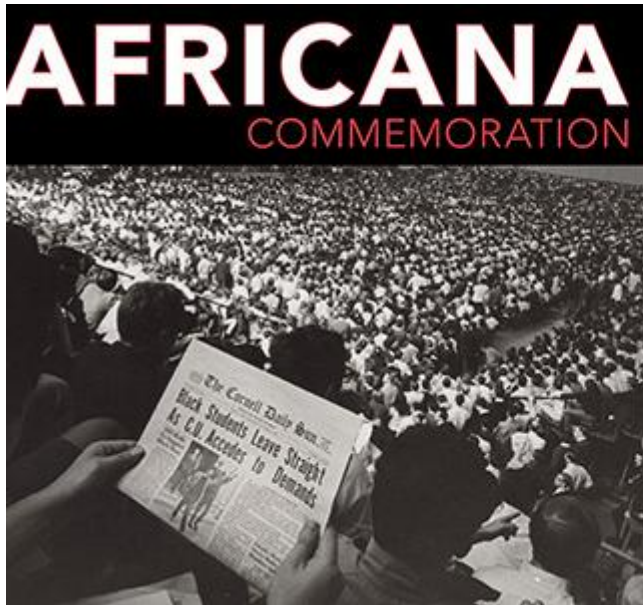
**Women and Finance: Get Organized:** Fidelity presents helpful guidance on budgeting, saving and managing debt for women, **Oct. 20, noon-1 p.m.,** at G10 Biotechnology Building. Reserve your seat online now. Or call 800-642-7131. R.S.V.P. is required.

**Within Reach:** TIAA discusses final preparations to help shift from an active career to retirement, **Oct. 25, noon-1 p.m.,** at G10 Biotechnology Building. From income options to taxes to health insurance, you need to be prepared. [Registration required.](#)

**Social Security Basics:** At this TIAA webcast, **Oct. 25 at noon,** you can learn the basics about Social Security, including eligibility, how to apply, benefits calculation, strategies and disability benefits. Register at [www.tiaa.org/ve](http://www.tiaa.org/ve) to view the webcast.

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## Africana commemoration



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
**Agents of Change**  
**Film Screening**  
**and panel discussion**  
 Willard Straight Theater  
**AT 2:30 PM**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
**Dedication Ceremony**  
 308 Wait Terrace parking lot  
**AT 11 AM**

**AFRICANA**  
 STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTER



The College of  
**Arts & Sciences**

**africana.cornell.edu**

**HOME COMING 2016**

During homecoming weekend, Cornell University will host several events commemorating the takeover of Willard Straight Hall in 1969 and the destruction of the original Africanana Studies building at 320 Wait Avenue by a suspected act of arson in 1970. On Friday, September 23, there will be a panel discussion, a multi-generational conversation featuring alumni, faculty, and students, that will place the Willard Straight takeover in the context of black student activism at Cornell and more broadly, nationwide. On Saturday, September 24, Cornell University will hold a commemoration ceremony at the site where 320 Wait Avenue once existed, as a permanent acknowledgment of the destruction of the original Africanana offices.

These events provide an opportunity to reflect on the past and to acknowledge the contribution of Africanana Studies at Cornell over nearly half a century in training generations of leaders in academia, the professions, business, and public service.

See [Cornell Chronicle article](#) for more information.

## Plantations' Judy's Day Sept. 25

Take a journey of the Americas and discover the food plants that have shaped the cultures, communities and industries of North, Central and South America at Judy's Day at [Cornell Plantations](#) Sunday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 5 p.m. in F.R. Newman Arboretum. Visitors can enjoy hands-on activities, music, storytelling and food at this fun and educational festival. Free parking at Cornell's B-Lot off Route 366 (near the College of Veterinary Medicine; shuttles will take visitors to the event.)

This year's festival theme is "Food Plants of the Americas," focusing on plants and their relationships to their places of origin. "Every other year we celebrate plants through unique programming, which is brought to life by an army of dedicated Plantations staff and volunteers. Some of the fun activities this year include making 'fufu' from Cassava, pounding hickory nuts into milk, and whistling with acorns," said Raylene Ludgate, Plantations' youth education coordinator and planner of Judy's Day.

Cornell Plantations celebrates Judy's Day in memory of Judy Abrams, an avid gardener and a great friend to Plantations who died in 1996.

No admission is charged for Judy's Day; a donation of \$5 per person is suggested.