



## The Latest in Pawprint: January 13, 2017

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### Staff celebrate 10 years of Bartels awards, scholarships



What is a decade?

In Bartels' years, it is recognizing 58 Building Care staff with the Bartels Award for Custodial Service Excellence, and providing scholarships for 15 Building Care staff and 44 children of department staff.

Phil Bartels '71, his wife Susan and their daughter and Cornell University Council member, Katie Bartels '06, returned to Cornell to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Bartels awards and scholarship program, Dec. 20 in Call Auditorium. They joined Vice President KyuJung Whang; former director of Building Care Rob Osborn and his wife, Mary Beth; and Facilities Management leadership to recognize the work of about 400 Building Care staff, hand out awards to six custodial and housekeeping staff members, and present one staff member and 10 children of staff members with scholarships.

Osborn gave a brief history of the program, which was developed shortly after Katie Bartels graduated from Cornell as a result of the thoughtfulness shown to students by custodian Craig Beaver. The first awards were given in February 2008; the Bartels endowed the award program in 2009, when they also established and endowed the scholarship program.

The Bartels Award is given annually to six custodial and housekeeping staff members with at least five years of service, nominated by their managers for their strong customer service orientation, reliability, team-building and communication skills, technical knowledge, support of the Cornell mission and positive attitude. Awardees also receive a certificate of recognition and a monetary award.

This year's awardees were:

- Carla Bishop, who according to her nominators, excels in mentoring and supervision; promotes a climate of inclusion, motivation and empowerment; and always is upbeat and smiling.
- Annette Bartlow, who is known for providing outstanding customer service, volunteers for Commencement and helps prepare Sage Chapel and Anabel Taylor Hall for special events. “We would be lost without her,” said one nominator.
- Kenneth Tate, who has received many compliments over the 10 years he has worked at Cornell with determination and passion and is called by many “the best custodian I have ever seen.” He works on the night shift crew for Teagle Hall.
- Lisa Boettcher, who has worked 36 years in Building Care and takes care of the A.D. White House. Her nominators say she has a cheerful, “can-do” disposition, pays attention to detail and is well-liked by her co-workers and staff.
- Bonny Johnston, now a lead custodian, who is “always willing to jump through hoops,” is able to multitask and has great communication skills and follow-through. She works alongside her staff to ensure the work is done well.
- Jennifer Mathewson, who her nominators say, “exceeds expectations,” is smart, generous, effective and a dedicated leader. She became the department’s workloading software expert, handling a presentation on that program “like a seasoned pro.”

Julie Parsons, Facilities Management events coordinator, recognized the children and staff members receiving scholarships: Stephanie Naylor (father, Greg); Luke Babel (father, Ron); Ciara Tallman (father, Pedro Collazo); Sarah Adsitt (father, Rob); Tia Soprano (mother, Lou Luce); Tom and Dan Schmitt (mother, Kelley); Shelby Hill (father, John); Savannah Padgett (mother, Amanda Holmes); and James Williams (father, James). Carmelo Melice received the employee scholarship.

Parsons updated the Bartels on three former scholarship recipients: Marissa Ferguson, who received the scholarship in 2015 and is attending SUNY Delhi; Dan and Tom Schmitt, Corning Community College students who also received scholarships this year, and whose mother wrote, “the scholarship was a huge relief”; and Jason David, who received the employee scholarship in 2012 and wrote, “there is no dollar amount anyone can place on the value of my son and daughter watching me go to school and getting my degree.”

“We are immensely proud of our scholarship recipients, and infinitely thankful to the Bartels family for making it happen,” Parsons said to the Bartels. “Thank you for the impact you have, the inspiration you offer, and the care you give.”

## **Gordon Barger leads Benefit Services and Administration**



Gordon Barger, associate chief human resources officer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA), was appointed Cornell’s senior director of Benefit Services and Administration in mid-December.

Barger succeeded Paul Bursic, who retired from Cornell after leading Benefit Services for about 20 years.

“Gordon brings an impressive background in the development and implementation of benefits plans that will help build on our already robust benefits offerings,” said Mary G. Opperman, Cornell vice president and chief human resource officer. “He is an effective communicator who enjoys working with faculty and staff to help them better navigate through their benefits options and the challenges that life presents. I look forward to working with Gordon as we look to the future, listen to our faculty and staff and work to make our benefits and programs even more effective for them.”

During Barger’s 10 years at the MMA, he created a five-year strategic health care plan, designed and implemented a retirement program improvement project, implemented Workday HR/Finance, and led several initiatives focused on enhancing the delivery of HR services, as well as in compensation and other HR areas. Previously, Barger led the benefits and compensation operations at Columbia University, was an adjunct faculty member at City University European Programs, and held roles as assistant manager for benefits systems at New York University and New York University Medical Center.

Barger intends to build on the strong benefits package and service-oriented team of benefits professionals Bursic has created.

“This is a very strong program with a strong team,” Barger said. “Part of my job will be to think about new perspectives, new ways of communicating, so that faculty and staff are more engaged in their benefits choices year-round.”

Barger plans to spend time meeting Cornell faculty and staff.

“I want to see staff and faculty in their work environment, see what their days are like,” he said. “That will help me better understand how the various benefits we offer fit together and can enhance their lives.”

He says his work at the museum helped him hone his communication and “big picture” strategy skills and better understand how to bring together people with diverse perspectives and needs. He said he is glad to return to the collaborative, problem-solving world of higher education that he knew at Columbia and New York University, and in his undergraduate and graduate days as a psychology major at Central Michigan University and New School for Social Research.

“I am very much looking forward to joining the amazing community that is Cornell, to once again be a part of the university world and the special people that have shaped my life and career,” he said. “It will also be exciting to further explore the campus, Ithaca and the surrounding regions. I truly feel like I’m ‘coming home.’”

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## Winter Employee Celebration is Jan. 28



Buy tickets now for [Cornell’s Winter Employee Celebration](#), to be held Jan. 28.

Tickets can be purchased through Jan. 19 at the Athletic Ticket Office in Bartels Hall (M-F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or call 255-4247.

The discounted \$5 per person ticket for Cornell staff, faculty, retirees and their families includes:

- a community dinner prepared by Cornell Catering, featuring chicken parmesan and baked ziti with Italian cheeses (vegan and gluten-free options are available), 3-5:30 p.m., in the Ramin Room, Bartels Hall
- children's activities and entertainment by the Cornell University mascot, pep band and CrossRoad Clown
- Big Red Men's Basketball vs. Dartmouth College, beginning at 6 p.m.
- bowling at Helen Newman Bowling Center, noon-6 p.m., \$2 games, \$1 shoes.

To request accommodations to participate in this event, contact Cheryl McGraw at [crm54@cornell.edu](mailto:crm54@cornell.edu).

Free parking at Hoy Garage with Cornell University ID.

Volunteers are needed for set-up (1-3 p.m.), serving (2:45-5:30 p.m.) and/or clean-up (5:30-6:30 p.m.), and will receive an Employee Celebration t-shirt and complimentary meal/game ticket for the day's events. Contact [empcelebration@cornell.edu](mailto:empcelebration@cornell.edu) to volunteer for this event.

Employee Celebration is sponsored by the Division of Human Resources, Division of Infrastructure Properties and Planning, Department of Athletics and Physical Education, Cornell Catering, Pepsico, McDonald's, CFCU Community Credit Union and Utz Quality Foods.

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## Cornell United Way campaign makes steady progress

Gifts to the 2017 Cornell United Way campaign over the past month have brought the university from more than half to more than 84 percent of its \$750,000 goal for the 2016-17 academic year.

The second [Big Red One-Day Online Auction](#), scheduled for Feb. 10, is expected to increase that total, with dozens of Cornell-related and Ithaca-related items and experiences, including behind-the-scenes tours, special meals and gift baskets, up for bid.

Cornell campaign organizers are hoping to continue to raise campaign participation rates, both before and after the auction. All gifts, at any level, aid members of the community in need, with the Cornell campaign providing nearly 40 percent of the annual Tompkins County United Way campaign goal. In addition, thousands of Cornellians rely on services from the United Way of Tompkins County, or have at some point in the past.

A recently released video features [a family that has benefitted from the Franziska Racker Centers](#), an agency that is supported in part by the United Way of Tompkins County.

Through the Cornell United Way campaign:

- A dollar per paycheck can help address [a long list of needs in the community](#). Every dollar given by individuals to the campaign directly benefits programming.
- You can designate your gift to a program or agency of your choice, including any non-member 501(c)(3) health and human service agency, in or outside Tompkins County.
- Giving is easy with [Cornell's online giving system or by using a hard-copy pledge card](#) or by emailing [community\\_relations@cornell.edu](mailto:community_relations@cornell.edu).

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## Apply now for spring 2017 semester learning partnerships



Are you a Cornell employee at the Statler or in Cornell dining or facilities who is interested in improving your skills in computers, English or career readiness? Do you need assistance in preparing for the High School Equivalency exam, the United States Citizenship exam, the NEHA food handler/manager exam or do you need support in taking a college course?

The Community Learning and Service Partnership (CLASP) provides Cornell employees free educational support as they work toward their individual learning goals by pairing employees with student learning partners for eight weekly sessions throughout the semester. CLASP is currently taking applications for the spring 2017 semester.

If you are interested, visit the CLASP [website](#) to get more information and download an interest form, or call Maria Vargas, program assistant, at 255-7633 or [mmp85@cornell.edu](mailto:mmp85@cornell.edu).

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## **Reminder: Soup & Hope opens 10th season Jan. 19**

The tenth anniversary series of Soup & Hope will open Jan. 19 at noon in Sage Chapel with Soup & Hope's founder, Janet Shortall, associate dean of students and director of Empathy, Assistance and Referral Service (EARS) and University Crisis Management.

Shortall will recall the inception of the Soup & Hope series in anticipation of the visit to Cornell in 2008 of Vincent Harding, veteran human rights and peace activist, "inviting all of us who have attended to reflect on our unique life stories with greater self-awareness ... and to search for how we might share in and cultivate greater compassion for self and others."

Since its first speakers that year, Soup & Hope has presented more than 50 speakers who have touched, inspired, motivated and stirred the hearts of those who gather Thursdays at noon in Sage Chapel. Stories have come from a wide range of Cornell staff, faculty, students, alumni and community members who have shared their experiences of hope and courage, change and challenge.

All talks will feature hot soup (vegetarian and non-vegetarian available) and bread provided at no charge by Cornell Dining. Consider bringing your own soup bowl, or purchasing one from the program for \$5.

Other 2017 speakers include:

- Feb. 2: Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Herrera, who enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October 2001 and is now

serving as an assistant Marine officer instructor at Cornell.

- Feb. 16: Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, executive director of the Greater Ithaca Activities Center and a member of the Tompkins County Legislature, who has lived in Ithaca for 26 years.
- March 2: Tim Shenk, coordinator of the Committee on U.S.-Latin American Relations, a Cornell-based social justice education organization, and foster parent with his wife Alicia.
- March 16: Frances Yufen Lee Mehta, senior lecturer of Chinese Mandarin in the Department of Asian Studies, who has been a Cornell faculty member for more than two decades.
- March 30: Kimerly Cornish, youth and family program coordinator for graduate student families at Hasbrouck, who is a graduate of Oberlin College.

More information on each of the speakers can be found at the [Soup & Hope](#) web page.

Soup & Hope is sponsored by Cornell Dining, Cornell United Religious Work and Gannett Health Services. Additional support comes from the Office of the Ombudsman, Engaged Learning + Research, Residential and New Student Programs, and University Communications.

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## University courses open to all through part-time study

Part-time study at Cornell University – formerly known as extramural study – is an opportunity for anyone high school age or older to take advantage of Cornell’s academic resources.

High school students, visiting college students, area residents, retirees, corporate learners and Cornell employees or alumni are invited to continue their education, further their careers or simply have fun learning something new at Cornell.

Registration for spring classes is Jan. 25-Feb. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in B20 Day Hall.

Participants can register for credit; audit almost any class without a grade; or, for a substantial reduction in tuition, enroll in fall or spring courses on a non-credit basis through the Visitors Program.

For more information, visit [parttimestudy.cornell.edu](http://parttimestudy.cornell.edu), call 607-255-4987, or e-mail [cusce@cornell.edu](mailto:cusce@cornell.edu).

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