



## The Latest in Pawprint: February 10, 2017

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### Winter Employee Celebration capped by basketball win



More than 2,300 Cornell employees, retirees and family members enjoyed chicken parmesan and pasta dinner at the Winter Employee Celebration, Jan. 28, in Bartels Hall.

The discounted tickets for the celebration also included the men's basketball game at Newman Arena, at which Big Red evened its Ivy record to 2-2 with a 75-62 victory over Dartmouth. A limited number of men's ice hockey tickets were available for men's hockey; Big Red fell to Dartmouth, 4-2.

Other attractions included information and children's activities provided by the Cornell University Police, Campus-to-Campus Bus Service, Cornell Astronomical Society, Environmental Health and Safety, and the Cornell United Way campaign, which is still accepting pledges and gifts.

Canine Officer Chase and Crossroad Clown also provided entertainment.

"My thanks to all of the employee volunteers as well as to all of the students who helped out," said Cheryl McGraw, event manager for human resources and coordinator for the day.

McGraw also thanked the Cornell University Police, Environmental Health and Safety, Transportation Services, Cornell Astronomical Society students and volunteers for the United Way for adding to the festive event, and sponsors Cornell Catering, Cornell Federal Credit Union, the Department of Athletics and Physical Education, the Division of Infrastructure Properties and Planning, the Division of Human Resources, Pepsi and Utz Quality Foods

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## Reminder: Online auction today, Feb. 10

[Bid. Win. Support.](#) The second Big Red One-Day Online Auction for the United Way is today, Feb. 10, until midnight. View and bid on items now at the [auction site](#).

Support the United Way and bid for nearly 100 Cornell and Ithaca-themed items and experiences, including a week-long cottage rental for five on Cayuga Lake, a lunch for eight at the William Henry Miller Inn, rare behind-the-scenes tours, meal certificates, gift baskets, lunch with Svante Myrick or Ezra Cornell, hand-crafted pottery and jewelry, and more. Visit the [auction site](#) now or [Cornell United Way homepage](#) to bid Friday, February 10.

Also, it is not too late to give a gift or make a pledge to the Cornell United Way campaign. [Donate online](#) now or fill out and return the paper copy pledge card you received in campus mail.

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## Reminder: Kick the cup Wednesdays at Ho Plaza

“Kick the Cup” to reduce waste on campus continues next Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your own mug to Ho Plaza outside Willard Straight Hall for coffee, chocolate or tea. (Disposable cups will not be provided; they are not recyclable.)

This effort is part of the eight-week [Recyclemania Competition](#), with Cornell competing against colleges across the nation.

Join the entire Cornell community in learning how to reduce personal waste, improve waste-sorting across campus (trash, recycling, compost) and help the university win this competition.

Contact the Campus Sustainability Office at [sustainability@cornell.edu](mailto:sustainability@cornell.edu) to learn more.

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## Military veteran and instructor recounts his journey to hope

During the course of his military career, Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Herrera, assistant Marine officer instructor at Cornell, graduated in the top 10 percent of his class in every academic and military training school he attended, was given highly dangerous and technical responsibilities, and was named Commander of Naval Air Forces United States Pacific Fleet Marine of the Year because of his managerial acumen and caring for those reporting to him.

In his talk at Soup and Hope in Sage Chapel Feb. 2, Herrera focused on his struggles to overcome his lifelong reputation as a “troublemaker,” “loser” and someone who “always makes dumb mistakes.” He has come to realize that hope comes when others have faith in him, and when he has faith, he can then inspire them to hope as well.

Herrera said his mother raised him in the church but he hated it, much preferring to play basketball – and yet, he admits, that grounding likely saved him later on.

As early as third grade, he remembers his classmates teasing him, getting in trouble and the teacher taking him to the principal’s office, calling him a loser and later telling his mother that he would probably end up in prison.

Such incidents continued throughout Herrera's school years, but he persevered. Shortly after graduating from high school, he made another "dumb decision" when his father asked him to be awake the next morning by 6 a.m. to help him pick up an engine in a nearby town, but Herrera went out partying and arrived home at 6:20 a.m., after his father had already left.

Herrera got back in the family's truck, started to drive, fell asleep and hit an oak tree. When he woke up, an ambulance had arrived at the scene, his teeth were shattered, glass covered his face and the truck was totaled. His mother was in tears and his father, also upset, asked him why he made such a poor decision in partying late the night before.

When Herrera saw that his crash had just taken a little bark off the oak tree, he thought, "This is indicative of my life. I can't even make an impact on an oak tree." He pushed through those feelings though, because his parents always supported him through tough love, reinforced through the church. They gave him hope by believing in him even when he didn't believe in himself.

Years later, Herrera decided to become a Navy Seal. Because of his troublemaker ways, the Navy did not allow him to enlist in the service, and Herrera once again felt he had let his parents down.

That made him decide to change his life for the better. He went into the restaurant business, working his way from busboy to successful co-owner and later decided to go into the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was accepted and went to boot camp, where his feelings of unworthiness were reinforced. But he felt that the purpose of instructors should be to give their students vision, and he went on to be a Drill Instructor himself. He later became an assistant Marine officer instructor at Cornell, teaching the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Training Corps students.

"This is an institution founded on only taking the best students out there, extraordinary people. You bring them in, you teach them stuff and you put them out in the world where they do extraordinary things," Herrera said. He also took classes at Cornell, where he found teachers who had faith in him and gave him hope that he could inspire others and continue his educational pursuits.

"I believe if you invest in somebody, if you believe in somebody, you'll get a return on your investment," Herrera said.

Now he takes his inspiration from his young son Jackson. At first, Herrera doubted his parenting skills because his one-year old son had not yet begun to walk. But on this last Christmas Day, his son took two steps, fell down, got up, took two more, fell down – and looked up, slapped his hands on the floor and smiled.

"He already gets it," Herrera said. "He knows there will be days he stumbles and falls, but he'll laugh it off and lift himself up. He gives me hope, he warms my soul."

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## **Cornell Police implements body-camera program**

Cornell University Police have a new tool to aid in their investigations and enhance public confidence and support.

As of Jan. 16, all uniformed police officers have been equipped with body-worn cameras, which they are required to wear full time while on duty and to activate for every service call. Cornell Police policy includes provisions to ensure that the privacy of victims is protected.

"After several years of research, the officers and I are pleased that we are now implementing body-worn cameras and have this important tool incorporated into our operations," said Police Chief Kathy Zoner.

Zoner noted that the introduction of body-worn cameras was something police officers and the public had requested. "While body-worn cameras certainly are only a part of what goes into investigating criminal cases and public complaints, we and the community are on the same page that this equipment provides greater opportunity for objective review," she said.

Deputy Chief David Honan said the benefits of implementing a camera program include strengthening police accountability to the community for all interactions during law enforcement efforts; improving agency transparency; improving evidence documentation; quicker and more thorough investigations of officer-involved situations and complaints; and strengthening officer performance.

“Until recently, the cost of the technology was prohibitive,” he said. “With the growing national conversation about police operation and interaction with the public, we wanted the cameras so the community could know that Cornell’s officers are doing what is expected of them. In the event there is a question about an officer’s actions, the video gives us an additional tool to investigate and alleviate the concerns of the public.”

All uniformed officers, from patrol officers to the chief of police, have been trained on policy and operational procedures, with a testing and soft rollout period of camera use during winter break. The cameras are water-resistant and designed to be durable to withstand the weather and varied challenges that policing a large university can bring. The department purchased cameras for each sworn officer, with a couple extra so that spares are available if needed.

Officers can download camera data to a central secured server from a dock in the office or right from their patrol vehicles if needed, eliminating concerns about camera memory and storage while on patrol.

Patrol Officer William Carpenter, president of the Cornell Police Union, said the union is pleased that Cornell University Police leadership have implemented the use of body-worn cameras.

“We fully support the use of the cameras, which will enhance our jobs as police officers,” he said. “Transparency to the Cornell community is of utmost importance to the Cornell Police Union.”

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## **Cornell Dining wins silver medal at cooking competition**

Last month a four-person team from Cornell Dining placed second in a chopped-style cooking competition presented by the [American Culinary Federation](#) (ACF) Conference and Skidmore College. Teams representing 11 colleges and universities across the Northeast were required to prepare a three-course meal, including appetizer, entrée and dessert.

The judging panel consisted of two certified master chefs, and contestants were judged on originality, taste and presentation. The master chef judges also awarded or deducted additional points for timing, teamwork, utilization of food, skills, sanitation and overall preparation.

All teams needed to use all of the same ingredients: a market basket of bison flank steak, skate fish, pheasant and 24 other ingredients.

The team from Cornell included: Ivy Fillion, short order cook; Jacob Kuehn, West Campus operations manager; Leticia Andrade, sous chef, Cornell Catering; and Stephen Landon, cook.

“I’m very proud of the preparation and the work ethic this team has shown,” says Steven Miller, senior executive chef at Cornell Dining. “It’s an honor to bring home the silver medal and we look forward to the next ACF Conference,” he adds.

In addition to the competitive judging and awards for the three-course meal, all contestants returned to make a family-style meal as lunch for all conference attendees.

Cornell Dining operates 29 on-campus eateries and serves more than 26,000 meals a day. It has consistently ranked in the Princeton Review’s top ten for best campus food among all colleges and universities in the country. For more information, visit [dining.cornell.edu](http://dining.cornell.edu).

*Gary Marcoccia is a communications specialist for Campus Life Marketing and Communications.*

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## Campus blood drives

According to the American Red Cross, there is an emergency need for blood donors. On-campus donation sites have been set up for February. This month all donors will receive a free \$5 Amazon e-card and a free t-shirt when they donate. Sign up online at one of the following times, or call 1-800 RED CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Walk-ins are always welcome. Bring your Cornell ID card or other photo ID with you.

- Monday, Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Jr. Lab. To make your appointment: [Click here](#)
- Thursday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at G10 Biotechnology Building. To make your appointment: [Click here](#)
- Wednesday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Anabel Taylor Hall. To make your appointment: [Click here](#)
- Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Anabel Taylor Hall. To make your appointment: [Click here](#)
- Tuesday, Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Barton Hall, gymnasium. To make your appointment: [Click here](#).

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## Filmmaker Dawn Porter to speak at MLK commemoration

Criminal justice reformer, attorney and filmmaker [Dawn Porter](#) is the featured speaker for Cornell's 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration, Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. at the State Theatre. Free and open to the public, the event is sponsored by [Cornell United Religious Work](#) (CURW) in collaboration with campus and community partners.

Porter is directing a documentary based on the book "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." The book and the social issues it addresses are the focus of Ithaca's [Community Book Read](#) through April. Its author, Michelle Alexander, was originally scheduled as this year's MLK speaker but had to cancel her early 2017 speaking engagements for health reasons.

A free screening of Porter's award-winning HBO documentary "[Gideon's Army](#)," which follows three public defenders in the Deep South, is Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. at [Cinemapolis](#) in downtown Ithaca. The film has been used to engage local communities on issues of indigent defense, the American justice system and socio-economic influences on crime.

"Dawn shares Michelle's commitment to changing the circumstances that led to the incarceration of over 2 million individuals in the United States, more than any other industrialized nation, a significant number of which are black and Latino," said Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke Sr., director of CURW.

Porter's films include "[Trapped](#)" (2016), about the battle for women's reproductive health rights; and "[Spies of Mississippi](#)" (2014), both of which aired on PBS's "Independent Lens." "[Rise: The Promise of My Brother's Keeper](#)" was shown on The Discovery Channel in 2015. Porter interviewed President Barack Obama for the film, which chronicles his program to help young men and boys of color succeed. "Gideon's Army" (2013) received the Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award, which supports filmmakers from traditionally underrepresented communities; the Sundance Film Festival Editing Award; and Independent Spirit Award and Emmy nominations.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and Georgetown Law Center, Porter practiced law for five years and was a standards and practices executive at ABC News and A&E Television Networks prior to her career as a filmmaker.

She also will visit the Cornell Law Library and the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections in Kroch Library, and view a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation in Abraham Lincoln's handwriting.

The annual [Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration](#) aspires to make King's life and legacy accessible for contemporary times. Speakers are scholars, activists, journalists and religious leaders influenced by and continuing King's work, including those

who worked directly with or knew the civil rights leader.

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## Cornell Store Valentine's gifts available

Looking for a Valentine's Day gift for someone? Head to The Cornell Store.

Pre-order a beautiful, fresh rose bouquet for only \$25.00 by Feb. 13 and pick up at The Cornell Store, Main Campus store on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Pre-orders must be placed by Feb. 13. [Click this link to pre-order a beautiful rose bouquet from The Cornell Store.](#) Bouquets available in red, pink, yellow or white.

A limited quantity of roses will also be available for sale in the Main Campus store on Tuesday, Feb. 14 only.

Other gift ideas at the store include a special Valentine's Day Gift Basket, Valentine's Day boxer shorts, plush bears, Cornell chocolates and locally-made treats from Darling Cakes & Life's So Sweet. [Some items can be ordered online](#) and some are available at the Mall and Commons Cornell Store locations.

Valentine's Day mylar balloons and greeting cards are available at the Main Campus store only.

For hours and locations, visit [store.cornell.edu](http://store.cornell.edu).

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## Farm Bureau to host farm transitions seminar

The Tompkins County Farm Bureau will host a Land As Your Legacy® farm-transition planning workshop Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-noon at the Dryden Fire Station, 24 North St., Dryden, NY. This free workshop will be presented by transition-planning specialists from Nationwide® Financial and is co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

This seminar is designed for farmers and farm families who may not know today who they want to take over their farm or ranch operation. But, without the proper planning, outside influences such as New York laws and other factors may not allow them to have the control they would like.

Participants can start thinking through this planning process through this no-obligation, no cost, Land as Your Legacy® seminar.

"Looking at the future of our farm operations is something we all need to consider," said Lin Davidson, president of the Tompkins County Farm Bureau. "We are very fortunate that New York Farm Bureau's partnership with Nationwide Insurance allows us to bring this seminar to our member and fellow non-member farmers."

Open to the public but registration is necessary. Register by Feb. 14 to Debbie Teeter, 607-272-2292, x151, [DLT22@cornell.edu](mailto:DLT22@cornell.edu)

For more information on Farm Bureau, visit [www.NYFB.org](http://www.NYFB.org)

For more information on Land As Your Legacy®, visit: <https://www.nationwide.com/farmer-estate-planning.jsp>

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