



## The Latest in Pawprint: March 24, 2017

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### Cornell staff conquer Storm Stella



*Editor's note: The article below captures just a sampling of the work staff performed to keep essential functions operating across Cornell's Ithaca campus during last week's snowstorm.*

For many staff, Cornell's closing of the Ithaca campus at noon, March 14, through 4:30 p.m., March 15, meant they could be home with their children during the worst of the late-season snowstorm as area school districts closed and county travel bans went into effect.

For those whose work could be done remotely, the storm also meant working from home to keep Cornell operations and administrative functions running seamlessly.

And for many others, the snowstorm Stella, which left about 15 inches of snow on the ground, meant pitching in wherever the need was greatest and ramping up the service they provide to Cornell on a daily basis.

In the Division of Infrastructure, Properties and Planning, for instance, a dozen plow trucks and 10 sidewalk tractors were deployed to clear more than 61 miles of sidewalks, 15 miles of roadway and 114 acres of campus lots, according to Ben Kuo, associate vice president for facilities management, and Dan Schied, director for grounds.

"While the university was closed for most, Facilities Management – including Building Care, Grounds and Maintenance – continued working to ensure the safety of our residential communities as well as the stewardship of our facilities and the ongoing research within," said Kuo. "It's with great appreciation that I would thank all these staff members for their dedication in providing services around the clock to the campus while the same challenging conditions also affected their families back

home.”

On Tuesday, approximately one dozen staff each from Building Care and Maintenance departments and 50 staff from Grounds battled the effects of the storm and kept essential operations functioning, with many working extended shifts or spending Tuesday night at a nearby hotel. On Wednesday, Maintenance staff were increased to 36, and Building Care staff to 160.

“The staff did a great job and we kept campus systems running, supplying heat, electricity, cooling and domestic water to the campus continuously during the two days of storm weather,” said Lanny Joyce, director of utilities and energy management.

Also working around the clock were the staff members from Cornell University Police and Environmental Health and Safety. “We appreciate our emergency management and services staff who monitored weather conditions, responded to emergency calls, and assisted with communications to the campus community,” said Christine Stallmann, associate vice president for Environmental Health and Safety.

Chief of Police Kathy Zoner is especially grateful for the ways in which the Cornell community facilitated the work of those dealing with the effects of the storm: “In situations like this it is important for people to read the emergency messages and heed their advice. We are pleased at the response of our community, which made safer passage for emergency responders and eased snow removal by keeping vehicular and pedestrian traffic off the roads and sidewalks.”

At the College of Veterinary Medicine, staff who worked during the university closure included veterinary technicians; admissions, discharge and animal care staff; pharmacists; veterinary interns and residents; lab technicians; administrative and financial staff; staff who receive, process and perform diagnostic tests; and many student employees.

Similar staffing needs were met in other colleges across campus that are in charge of caring for animals and plants.

The Statler Hotel remained open for the two-day storm, with a full range of employees working, including housekeepers, food service workers, maintenance workers, supervisors, managers and student employees. “I am so grateful to the many staff and student heroes who contributed to serving our many guests that became stranded, as well as housing Cornell Dining staff who were working to continue to feed the students,” said Richard Adie ’75, Statler Hotel’s managing director. About 20 hotel employees spent the night in the hotel each night.

Campus Life paid for 44 of their staff to stay at the Statler Tuesday night to minimize the interruption to Cornell Dining and to continue the room selection process for housing. The community centers on North Campus and most residential dining rooms were kept open for the duration of the storm, with staff working extra hours. Bear Necessities was kept open for nearly its full hours and Amit Bhatia Libe Café was re-opened as soon as possible so that students could study there.

Cornell Dining’s Dustin Cutler, director; Paul Muscente, associate director; and Steven Miller, director of culinary management, recorded a YouTube [video Thank You](#) to dining staff.

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## Registration March 30 for Bring a Child to Work

Registration for Cornell’s 2017 Bring a Child to Work Day will open Thursday, March 30, at 9 a.m. The event will be held April 27 and is open to children ages 8-16. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

A list of sessions is [now online](#), updated March 24.

Some of the most popular sessions fill quickly. Be sure to read through the notes about registration and be prepared with back up choices for your child. If you are registering multiple children for the same session consider the multiple child registration form.

If you do not have computer access, either check with a supervisor on how to enter your registration online or print off the registration form. If you print out the registration form, you can then complete it and bring your completed form to 130 Day Hall by March 27 at 5 p.m. A staff person from the human resources office will go online and enter your selections for you,

entry effective March 30 at 9 a.m.

Remember: Online registration will be open March 30, 9 a.m.-April 17, 5 p.m. All paper registration forms are due by March 27, 5 p.m.

For more information:

- [Read the FAQ](#)
  - [Alternative Activities](#)
  - [Session Descriptions](#)
  - For questions, contact [bring\\_a\\_child@cornell.edu](mailto:bring_a_child@cornell.edu)
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## **Flexible Spending Account 2016 claim deadline reminder**

Employees enrolled in the medical or dependent care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for the 2016 plan year have until April 30 to submit eligible claims to PayFlex for reimbursement. The deadlines for incurring expenses for eligible 2016 medical or dependent care have passed.

Log in to the Cornell [PayFlex website](#) to:

- submit claims for expenses incurred, and
- view claims that were denied for reimbursement due to incomplete documentation.

### **Up to \$500 in a medical FSA will rollover**

A reminder that for the first time this year, up to \$500 of unused money in a 2016 medical care FSA account will be rolled over into a 2017 medical FSA account. Money remaining above the \$500 rollover limit on April 30 will be lost. The \$500 that is rolled over must be used for eligible medical expenses incurred between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017 or it too, will be forfeited. The \$500 rollover does not offset the 2017 election amount.

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## **Breaking Bread initiative awarded Perkins Prize**

Breaking Bread – an initiative of Intercultural Programs in the Center for Intercultural Dialogue that brings together participants from different communities, identities, groups and organizations for dinner and facilitated discussions – received the James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial and Intercultural Peace and Harmony March 21 in Willard Straight Hall.

The Perkins Prize is awarded annually to honor the Cornell individual or program making the most significant contribution to furthering the ideal of university community while respecting values of racial diversity.

Interim President Hunter Rawlings presented the \$5,000 prize to Renee Alexander '74, associate dean of students, who typically leads discussion groups at the Breaking Bread events.

Rawlings called the prize “Cornell’s highest award for those who work to achieve social, gender, ethnic, sexual identity and racial equality on our campus and beyond.” He said the Breaking Bread initiative advances Ezra Cornell’s founding principle of “any person, any study” and furthers the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Breaking Bread has brought together trustees and students, Cornell Democrats and Republicans, and fraternities and sororities in rigorous discussion, encouraging engagement across disagreement, Rawlings said.

Over the past year, Breaking Bread has hosted 20 events – 17 small-group and three campuswide – with more than 600 participants. Last November, one of its larger, campuswide events, “Post-Election America,” drew 250 people. Its other large conversations were on “Race, Religion and Campus Climate” and “Freedom of Speech and Civility in America.”

Its small-group discussions have explored belief systems, world views, preconceived notions, biases and stereotypes, and often have led to collaborative student efforts.

In his letter nominating Breaking Bread for the Perkins Prize, the Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke Sr., director of Cornell United Religious Work, wrote, “Breaking Bread is a model for building a cooperative community, respecting diversity and fostering important discussions and action in difficult times.”

Honorable mentions went to the Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC) and Black Students United (BSU). NASAC worked to achieve broader awareness of indigenous people’s presence in the Cornell community, culminating in a series of campus activities, Indigenous Peoples’ Week, last fall. BSU’s List of Demands campaign prompted a movement to improve the campus environment for all students, providing impetus this year to collaborate with senior administration in planning the Africana dedication and commemoration ceremony; promote the renaming of Cornell Plantations to Cornell Botanic Gardens; and advocate for the divestment of the university from the private-prison industry.

The Perkins Prize was created and endowed by Cornell Trustee Emeritus Thomas W. Jones ’69, MRP ’72, to honor James A. Perkins, Cornell president from 1963 to 1969. Jones, who attended the ceremony, recalled first meeting Rawlings at the awarding of the Perkins Prize in 1995. He is founder and principal of the private equity investment firm TWJ Capital and has served on the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Overseers.

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## **Cornell Store to be closed April 5**

The Cornell Store will be closed Wednesday, April 5, for an annual inventory. Both banks, Tompkins Trust Company and CFCU Community Credit Union, will be open regular hours that day, but bank patrons must enter the store via the Ho Plaza entrance.

Make note of the following additional closures:

- The Cornell Store at the Statler Hotel will close at noon April 4; reopening April 5.
- Center Sage at Sage Hall will close at noon March 31; reopening April 3.
- The Cornell Store at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City will be closed April 5.

During the store closures, customers can use the [website](#) or e-SHOP to purchase a wide variety of supplies, tech products and Cornell items. In addition, on April 5, Cornell gifts and clothing are available at The Cornell Store at the Statler Hotel (8 a.m.-5 p.m.), at The Cornell Store at the Shops at Ithaca Mall (10 a.m.-9 p.m.), and at The Cornell Store on the Ithaca Commons (11 a.m.-6 p.m.).

Contact The Cornell Store by phone, 607-255-4111; email, [store@cornell.edu](mailto:store@cornell.edu); or online at [store.cornell.edu](http://store.cornell.edu).

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## **Baker Pet Talks: Tips from Cornell experts**

Do you know what to do if your pet suddenly collapses?

Learn the basics of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) April 5, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Baker Institute for Animal Health, so you can help your dog or cat until you can get them to a veterinarian. This is an event for animal lovers of all ages. Admission is free.

In this hands-on demonstration, [Daniel J. Fletcher, PHD, DVM](#), associate professor of emergency and critical care in the College of Veterinary Medicine, will show how to check the airway, learn to do chest compressions and mouth-to-snout ventilation, and practice CPR on mannequin cats and dogs. Fletcher is co-chair of the [RECOVER Initiative](#), which published the first evidence-based veterinary CPR guidelines in 2012. He has taught CPR courses all over the world.

The event will be co-sponsored by the Baker Institute for Animal Health, the research center that created the canine parvo vaccine and the world's first successful litter of puppies born via *in vitro* fertilization, and the [Cornell Feline Health Center](#), the first organization dedicated solely to improving the lives of cats.

If you can't make it to the Institute, you can watch the demonstration live online. For more information, see [the latest](#).

The Baker Institute, at 235 Hungerford Hill Rd., is located less than five minutes from campus, off of Snyder Hill Road and Ellis Hollow Road and has ample, free parking.

Contact the institute by phone 607-256-5652 or [email](#) if you have any questions.

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## **Bowl with friends at Helen Newman**

The following two bowling opportunities for Cornell employees and their families and friends at the Helen Newman Bowling Center are offered by the Cornell Recreation Connection:

### **Get the Ball Rolling**

Take a non-competitive, casual lunch break, April 4 at noon, and enjoy pizza and bowling for \$5.

Pick up your entry form at Helen Newman Bowling Center or by email from Cheryl McGraw, [crm54@cornell.edu](mailto:crm54@cornell.edu). Send registration forms and fees to Helen Newman. Make checks payable to Cornell University. Pre-registration reserves your bowling lane. Walk-in bowlers are welcome, lane space permitting.

### **Employee Bowling Blast Tournament**

If a fun tournament experience is what you are looking for, register for this employee bowling tournament, April 8, beginning at noon. \$25 per pair. Singles will be paired with another single bowling partner. Bring friends and co-workers for a friendly competition. Pick up your entry form at Helen Newman Bowling Center or by email from Cheryl McGraw, [crm54@cornell.edu](mailto:crm54@cornell.edu). Send registration forms and fees to Helen Newman. Make checks payable to Cornell University. Pre-registration reserves your bowling lane.

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## **RED Day is April 6**

A campus-wide Cornell Recognition Event Day (RED Day) will be held April 6, noon-2 p.m., to say thanks to Cornell's hard-working employees. The event will offer cupcakes and other snacks at the following locations:

- Duffield Hall Atrium
- East Hill Office Building Atrium
- Klarman Hall
- AG Quad

Additional locations will be publicized in the next Career/Life Digest newsletter.

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## **AgStravaganza!**

Learn about local agriculture at [AgStravaganza!](#) – a free family event April 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Ithaca Commons, featuring educational exhibits and farm-themed games, crafts and activities, including ice cream with the Dairy Princess and spin the Wheel O'Dairy and tasting some local foods. Children's activities include: make a clothespin critter, plant a seed, make a cow puppet, play in the corn box, pet a bunny and check out baby chicks, watch some well-trained dogs at work.

For more information, contact Debbie Teeter at 607-272-2292 or [dlt22@cornell.edu](mailto:dlt22@cornell.edu).

*Sponsored by Tompkins County Farm Bureau with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.*

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## **Cornell to plunge into Special Olympic benefit event March 25**

Cornell will be solidly represented March 25 when a number of its students, faculty and staff join local community members in the fourth annual Ithaca Polar Plunge at 1 p.m. Registration, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., precedes their jump into the still-frigid Cayuga Lake at Taughannock Falls State Park Beach. The polar plunge supports local Special Olympics athletes.

The five teams from Cornell already signed up are: Cornell Swim and Dive, with captain Elizabeth Thayer; Phi Delta Epsilon, captain Agnes Kwak; Phi Sigma Sigma, captain Shelya Finker; The Cold Brew Crew, captain Kerri Jones; and TriDelta, captain Aliza Maki.

Another team, 5K Chili, led by Gary Cremeens, comprises mostly Cornell staff from Infrastructure Properties and Planning, with team members including Chris Austin, Bridgette Brady, Wendy Cremeens, Tom Davies, Carl Hoaglin, Bradford Norton, Chris Robinson and Nathan Walz.

Cornell community members are invited to support the event by sponsoring or cheering on team participants.

[Program information](#) is available, as are commentary and photos of the [5K Chili team](#). For more information, contact Cassandra Rucker, [crucker@nyso.org](mailto:crucker@nyso.org).

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