Stories of hope are all around us, says Ithaca Common Councilor

NANCY DOOLITTLE

A longtime Ithaca resident, former reporter and the 2nd Ward representative who is the longest-serving member of the current Ithaca Common Council, J.R. Clairborne sees evidence of hope everywhere. “You don’t have to look to Hollywood or TV or the movies for stories of hope or inspiration; these stories are all around you,” he said at the Jan. 31 Soup and Hope talk in Sage Chapel – and proved his point by sharing a number of them.

“What inspires and sustains me is the power of everyday people to overcome what are seemingly insurmountable odds, obstacles that make you wonder, ‘How can they do that?’ and yet they seem to keep going every day,” he said.

For instance, Clairborne recalled, early in his journalism career he was at a camp for children with the AIDS virus and their families and had an animated interview there with a girl of about 7 years old. She was full of strength and vitality, and seemed oblivious to the disease she had. Then, once he moved to Ithaca, Clairborne met Diann Sams, then a single mom and the 2nd Ward alderwoman on Common Council. She had severe rheumatoid arthritis and yet made “living look easy,” Clairborne recalled, saying she raised two sons who are now in law enforcement, served on the Ithaca City School District Board of Education, was a local civil rights leader and active with the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC). Before her death in 2005, Sams received numerous awards as well as inclusion on the Wall of Tolerance at the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Ala. “I am also inspired by the stories of people who go to great lengths – out of love or determination – to simply do somebody else good,” Clairborne said. He recalled watching first responders run toward the site of an explosion in the town of Caroline to assist those who had been hurt. More recently he has been inspired by Tony Augustine, an Ithaca police officer who almost lost his life last October after being shot while in pursuit of a suspected car thief.

Clairborne says that in January Augustine, as a way of giving back during his recovery, collected and donated numerous toys, games and equipment to GIAC as a first step toward building connections between the police force and children in the community. Others who have inspired Clairborne include Cal Walker, Cornell’s outreach liaison to the Ithaca City School District and co-founder of the Village at Ithaca education initiative; Nathaniel Wright, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, who was the church’s assistant minister at just age 15; and Clairborne’s wife Leslyn McBean-Clairborne, a Tompkins County legislator. When they met, she was a single mom with one son and raising a foster son, whom she later adopted, while providing respite care for other foster children. And he is inspired by the organization Loaves and Fishes, where Clairborne works, which feeds 125-150 people daily through a staff of six, along with volunteers.

Finally, Clairborne connected the song “I Go to the Rock,” which opened his talk at Sage, with stories about the “rock” of his life, his mom, the Rev. Earline Clairborne. During Clairborne’s childhood, this former nurse educator would see a need in their community in Kansas and make things happen to meet that need. She was a civil rights pioneer in her own right and the person whom everyone sought out for help because she never took “no” for an answer. Today she is far progressed with Alzheimer’s disease and talks little. Still, on a recent night, she unexpectedly mustered the lucidity and recognition to say “I love you” when Clairborne visited her.

But stories of hope are not just around us; they are us, Clairborne said. “When you want to look for someone who is a source of inspiration, you need look no further than in the mirror: Look to yourself, and remember that you are somebody,” Clairborne said. “There is always someone watching you and watching what you do. They will adjust their life according to what they see as the lesson in your life,” he said.

He should know. Since Clairborne’s talk at Soup and Hope, he and his wife were named co-recipients of this year’s J. Diann Sams Annual African American History Month Recognition Award.
Cloud Computing: What is it?
“Cloud computing” is often talked about, but less often understood. This winter and spring, an ongoing series of Tech Talks will focus on various aspects of cloud computing at Cornell. The cloud is about:

Moving computing off your computer and off Cornell’s premises.
- You can store personal photos with an online service like Picasa (http://picasa.google.com/) instead of on your computer.
- Cornell can move an entire service like email from Cornell servers to ones owned and managed externally. Read about Office 365 (http://www.it.cornell.edu/services/guides/facstaff_email/officeservices/index.cfm).

Focusing on what matters instead of on technology.
- You can spend more time collaborating, teaching or learning and less on struggling to share files, papers, or results by using a service like Box (http://www.it.cornell.edu/services/box/index.cfm).
- Cornell can refocus a wide range of resources (staff, money and time) on education, research and outreach by purchasing widely used services like email, calendar and video platforms instead of building and supporting them on premise.

Flexibility.
- If you don’t like your personal email service, Yahoo! mail, for example, you are free to pick another online email service like Gmail, import your data and move on.
- If Cornell finds a service that is a better fit, less expensive or has more features we need, we can choose to move to it without abandoning a large investment in a locally built and supported application.

Easy access.
- You can access cloud services via the web, store your data with the services, and reach services from a variety of devices so you can access services and your data from anywhere.

Speed.
- Cornell can provide a service in a matter of months, or less, from the time a need is identified.

Resources.
- Cornell can invest less on technology infrastructure; buy only what it needs when it needs it; get more or less capacity as required and take advantage of favorable pricing based on economies of scale. Commodity, low-cost IT services are here.


Nominations sought for two new universitywide staff awards

NANCY DOOLITTLE
Do you know someone who consistently demonstrates Cornell’s values and has a positive and influential effect on the work environment? Does this person meet or exceed job expectations and help motivate others to be successful? Is this someone you feel should be recognized universitywide by the vice president for human resources and safety services and by the president of the university?

The Employee Recognition Team is calling for nominations for two awards—an individual excellence award and a management award. Nominee criteria and nomination forms can be found online at https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/celebrating/ and will be accepted through Feb. 28.

The Individual Excellence Award will be presented to Cornell staff members who consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment and dedication to the university’s values and Staff Skills for Success, have a positive and influential impact on their work environment and foster cooperation and collaboration among their peers and supervisors.

The Management Award will be presented to Cornell supervisors, managers, directors or senior/executive directors who demonstrate the university’s values and the Leadership Skills for Success. The nominee should create an inclusive environment that develops, empowers, engages, challenges and motivates his/her staff, resulting in greater productivity and effectiveness.

University values to be considered in nominating someone for either award include the nominee’s abilities to seek knowledge and support free and open intellectual inquiry and expression; excel in teaching, research or public engagement; embrace diversity and bring a new or different perspective to work; promote cross-cultural and cross-national understanding; treat all with dignity, respect and fairness; and be collaborative and congenial.

Nominees will be announced in the spring semester, with two winners in each category receiving a monetary award. One nominee will be chosen to receive a presidential award, “Far Above Cayuga’s Waters.” A luncheon with President David Skorton and Vice President Mary Opperman will be held annually to recognize award winners and nominees.

The awards were created by the Employee Recognition Team, which was formed in response to feedback from last year’s Employee Recognition Team, which was formed in response to feedback from last year’s Employee Recognition Survey to develop a suite of programs that complement existing programs to give Cornell staff members more recognition for their good work.

Tech Training Spotlight
Want to learn about the new features in Windows Server 2012? This hands-on Windows Server 2012 First Look course will outline new management and access features for Server Manager, Active Directory and PowerShell. It will also cover storage and network improvements as well as High Availability and significant changes to Hyper-V contained in Windows Server 2012. Register now for this one-day class scheduled for March 14.

For a complete listing of technical training resources, see http://www.it.cornell.edu/training/. Email questions to workshop-info@cornell.edu.
My name is Bridget Cristelli and I began working at Cornell five years ago as an administrative assistant in the Senior Associate Deans Office and the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. I was elected to the Employee Assembly (EA) almost two years ago and can honestly say that it has been an excellent and rewarding experience to be able to serve my fellow staff members. It has allowed me to learn how the university operates, to be a voice for all staff members at Cornell and to gain some great friendships.

I joined the EA not to just learn about how the university operates, but to be an active voice for my fellow staff members across campus and to be sure that your concerns are being heard in the decision-making process. As many of you know, this has been an exciting time for staff at Cornell with the completion of the Employee Survey and the formation of multiple committees to review your input in the survey. I have served as co-chair on the Position Evaluation and Analysis Committee and, most recently, I have begun to serve on the Recognition of Excellent Work Committee. Although a year has passed since the survey was completed, know that we at the EA are working diligently in guaranteeing that your input is being fully considered. Please try to attend the upcoming open forums, as they will provide another excellent opportunity for you to give us feedback and to ask questions.

I have also had the privilege during my time on the EA to hold the role of vice chair of Internal Operations for two years. In this role I help facilitate the selection of employee members to fill committee positions administered by the EA and the University Assembly.

I recently began serving as chair of the Staff Recognition and Awards Committee, which administers all aspects of the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service and the KUDOS program. For more information on the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service or to nominate someone, please visit: http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA-GeorgePeter/Home; to send KUDOS to a fellow employee, please visit: http://assembly.cornell.edu/EAAwards/Kudos.

The EA is currently looking for new members and I would encourage each of you to consider becoming a member of the EA or joining one of our many committees. If you are interested in joining the EA, please visit: http://assembly.cornell.edu/Elections/2013SpringEA.

The EA meets the first and third Wednesday of each month and our meetings are open to all. Please consider visiting a meeting to either join in the discussion, observe or ask questions. You can always visit the EA website for more information at http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA/Home or feel free to contact me at bac89@cornell.edu. I would love to hear from you!

The next two Employee Survey forums are scheduled:
- Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m., Veterinary Dry Lab 4
- Feb. 21, 12:15-1:15 p.m., G10 Biotechnology Building

Employee Survey forums

The Employee Assembly held the first in a series of open forums addressing issues identified through the Employee Survey Feb. 5 at Robert Purcell Community Center.

The forum began with a review of four universitywide issues that the survey identified – workload/workload imbalance, supervisory feedback opportunities, career development and growth, and recognition of excellent work. Also discussed were the ideas that have surfaced from the Employee Assembly, human resources staff and volunteers across campus to address each of these issues and the plans to move them forward, with feedback sought from the forum participants. Topics of greatest interest to forum participants included those regarding workload, compensation and giving and receiving supervisory feedback.

The next two forums are scheduled for Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m., Veterinary Dry Lab 4, and Feb. 21, 12:15-1:15 p.m., G10 Biotechnology Building.

Feedback from the three sessions will be used to finalize plans before they are submitted to President David Skorton for final review.

For more information about the results of the Employee Survey, visit hr.cornell.edu/about/employeesurvey/

CU named a top employer for women executives

Cornell has been named one of the nation’s top nonprofit employers for executive women by the National Association for Female Executives (NAFE) for its hiring and retention of women; access to and use of programs that support women’s issues and advancement; and the presence of women among Cornell executives.

This is the second time that the university has been included on the NAFE list of Top Companies for Executive Women; the first was in 2008.

Also noted in the recognition were aspects of its organizational culture that support all Cornell employees, including women executives: Cornell’s work/life programs; managerial training and accountability; and use of the Employee Survey and other feedback mechanisms to identify areas for improvement.

In 2012 Cornell was named a best employer for working mothers by Working Mother magazine for the sixth time and was included in the Dave Thomas Foundation “Top 100 Adoption-Friendly Workplaces” list for the sixth consecutive year. Also in 2012, the university was singled out by the Families and Work Institute for its “promising practices” that support military service men and women transitioning into the civilian workplace.

Cornell will receive the NAFE recognition in New York City March 20. In addition, Cornell will be featured for its NAFE ranking in the February/March 2013 issue of Working Mother magazine.

NAFE is one of the largest women’s professional organizations, providing educational resources and services, networking and public advocacy for women executives. Its survey evaluates companies on such aspects of women’s advancement as succession planning, profit-and-loss roles, gender pay parity, support and work/life programs.
Silbey Civil War Lecture, Feb. 11

Noted Cornell historian Joel Silbey will present “Challenging Lincoln,” a talk about the influence of the Democratic Party on the course of the Civil War, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m., Borg Warner Community Room of the Tompkins County Library, 101 E Green Street, Ithaca.

The lecture is the latest in the series of Civil War lectures cosponsored by the Tompkins County Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration Commission and the Tompkins County Public Library.

A leading historian on the politics of the Civil War and Cornell University professor emeritus, Silbey has penned more than two dozen books, including “A Respectable Minority: The Democratic Party in the Civil War Era, 1860-1868.”

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Carol Kammen, okk6@cornell.edu.
Sign up now for the annual Spring Field Ornithology course

Registration for the Spring Field Ornithology course is now open. The course, a mix of lectures and local and overnight field trips, runs March 20–May 12. Wednesday evening lectures include identification skills, bird behavior, museum collections, local migrants and gardening for birds. Participants may sign up for lectures only, field trips only, or both sections. There are also two optional overnight trips—one to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the other to Cape May, NJ, to experience peak spring migration.

Course instructor Steve Kress is vice president for Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society and has taught the Spring Field Ornithology course for 36 years.

Cost of the course: $160 for lectures, $195 for the weekend field trips, or $340 for both. Additional fees apply for the optional overnight trips. Cornell Lab of Ornithology members receive discounts. Enrollment is open to anyone over the age of 12. Space is limited. To enroll, contact the SFO course coordinator at 607-254-2466, call the Lab of Ornithology’s (toll-free) number at 800-843-2473, or send an email to sfoclass@cornell.edu.

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 15-18

The 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held Feb. 15-18. Participants simply watch birds at any location for at least 15 minutes, tally the numbers of each species they see, and report their tallies online. Anyone visiting the GBBC website will be able to see bird observations pouring in from around the world and contribute their own tallies.

To learn more about how to join the count, get bird ID tips, plus downloadable instructions, web buttons, and flyers, visit www.BirdCount.org.

The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.

Calling all student humanitarians: Apply now for awards

SUSAN KELLEY

Students who are active in community service are being encouraged to apply for awards that honor and support their work.

Applications are being accepted through March 15 for the Robinson-Appel Humanitarian Awards. Members of the community are invited to encourage students to apply directly.

Sponsored by Cornell’s Public Service Center, the awards recognize and honor students who have initiated projects that address a community’s social needs or problems. Three projects will be selected, and each will receive $1,500 to further community service. The focus of the project may be the Cornell campus, the Ithaca community or another location in the United States.

Proposals should include a timeline of completion, plans for evaluation and a budget outline. All applications must be accompanied by supporting documentation and/or a letter of nomination from agency personnel or a member of Cornell’s faculty or staff. Applicants must make a formal presentation to the evaluation committee, comprised of alumni and students. The awards will be presented by Vice President for Student and Academic Services Susan Murphy at an award dinner April 19.

The awards will be granted on the basis of the student’s:

• proposal to use the award money for an innovative approach to a social, governmental or legal problem within a community;
• initiative and ability to translate ideals into meeting community needs; and
• previous community service during the preceding 12 months.

The award was established and funded by Gerald Robinson ’54, Margot Robinson ’55, Robert Appel ’53 and Helen Appel ’55 to support student community service projects.

To apply and for more information, visit http://www.psc.cornell.edu/robinson-appel--1118.php or the Public Service Center, 200 Barnes Hall.

Perkins applications accepted through Feb. 22

NANCY DOOLITTLE

Applications are now being accepted through February 22 for the 2013 James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial Understanding and Harmony. The annual prize recognizes the Cornell student, professor, staff or program making the most significant contribution to furthering the ideal of university community while respecting the values of racial diversity.

The 2013 Perkins Prize will be presented by President Skorton on March 6. The recipient of the first prize receives a $5,000 award. All Cornell students, faculty, and staff members are invited to apply.

Application forms are available on the web at: http://dos.cornell.edu/about/awards/perkins/ GuidelinesApplication-Form.cfm.

Educational Benefits for Employees

Several workshops on educational benefits for employees, addressing such topics as eligibility rules, completing the application process, and other programs available to employees, are upcoming. There is no cost, but registration is requested by calling 255-1604. Space is limited.

Undergraduate Employee Degree Program – Feb. 26, 10-11:30 a.m., 163 Day Hall.

Tuition Aid/Extramural – Feb. 28, 10-11 a.m., 163 Day Hall.

Cornell Children’s Tuition Scholarship Program – March 5, 10-11:30 a.m., 401 Physical Sciences Building.
Cooperative Extension
February events

Unless otherwise indicated, programs will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca.

Parents Apart

Parents Apart is a six-hour workshop taught by therapists and attorneys, held Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for parents who want to learn how to help their child(ren) adjust to their separation and divorce. Registration and location of the workshop is confidential and parents of the same child(ren) are placed in different workshops. Fee: $60-$100, self-determined sliding scale; scholarships available. For information, to pay by credit card, to request a reduced fee, or to discuss concerns, call Jennifer Gray at 607-272-2292, ext. 243, or email jcg33@cornell.edu.

Fire and ice festival

Fun, art and creativity combine for an outdoor extravaganza for all ages, Feb. 9, 3-6 p.m., Ithaca Children’s Garden, Rt. 89, Cass Park. Try your hand at igloo building, snow fort and quinsy-making, and ice sculptures – all with bonfires, fire juggling and hoola-hooping and fire sculpture. Free; donations welcome. For more information, call Leigh MacDonald-Rizzo at 272-2292 x186 or visit www.ithacachildrensgarden.org.

Breastfeeding for the Health of It!

A 6-class series on breastfeeding for new or expectant moms will be held Mondays, including Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-noon or 6-8 p.m. Participants receive a personal nutrition assessment and will learn about mother’s health, benefits of breastfeeding, how your body changes when pregnant, positioning your baby for proper latch, how to pump and store breast milk, and how to breastfeed in public. $30/person; free for women who are eligible for WIC, Medicaid, Food Stamps or similar programs. Join any time - classes are ongoing and topics are repeated. Call Tina or Stacy at CCETC, 607-272-2292, or email tmf8@cornell.edu to sign up.

Winter Sprouts

Join the Ithaca Children’s Garden for a nature-inspired book and indoor gardening activity, Mondays, in Jan. and Feb., 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Mama Goose, 430 W. State St., Ithaca, in this program for children aged 2-5 and their caregivers. Free; donations are welcomed. No need to pre-register. Contact Leigh MacDonald-Rizzo at 272-2292 x186 for more information or visit www.ithacachildrensgarden.org.

Landowners’ rights, oil and gas leases

NYS Assistant Attorney General Mike Danaher will help consumers understand terms used in leases, how to evaluate offers, and the consumer’s negotiating rights, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Following the presentation, consumers will have the opportunity to consult individually with Attorney Danaher.

Free and open to the public; no registration required. Presentations are broadcast on Cable Access Channel 15, Mondays at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For more information, call 607-272-2292.

Cookin’ fun

Children in grades K-5 can join the Ithaca Children’s Garden winter break camp at the CCE Education Center, Feb. 15-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., to learn about foods, spices and culinary skills, challenge comrades to a taste test, and develop their own recipes. Wrap-around care 8:30-9 a.m., 4-4:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Self-determined sliding scale: $140-175, member and sibling discounts available. For more information and to register, call 607-272-2292 or email ithacachildrensgarden@cornell.edu.

Primitive pursuits

Youth ages 6-14 are invited to spend 1, 2 or 3 days at this outdoor winter break camp. Feb. 15-19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at 4-H Acres, 418 Lower Creek Rd., Ithaca. Participants will learn about shelter, practice fire skills, make wild tea, track animals, cook food over beds of red-hot coals and more. Early drop-off at 8:30 a.m.; late pick-up ’til 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Cost: $65-$95 for Fri. only; $130-$190 for Mon. and Tues.; $180-$270 for all three days (self-determined sliding-scale tuition). For more information or to register, call 607-272-2292 or email primitivepursuits@cornell.edu.

Coalition for Families

Meets every third Thurs.; next meeting Feb. 21. Topic to be determined. Begin with networking, tea and coffee at 8:15 a.m., introductions and announcements at 8:30 a.m., dialogue at 8:45 a.m. For more information, call Nancy Potter at 607-272-2292 x127 or email np20@cornell.edu.

Community seed swap

This first-time, free event will be held Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring your extra seeds to swap and share with others – they can be home-saved seeds or purchased seeds. Talks and workshops on seed saving and community seed libraries will be held.

Vegetable gardening

A class for the beginning vegetable gardener will be held Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Learn such skills as where to site your garden, how to prepare the soil, how to start seeds, how to plant, when to mulch, easy vegetables to try first. Pat Curran, horticulture educator, also will discuss favorite varieties, container gardening and harvesting tips. Pre-registration by calling 607-272-2292 is recommended. Fee: $5/person. Offered again April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Recycling competitions have begun, get involved

Recyclemania and Campus Conservation Nationals have begun. All faculty and staff are encouraged to join in the competition, ongoing through March 30.

Recyclemania is a competition between hundreds of U.S. and Canadian universities to see which can reduce its waste stream most by composting and recycling. This competition is aided by the participation of faculty and staff members, as well as students, as the waste from all buildings, including administrative and office spaces, are incorporated in the totals. This is Cornell’s third year in the competition.

Campus Conservation Nationals is an energy reduction campaign designed to engage the whole campus in energy reduction activities, and includes an energy reduction competition in residence halls.

Shred Party
A shred party will be held, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the parking lot on the southwest corner of Tower Rd. and Campus Rd., for all members of the Cornell community.

Bring no more than three boxes of your paper documents. All paper should be clean, dry, and free from staples, binder clips, and spiral binding.

Cornell’s preferred supplier, Cintas Corporation, will shred your confidential records at no charge.

Questions? Email recycle@cornell.edu, or call 254-1666, or see http://compete2reduce.cornell.edu.

At the library

The Proclamation
To celebrate the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, Cornell University Library will publicly display its unique manuscript copy of this historic document signed by Lincoln, along with a variety of associated materials, through March 30.

The exhibit will be on view in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections in the 2B Level of Kroch Library.

The original artifact will be on public display only during Feb. 11-18. A facsimile copy will be on display for the remainder of the exhibit. Other special events will be held on Lincoln’s birthday (Feb. 12) and Presidents’ Day (Feb. 18).

Planet Cornell
An entire magical solar system is presented in Planet Cornell, now on display at the Mann Library Gallery through Feb. 28. Photographers Kent Loeffler and Claire Smith have combined artistry and a bit of software wizardry to transform snippets of the Cornell campus into free-floating spherical worlds. A reception will be held in the gallery, Feb. 8, 3-5 p.m.

The Cornell Store remodel project update

The third phase of the remodel project at the Cornell Store began this week. Several areas will be closed to staff and customers, including the entire skylight area (upper level); the back stairway; and all of the check-out and book information desk areas (lower level). Access to the convenience store, supplies, art, trade books and non-insignia gifts will be through a temporary “tunnel” on the lower right side of the store.

This entrance may appear daunting, but staff will be available to get you what you need.

Coffee, water, soft drinks, snacks and lunch items will continue to be available in the convenience store. In addition, special check-out areas will be added throughout the lower level to accommodate your shopping.

Do not hesitate to come in during this final phase of the remodel project. If you need any assistance at any time, please ask any sales associate.

Thank you for your patience and support during the remodel.

Joan Manheim is marketing specialist at The Cornell Store.

Upcoming sales and events

Hockey Week, Feb. 4-10
Take 25 percent off all hockey logo apparel, accessories, caps and gifts in-store and online.

Celebrate 2013: Save on Apple
Purchase an iPod, iPad, or Mac* at The Cornell Store’s Tech Connect Jan. 28-Feb. 16 and get $20.13 off, plus coupons worth up to 20 percent off tech accessories.

*Valid on in-store, in-stock iPods, iPad or Macs only. Personal purchases only. One iPod, iPad or Mac per customer. iPod shuffle and prior purchases excluded. No rain checks.

Fruit butter and cheese curd tasting
Sample Cross Creek Farm’s fruit butters and jams made locally in Berkshire, NY, with no preservatives, Feb. 11: noon ‘til gone. New flavor: Jalapeno Apple. Also, sample Cornell Big Red cheddar cheese curd, available for purchase in the store for $2.99/4 oz. bag.

Gifts for Valentine’s Day
Sale Feb. 4-16: 20 percent off all plush; Cornell chocolates; select books.
Matching grant doubles value of United Way campaign pledges

United Way of Tompkins County (UWTC) has received a new challenge grant from an anonymous donor, matching each dollar given through March 31, 2013, up to $20,000, for funding Hunger and Food Security programs and services in the community.

Your pledge or gift to the Cornell United Way can count toward this challenge grant if designated toward the Hunger and Food Security programs, as well as help meet the university’s goal of $815,000.

Through UWTC’s Fall Hunger & Food Security grant process, local organizations were awarded $57,854 to address hunger and food security needs. In December 2012, area food pantries were reporting little or no funds on account at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The UWTC Board of Directors responded by awarding $5,000 in funding for 10 food pantries and community organizations in Tompkins County. To also help meet this critical need, the anonymous donor established the challenge grant.

You can download a pledge card at http://unitedway.cornell.edu/, just check off the line for the Hunger and Food Security program. You can also make a donation online if you prefer. Visit https://www.uwtc.org/and click on the Hunger and Food Security button on the left-hand-side.

Publishing information
Distributed biweekly in limited quantities September through May and monthly in June, July and August. On the web at www.pawprint.cornell.edu.

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Content
Please send articles or suggestions to: pawprint@cornell.edu or visit the website at pawprint.cornell.edu and use the feedback button.

ROLL YOUR KAYAK
Kayaking can be more fun when you can easily turn your boat upright. Take advantage of this indoor-pool setting to learn or fine-tune kayak-rolling techniques, whether you are more interested in whitewater kayaking or sea kayaking, a brand new paddler or just looking to take your skills to the next level. This three-evening Cornell Outdoor Education class, Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 7-10 p.m., at the pool at Helen Newman Hall, is designed to help your skills by working on bracing, edge control, different types of rolling, and more. Not for PE credit. See: http://www.coe.cornell.edu/goto.jsp?course=K ROLL SEMI SP13.

DARWIN DAYS
The Darwin Days Keynote Address will be given by Alycia Stigall, Ohio Univ., Feb. 11, 5-6:30 p.m., Kaufman Auditorium in Goldwin Smith Hall. A related program will be held at the Cayuga Nature Center on Family Day, Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The words “invasive species” usually refer to wild plants or animals that have introduced (accidentally or on purpose), such as the emerald ash borer (a beetle), Hydrida (an alga), and snakehead (a fish). A surprising number of plants and animals—from slugs to starlings—are not native to New York State. These and other invasive species can cause enormous environmental and economic damage. Darwin Days focus on what such invasions mean for evolution or what the study of evolution can tell us that might help mitigate or prevent the damage they cause.

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL
National Geographic and The North Face, as well as local sponsors Cornell Outdoor Education, Cayuga Ski and Cyclery, and Ithaca Car Share, present the 2013 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Feb. 15, 7-9:30 p.m., at Bailey Hall. From an exploration of remote landscapes and mountain cultures to adrenaline-fueled action sports, films in this year’s world tour are sure to captivate the explorer within you. Tickets: Baileytickets.com; $12 for Cornell affiliates, $15 general public.

PLANTATIONS’ WINTER SALE
Members receive a 30-percent discount; non-member a 15-percent discount at the Plantations Garden Gift Shop Winter Sale, Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Nevin Welcome Center, 124 Comstock Knoll Drive.

WINTER FREE DAYS
Fight cabin fever with Winter Free Days. Enjoy free admission to the Museum of the Earth and Cayuga Nature Center the third Sunday of each month: January, February and March, 2013. The next Winter Free Day is Feb. 17. Winter Free Days are part of the Community Accessibility Program, with support from NYSEG.

CONCERT AT BAILEY
The Creole Choir of Cuba will be at Bailey Hall, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m., with stories of survival despite abject poverty, heroes who defied colonial masters, ghosts at the crossroads, enduring love, a mother’s laments and prayers and the desire for freedom. Vibrant dancing, irresistible melodies, richly textured harmonies and Caribbean rhythms with a distinctive Cubano flavor. General Public: $25-35; Students: $17 all sections.

CU Fac-Staff: $23-33; CU Students: $15 all sections (CU rate ONLINE ONLY with valid netID, limit 2 per person.). See http://baileytickets.universitytickets.com/