President Skorton recognizes staff for excellent work

NANCY DOOLITTLE

Tracy Holdridge, an administrator in the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, received the first President’s Award of Excellence at the inaugural Employee Recognition Luncheon, May 9 in Bartels Hall. At the same event, the recipients of the first Individual Excellence Awards and Management Excellence Awards were announced. All five staff awardees had been chosen for recognition from among 61 award nominees, who had also been invited to the event. The awards have their origins in work done two years ago by a committee chaired by Kathryn Burkgren, director of the Office of Organizational Development for Faculty and Staff, on increasing staff recognition opportunities. The results of the 2012 employee survey confirmed these efforts, and an Employee Recognition Team, comprising staff from across campus and led by Karen Raponi, recruitment consultant for the Recruitment and Employment Center, was formed to address this need. As a result, the team developed a suite of recognition opportunities, including these new awards.

Each year, the team will choose two recipients each for the individual and management excellence awards from a peer-nominated staff list, and one recipient for the President’s Award of Excellence.

Recognition helps “reignite our spark, energizing us all over again about our work and our contributions,” said Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources and safety services. The new awards “give the entire Cornell community not just the chance to be recognized, but also the opportunity to recognize one another – an action that by itself is invigorating and affirming,” she said.

In announcing the award recipients, President David Skorton expressed his appreciation for having “this new way of honoring the staff whose excellent work ... has had a major impact on the university.”

Congratulating Holdridge for receiving the President’s Award for Excellence, Skorton quoted William Fry, her department chair and former dean of the faculty. In nominating her, Fry had noted that Holdridge is “always thinking ahead” and “leads by example.” Other nominators wrote that Holdridge is “respectful and fair to everyone” and “very sharp and detail-oriented,” Skorton said.

Jennifer Harris, human resource generalist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Lab of Ornithology, and Jami Joyner, student service associate of diversity programs in the College of Engineering, received Individual Excellence Awards.

Skorton quoted Harris’ nominators: “She is both a role model and a mentor.” “Her words guide us with compassion, clarity and facts,” they wrote, and “her presence at the Lab of Ornithology ensures that all staff are treated fairly.”

Joyner’s nominators, Skorton said, noted that “Jami is deeply committed to making Cornell accessible, especially to students from populations traditionally underrepresented in engineering.” They also attributed Joyner’s leadership and contributions with helping her unit receive the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2011.

Receiving the Management Excellence Award were Joseph Lalley III, senior director for Facilities Operations, and Rebecca Weger, director of Prospect Development in Alumni Affairs and Development.

Lalley’s colleagues noted his forward thinking and love of technology, Skorton said. One wrote that Lalley “inspires me to be a better employee and person,” while others cited his work with Commencement, campus emergencies, the university’s operating status during weather events, bargaining units and United Way advocacy, Skorton said.

Weger was noted by her colleagues to be “a master problem solver” and “nothing but visionary,” Skorton said. Colleagues also wrote that Weger’s “abilities to recognize potential and trust her team allow us to seek new ways to contribute and participate in Cornell’s success,” he said.
Tech Talk
By Shaley DeGiorgio

Blackboard upgrade coming June 2013
On June 4, 2013, Blackboard will be upgraded from version 9.1, Service Pack 9 to version 9.1, Service Pack 11. The following is an overview of the new features and updates that will be available:

Global navigation menu: Always present in the top right corner, the new navigation menu is the entry point to My Blackboard and also provides one-click access to Courses, Settings and Help.

My Blackboard: A completely new, modern user experience in Blackboard Learn that consolidates critical information from all of a student’s courses. The new tools in My Blackboard - profile, posts, updates, My Grades - were developed to meet the needs of today’s active learner, and educators benefit too.

New content editor: The new content editor vastly improves the user experience for entering text, pasting content from Microsoft Word, and adding content to all areas of Blackboard Learn.

New Calendar: Many improvements make the new calendar more dynamic and easier to use.
- Manage course and personal events in the same calendar view - color coding helps you assess your plans at a glance.
- Toggle between day, week and month views of the calendar.
- Easily add calendar events by clicking on a date and adding an item.
- Items with due dates automatically appear on the calendar. Instructors can move calendar events by dragging and dropping them to a new date. The due date on the associated item is automatically updated.
- Click through calendar events to the associated item for instructors and students.
- Calendar honors adaptive release and availability constraints.
- External calendars can subscribe to events created on the Blackboard Learn calendar through an iCalendar feed.
- Course calendar events are propagated to new courses when reusing content through course copy, archive/restore, or import/export.

Improved discussions: New discussion features improve experience overall.
- Thread Detail page redesign - a new look while maintaining existing functionality.
- All posts on one page - all of the posts in a thread are now visible at the same time on one page.
- Instructor highlighting - posts made by forum managers and moderators now contain the user’s course role and forum role.
- Inline replies - when replying to a post, the content appears on the same page, in the context of the discussion.
- Post First Discussions setting - allows instructors to require students to post to a discussion before seeing other students’ posts.

Assessment analysis (item analysis): Instructors can now refine their assessments by evaluating the quality of each question and that question’s ability to discriminate between students who understand the material and those who do not. Ineffective questions can be identified and then quickly corrected with the Automatic Regrade feature.

Retention center: Now, instructors can give focused attention to students who need it. From the Retention Center, instructors can communicate with struggling students and help them take immediate action for improvement.

For full details, including how-to documentation for these new features, visit: http://bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu/support/new-features-blackboard-9-1-service-pack-11/

Annual Dump and Run seeks donations to benefit local charities
Cornell’s 11th annual Dump and Run program seeks donations of clothing, furniture, nonperishable food and other useful items through June 1. Donations will be resold in August at a large community sale to benefit local nonprofit organizations.

Last year’s Dump and Run program collected about 20 tons of reusable items and raised more than $50,000.

Dump and Run collection bins can be found in all undergraduate residential buildings, cooperative residences, graduate housing communities, sororities, fraternities and community centers, and in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Anabel Taylor Hall, Day Hall, Willard Straight Hall and Humphreys Service Building.

Dump and Run volunteers are available to pick up donations off campus; arrangements can be made by emailing dumpandrun@cornell.edu, with at least three days notice, beginning May 14.

Donations of nearly all useful items are accepted, including shoes, organizational units, working appliances and electronics, furniture, sporting goods, coat hangers, decorations, new toiletries, nonperishable food and text books. The program does not accept mattresses, pillows, underwear, socks or anything broken.

This year’s Dump and Run sale will take place during Orientation, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, in Helen Newman Gym. Proceeds will benefit Cops, Kids and Toys; Loaves and Fishes; Shelter Outreach Services; Greater Ithaca Activities Center; Finger Lakes ReUse; and the Cornell United Way Student Campaign.

The sale is free and open.

Since Cornell’s Dump and Run program began in 2003, it has contributed nearly $250,000 to Ithaca-area charities, and donated many tons of reusable goods to local human service agencies.

For more information about the program or about volunteering, visit Cornell’s Dump and Run website or email dumpandrun@cornell.edu.
Behind the scenes at Cornell Commencement

NANCY DOOLITTLE

After 25 years as Commencement director, Connie Mabry is prepared for almost anything that happens at Convocation, Commencement or any of the 80-some reception/diploma ceremonies that take place Memorial Day weekend.

Yet, at an Ithaca Rotary lunch meeting May 8, Mabry entertained her audience of more than 100 with facts, figures and tales of behind-the-scenes challenges that she could not plan for.

Take 2007, for instance, the year President Bill Clinton gave the Convocation address. Typically, an oversized check is presented at Convocation to Cornell’s president from the senior class fundraising campaign, Mabry said. Four minutes in advance of the check handoff, someone noticed that the check was not on stage. One of Cornell’s setup people began running, with his assistant, down the track to get it.

Seeing them, a senior director of facilities radioed to the setup person, “Bill! Do not run! The Secret Service will tackle you.” The setup person slowed down, retrieved the check, and returned to the stage just in time, Mabry said.

The logistics of coordinating the movements of thousands of people and tons of equipment also create their own challenges at Commencement, Mabry said. Approximately 6,000 students and faculty process from the Arts Quad to Schoellkopf Stadium, where around 35,000 family members, friends and guests are seated. “It’s a proud day for families from all over the world,” Mabry said.

The colleges hold their own events as well. More than 16,000 chairs, 400 tables, several stages and 30 tents are set up and taken down by Facilities Services staff. University police officers, and staff in environmental health and safety, dining and transportation help run the events, assisted by more than 400 staff volunteers. Twenty-five TCAT buses shuttle people to the stadium and across campus, Mabry said.

But “the biggest challenge every year is the weather,” she said. “Amazingly, since 1975 when the event was first moved from Barton Hall to the stadium, we’ve never had to go inside,” she said. Knock wood.

Mabry invited Rotary members to volunteer for Commencement (and to not wash their cars before the event), and she remarked that they, their businesses, friends and neighbors all play an important role in Commencement by welcoming the many visitors that the weekend draws to the area.

In fact, Mabry and the team of planners have a couple of weather-related superstitions. The week before Commencement they do not wash their cars. In addition, the facilities coordinator puts 75 umbrellas in her car to ward off rain clouds. “We aren’t too superstitious,” Mabry quipped.

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David Kalb, former George Peter award recipient, retires

STACEY SHACKFORD

For the past 33 years, Dave Kalb has been roaming the halls of Bradfield Hall and Plant Sciences in support of the Department of Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology. Now he’s about to roam hospital halls as he takes on a second career – as a registered nurse.

Dave came to Cornell as a research technician for professor Roy Millar in 1980, then moved to Gary Bergstrom’s lab and completed a master’s degree through the Employee Degree Program in 1987. In 1996, he became both the department teaching lab coordinator and the plant pathology facilities manager, maintaining plants and cultures used in the teaching program, mastering rapidly changing diagnostic technology, overseeing numerous research laboratory renovations, purchasing and installing improvements to the teaching lab space, and relocating Bradfield research programs back to the Plant Sciences Building.

As professor George Hudler noted in the department’s alumni newsletter, “One of the many things that distinguished Dave throughout his term was his sincere dedication to the educational mission and his willingness to roll up his sleeves and get involved in actual classroom instruction... his contributions weren’t just OK, they were outstanding and very well received by his audiences.”

Dave was recognized in 2007 with the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service to Cornell. In his limited spare time, he is active in his church and outdoors, as an athlete who participates in triathlon-swimming, biking and running competitions. He enrolled in a nursing program in Fall ’12, and will complete his last semester in May ‘14.

Stacey Shackford is a communications specialist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
Wellness Program
Healthy Opportunities

Better access to Newman pool
A new set of pool stairs has replaced a side-wall ladder in the Helen Newman Hall Pool. The seven skid-resistant steps and handrail provide for a gradual and easy entry into the shallow end of the pool. For pool open hours, see wellness.cornell.edu. Questions? Contact Jenn Bennett, health and wellness specialist, at jab853@cornell.edu or 255-3886.

Last day for completing survey
All members of the Cornell community are invited to take a 15-minute wellness and wellbeing survey by May 17. Participants can then choose to be entered into a drawing for the chance to win four free Regal Cinema Movie Tickets.

All responses will be kept confidential and only shared in aggregate form. This file://localhost/survey, found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/Home_Landing.aspx?sm=KUoql80oHUxU66IEwvrGMnrjiG04UwlPl6g4dgVko0%3d, allows you to share your thoughts about such key dimensions as your physical, social, emotional, financial and spiritual wellbeing. Your feedback plays a major role in determining wellness programming over the next few years.

Contest participants lose nearly six tons of weight
Approximately 900 participants in the 2013 eight-week No Excuses weight loss contest lost more than 5,800 pounds, total, representing some 20,300,000 calories burned. The average weight lost per person was 6.5 pounds. Winners were announced at the May 8 Wrap Up Rally in Call Auditorium, with Blazing Lovehandles (a Cornell Dining team) placing first for losing the greatest percentage of their total weight; Prebiotics (a Veterinary Diagnostic Center team) placing second; and No CalZones (a Facilities Services team that won last year), placing third.

Complete team standings are listed at http://wellness.cornell.edu/noexcuses_contest_standings.php. For their first-place finish, the Blazing Lovehandles members each won a $50 Wegmans gift card. Each of these top three teams also received a Big Red trophy.

Wellbeing Programs
For more information or to register for these free programs, visit the website or email: wellbeing@cornell.edu.
• Caregiver Support and Education Network Meeting - May 18, 12:15-1:15 p.m., 221 Weill Hall
• Custodial Grandparent Families: Research findings and strategies for care - May 21, noon-1 p.m., 224 Weill Hall 🐾

Cornell Cooperative Extension receives FEMA challenge award

Jim Ochterski, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, discusses details about disaster preparation with a farmer.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Ontario County, in Canandaigua, New York, recently received an award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizing the CCE’s Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate program through the FEMA 2012 Community Resilience Innovation Challenge program.

The Farm Disaster Preparation Certificate program helps farm owners become better prepared for farm disasters, learning how to actively adopt such planning and real-life preparedness actions and habits as minimizing storm damage, coping with long power outages, maintaining continuity of farm operations during a community disaster, reducing criminal/terrorist activity, enhancing livestock biosecurity, preventing farm fire or collapse disasters, and managing farm equipment on crowded public roads.

The Innovation Challenge awards Ontario County CCE $34,600 to expand its farm disaster preparation program. This program is building agricultural community resilience to man-made and natural disasters, with an emphasis on innovation, collaboration with community stakeholders, sustainability, repeatability and measurable benefits to the community.

“This is a great example of county leadership within the extension disaster education framework,” said Keith Tidball, senior extension associate in Cornell’s Department of Natural Resources, associate director of Cornell’s Civic Ecology Lab and state coordinator of NY Extension Disaster Education Network. “I congratulate Jim Ochterski, co-director of the Ontario CCE and the rest of the Ontario County CCE/NY EDEN Farm Disaster Preparation team for their innovative, community-centered work in farm disaster preparation,” he said.

This year, 30 recipients, chosen from about 1,900 applications from local, state, and tribal agencies and governments, businesses, associations, organizations and groups, received FEMA challenge program funding.

The program is funded by The Rockefeller Foundation and administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation, who acted as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience in all phases of the preparedness, response, and recovery cycle. 🐾
When Martin Andonov ’13 approached Steven Miller, senior executive chef with Cornell Dining, in January to test his new restaurant concept, Miller says the timing could not have been more fortuitous.

“I had just begun developing an idea for a Mediterranean food station at Trillium,” said Miller. “Martin had put together a business plan for a Mediterranean restaurant chain and was looking for a real-world opportunity to test the viability of the concept.”

In April, Andonov won first place, out of 30 applicants, for his “Agora Hellenic Grill” food-service concept in the Cornell Hospitality Business Plan Competition at the School of Hotel Administration.

The award came with a $15,000 prize, which Andonov plans to use to help launch his business in London after he graduates. Andonov envisions a “quick-service restaurant chain,” he said, “featuring high-quality Mediterranean food made fresh daily, served in a highly customized way.”

The Cornell Dining trial was a “proof of concept” for his idea as a first step to attract investors.

“Martin came to us with some great recipes and ideas,” he said. He advised Andonov to focus on high-quality, freshly baked bread – “the bread has to be fantastic,” he said – along with freshly ground spices and authentic flavors from the Mediterranean regions.

Andonov worked closely with chefs at Trillium to experiment with and refine his recipes. For one week in April, Andonov’s Mediterranean menu was showcased at Trillium, Cornell’s busiest lunch eatery, with a sample platter featuring grilled chicken, marinated steak or zucchini fritter, plus side dishes and condiments, for $7.99. Customers were surveyed daily, leading to slight adjustments to the recipes and presentation throughout the week.

“We saw the sales numbers (for the Mediterranean station) increase by 20 percent each day,” Chef Jacob Kuehn reported. The number of customers served per day at the station more than doubled between Monday and Friday, and by the end of the week, the station had the highest sales numbers of any at Trillium.

“The chefs, by their standards, said it was an extremely successful product launch,” said Andonov, who also worked with Cornell Dining to measure the sales numbers against cost of goods, labor, equipment and training. By agreement, Andonov now has a final menu and concrete proof of concept to present to investors for his Agora Hellenic Grill business launch. And Cornell Dining will be serving the majority of the recipes developed through the collaboration at a new Mediterranean food station due to open, under a different name, at Trillium in the fall.

“As a Hotel School faculty member, I really appreciate that Cornell Dining was so interested in collaborating with the academic side of the university,” said Andonov’s adviser Neil Tarallo. “It reinforced that we’re all here for the same reason – to educate people.”

“I learned a tremendous amount from the chefs,” said Andonov. “They had a great impact on the menu and the overall concept. I feel like I could call any one of them for advice at any time, moving forward.”

Julie Glanville is marketing manager in Campus Life Marketing and Communications.
University diversity planning extends beyond campus

In a May 1 message to the community, President David Skorton emphasized that Cornell’s universitywide diversity planning effort, Toward New Destinations (TND), engages several key areas, including developing initiatives involving such off-campus constituents as parents, alumni, community organizations and vendors.

“The provosts, vice presidents, deans and I are committed to the implementation of goals outlined in Toward New Destinations, which involve all members of the greater Cornell community and those with whom the institution is formally and informally engaged,” Skorton said in his statement.

Other TND advances have focused on helping the colleges and units translate the core diversity principles of composition, engagement, inclusion and achievement into concrete goals that they can pursue and stressing the relevance of bias prevention in achieving the TND goals, informed by the results of a climate study that was folded into this year’s Perceptions of Undergraduate Life and Student Experiences (PULSE) survey.

“This year we are emphasizing the design of initiatives in support of engagement and inclusion, which might include ideas for improving the climate for one or more groups,” Skorton said. Those who develop specific initiatives can apply for a monetary grant to help implement them through the University Diversity Council, he said.

As part of this engagement effort, Cornell Procurement Services has reached out to 13 of the university’s diverse suppliers to explore ways to increase their business transactions with the colleges and units.

Currently, about 9 percent of the goods and services purchased by Cornell are from diverse suppliers – 7 percent from woman-owned suppliers and 1 percent each from minority- or veteran-owned suppliers. However, according to a survey conducted by the Samuel C. Johnson Graduate School of Management, only 32 percent of college and unit respondents are aware that the university supports diverse suppliers or know who the diverse suppliers are.

“We are working to enhance our engagement with diverse suppliers in support of the Toward New Destinations initiative and as part of the work of the [Division of Financial Affairs/ Cornell Information Technologies] Diversity Committee,” said Joanne DeStefano, vice president for finance and chief financial officer.

“Moreover, many of the government-sponsored contracts Cornell receives require that a portion of the goods and services obtained through those contracts are purchased from diverse suppliers,”

The procurement office aims to increase the amount Cornell departments and units purchase from the 13 identified diverse suppliers by 5 percent to 10 percent annually. As part of this effort, the office has partnered with the Johnson to involve its students in project work to help these diverse suppliers implement their ideas for increasing their business with Cornell. The student leading the project is a Roy H. Park Leadership Fellow.

To increase these vendors’ visibility on campus, the procurement office has launched a new Diversity Supplier website and identified diverse and local suppliers on e-Shop.

The diverse suppliers have also been invited to campus May 16 for a Diverse Supplier Event and to the annual Supplier Show, June 13.

This summer, the University Diversity Council will review the initiatives undertaken this past year, Skorton said. The results will be posted online with a report to the Cornell community on progress made, and an archive of each year’s initiatives established, he said.

Leading Cornell concludes, May 10

The third Leading Cornell program concluded May 10 with presentations by its participants who had completed the course. Leading Cornell is a capstone leadership program delivered by Bacharach Leadership Group led by Samuel Bacharach, the ILR School’s McKelvey-Grant Professor, director of ILR’s Institute for Workplace Studies and co-founder of the Bacharach Leadership Group (BLG), and Yael Bacharach, co-founder and executive director of BLG.

The program is coordinated by Chris Halladay and Kathryn Burkgren of Organizational Effectiveness. Full story in the next Pawprint issue, May 31.
Parking permit changes take effect July 1

For fiscal year 2014, Transportation Services is introducing new, self-service options for short-term parking and making some adjustments in permit areas and fees. “We continue to work to make rules less complex and parking more flexible, while encouraging sustainable transportation practices through our fee structure,” said Joe Lalley III, senior director for Facilities Operations.

Parking fees for most permits will rise by two percent. The exceptions are the business-use Z permit, which will increase to the Mid-Tier permit rate; EH and all department-owned vehicle permits, which are in the third year of a four-year phase-in to match the current perimeter permit fee; and a decrease in the student commuter B permit price.

Changes to the following permit areas will take effect on July 1: ME, T, and W permits combine to a single permit type, ME; CF permit areas will be rolled into R; and GS permit areas will change to WE. The intent of decreasing the number of permit types is to reduce confusion and to provide employees a little more flexibility and mobility when conducting university business.

Changes to short-term parking options are also on the horizon. With the launch of Parkmobile (http://www.parkmobile.com), Cornell community members and campus visitors will be able to pay for short-term parking in designated lots using Parkmobile’s mobile application for iPhone, Android, Windows and Blackberry smartphones. Registered users can pay for parking nationwide using the Parkmobile app, the Web or an 800 number.

Most employee permits, set to expire at the end of June, will be automatically renewed and mailed to employees’ campus address. Some permit holders will receive permit renewal forms in the mail. Current permit holders are asked to update their vehicle information by May 25 to ensure that their new permits are issued with correct license plate information. View your vehicle information and submit changes at http://www.myparking.cornell.edu. Also use this site to view or pay outstanding citations. Complete information about parking permits and rates, commuting programs and parking fines can be found at http://www.commuting.cornell.edu.
**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Visit pawprint.cornell.edu/classifieds

Classified Ads usually run for two weeks. We cannot guarantee an item's availability. If your item is no longer available, please let us know and we will remove it.

**FOR SALE**

10’x10’ Dog Kennel, $300. Chain link dog kennel with sunshade. Used only a couple of weeks; nearly brand new. rflf@cornell.edu or 255-9334.

Camping Equipment, $100/70$. Thetford 18 gal portable waste used once $100$, Coleman Easy up screen house 10 x 10 used once $70$. bbc2@cornell.edu or 254-2898.

New Clay Pots, $ negotiable. From a nursery going out of sale. (25) 8” pots w/saucers, (7) large strawberry pots, (5) 24” fancy pots w/saucer. Make offer. bgw5@cornell.edu or 838-3110.


MacBook Pro 15” Laptop, $525. Excellent condition MacBook Pro 15” display, 500GB hard drive, 4GB memory, Intel Core 2 Duo 2.4GHz, MacOS X version 10.6.8. pfs4@cornell.edu.

Tires, $200. 4 Chevy 17” v 7” steel wheels w/tire pressure sensors, Kumo Ecsta 4X, 225-50-22/T tires & wheel covers. Bob @ 844-4239.

Exercise Equipment, $400. A bowflex, a stationary bike, and a treadmill, all in good condition. nll2@cornell.edu or 342-5602.

**WANTED**

Inexpensive Car, $3000. Need an inexpensive car for the next year. Can have high mileage – just need for work. jh389@cornell.edu or 254-8240.

Guidelines for Classified Ads

Free to members of the Cornell community as well as Cornell retirees.

- Include name, campus phone, and category.
- Limit ad to 20 words or less.
- Ads selling goods or commercial services on an ongoing basis or promoting employment outside Cornell cannot be accepted.
- To run your ad more than once, you must re-submit it.
- Pawprint is not responsible for errors or unprinted ads, and retains the right to edit or reject any submission.

Submit classified ads via:

- online: pawprint.cornell.edu
- Classified deadlines: The Wednesday of the week before publication.

**Reminder:** Volunteers still needed for Commencement Weekend

This year, Senior Convocation and the Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 25, and Cornell’s 145th Commencement, Sunday, May 26. Help make graduation special for Cornell’s students and families, and automatically be entered in a drawing to win a free iPad or two free round-trip tickets to New York City on the Campus-to-Campus bus when you register at http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/ushers/index.html. Volunteers will also receive:

- a paid day off to use by December 31 (time-off guidelines are available at http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/ushers/index.html)
- a free continental breakfast on Saturday, May 25, before Senior Convocation
- a free continental breakfast on Sunday, May 26, before Commencement
- a special thank-you gift
- an invitation to a Thank You Reception with President Skorton on June 13, at which the iPad, bus tickets, and many door prizes will be awarded.

To learn more and to sign up as a volunteer, go to: http://www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/ushers/index.html.

Questions? Contact the Commencement Office at commencement@cornell.edu or 255-9541.

**Living Healthy Tompkins**

The next six-week “Living Healthy Tompkins” workshop series will be held May 21–June 25, 1-3:30 p.m., at the Tompkins County Health Department, 55 Brown Road, near Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport.

The program focuses on individuals with such long-term health challenges as arthritis, heart disease, high blood pressure, chronic pain, breathing difficulties and diabetes, helping participants make lifestyle changes they want to make. Topics covered: handling pain and fatigue, developing a healthy eating plan, starting appropriate physical activity, managing stress and emotions, communicating with health care providers and planning and meeting weekly goals.

Fee: $20; $10 rebate for completing the course. For details and registration, contact Susan Dunlop, Tompkins County Health Dept., (607) 274-6711, sdunlop@tompkins-co.org or Sue Olmstead, Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County, (607) 273-8686, solmstead@hsctc.org.

**PAWPRINT PICKS**

Visit events.cornell.edu/

**SPRING GARDEN FAIR AND PLANT SALE**

The Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale will be held at Ithaca High School, 1401 N. Cayuga St., May 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. More than 40 area growers and garden groups will offer a wide variety of annuals, herbs and specialty perennials, including organically grown vegetable transplants, heirloom varieties, flowering shrubs, trees, hardy roses, and fruit crops. Free admission and free soil pH testing by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. Educational exhibits, food concession, and hands-on activities for kids. Bring wagons or carts to help transport purchases to your car. For more information: http://ccetompkins.org/plantsale or call (607) 272-2292.

**ART MUSEUM DROP-IN**

The Johnson Museum celebrates Art Museum Day 2013 with a special drop-in workshop at the museum, May 18, 2-4 p.m. Learn more about the design and creation of the museum’s Morgan Japanese Garden, spark your creativity and sketch with provided pencils and watercolor.

This event is being held as part of the Association of Art Museum Directors’ (AAMD) Art Museum Day, coinciding with International Museum Day.

**MAYFEST MUSIC**

Cornell’s 6th annual international chamber music festival will be May 19-23, featuring Xak Bjerken and Miri Yam Polsky, artistic directors, with six international guests: Tatiana Samouil, violin (Belgium); Chezi Nir, horn (Israel); Pavel Gomziakov, cello (Portugal); Natalia Tchitch, viola (Russia); Alexander Vassiliev, bass (Germany); and Eyal Ein-Habar, flute (Israel).

The first concert, May 19, 3-5 p.m., at Barnes Hall Auditorium, includes work from Mozart, Schumann, Elliot Carter and Brahms. Concert 2, May 20, 8-10 p.m., at the Dome, Milstein Hall, includes work by Bach, Ami Glut, Schnittke, Kagel and William Kraft. Concerts 3, 4, and 5 are also held 8-10 p.m., May 21, 22 and 23, respectively; 3 and 4 at Barnes Hall and 5 at the Carriage House. For programming, see Cornell Events at www.events.cornell.edu.

Tickets ($20 general, $10 students for each concert; festival pass $85) available at https://mayfest.ticketbud.com/mayfest2013 and at the door.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND THE INTERNET**

A talk on how mental health states affect self-disclosure on social networking sites will be held May 23, noon-1 p.m., second floor conference room, Beebe Hall.

Cornellians Natalya Bazarova, Dan Cosley and Janis Whitlock will examine the possible associations between mental health states and disclosure patterns by comparing disclosure content, language style, and motivation between two groups: people at risk (i.e., those with depression and/or a history of a non-suicidal self-injury), and those with no mental health history. This talk is open to all. Lunch will be served. Metered parking is available in the Plantations lot across the road from Beebe Hall.

**BLOOD DRIVE**

The Dean of Students’ American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held May 30, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Okenshields, Willard Straight Hall. The drive will collect Double Red Blood Cell in addition to the standard units. Make a reservation at http://www.redcross.org/.