The following is a letter from Paul Bursic, director of Benefit Services, on upcoming endowed health plan changes.

After extensive consideration, Cornell is switching from multiple health care administrators to one, Aetna. We are streamlining our health plan offerings to simplify your decisions on what plan best fits your health insurance needs and give you the best health plan array possible. As of Dec. 31, 2012, the university will no longer offer the HealthNow NY plan to endowed faculty and staff members. And we will be closing the 80/20 Plan to new enrollments. In 2014, the 80/20 Plan for current faculty and staff and early retirees will no longer be offered. You may keep the plan in 2013. But we will no longer allow enrollments into the plan. This change does not affect the Aetna Retiree 80/20 Plan for retirees over age 65, who are eligible for Medicare.

This decision is based on a careful review of effectiveness, costs and other considerations. A head-to-head comparison of the two health plan administrators, HealthNow and Aetna, demonstrated that Aetna is the clear choice for providing efficiency across multiple campuses, a broad network of providers and technological innovation. The only exception is Aetna’s 80/20 Plan. The 80/20 Plan is inefficient and costs its participants more to access care, yet provides no advantages over the other health plans offered. The current plan design also fails to meet the requirements of the new federal health reform law; making the plan fit the new standards would force plan premiums even higher, with no apparent advantages. Other plans we offer are better equipped to meet the changing health care market of the near future.

For several years Cornell employees puzzled over the five choices available for endowed health insurance coverage. The overlapping plan designs make it hard to tell what advantages each plan offers. It makes sense to construct the choices to reflect the current variety of health plan offerings in the market, run by the best plan administrator we could find.

Endowed faculty and staff will be able to elect the Aetna Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) during the open enrollment period in November, a plan similar to HealthNow. In addition, the same Aetna PPO plan design can be found in the Cornell Program for Healthy Living (CPHL). The CPHL has a separate, voluntary wellness feature that greatly enhances the basic plan. The other plan choice is a basic Aetna PPO plan with a high deductible and a special cash accumulation feature called the health savings account that is becoming increasingly popular around the country.

In the coming months Benefit Services will provide you with additional information on your available plan choices. Once you have had a chance to consider the truly diverse plan offerings available, we believe you will find a plan that fits your needs.

In the meantime, we wanted to let you know about these changes as soon as possible. We know you will have questions and we are prepared to provide answers in several ways.

Benefit Services will hold two town hall meetings next week – one on May 21 (G-10 Biotechnology Building) starting at 11:30 a.m. and a second meeting on May 22 (G-01 Uris Hall Auditorium), starting at noon. You will have a chance to hear more about the HealthNow decision and the changes to the Aetna 80/20 Plan and to ask any questions you may have.

Our website at https://www.hr.cornell.edu/benefits/ provides more information on the current Aetna plan offerings. Aetna Navigator, Aetna’s website for participants, also provides many resources to assist you in accessing health care information.

As always, you can contact the Benefit Services office in 130 Day Hall by phone at 607-255-3936 or by email at benefits@cornell.edu. We look forward to bringing you the best possible health care options.

LINDSAY FRANCE/UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY
Joan Roberts, marketing communications manager, received the ILR peer recognition award.

JASON KOSKI/UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY
A Wushu workshop in Barton Hall is part of Bring Your Child to Work Day.
Most parking fees frozen; RideShare improved

Most faculty, staff, and students will see no changes in their parking rates for FY13; and the faculty/staff RideShare program is having its first overhaul in more than ten years.

The RideShare program has been simplified, provides greater flexibility to program participants, and offers attractive incentives for sharing the commute to campus. To accommodate these modifications, a new permit, the “RS” permit, can be obtained. Commuters who join the RideShare program can park free in all perimeter and outer lots (A, CF, E, EH, ME, O, R, T, W, WE) with the new “RS” permit.

Groups with mid- (C, G, HH, Z) or central (D, J, L, N, P, S, U) permits will still pay a deeply discounted fee, but will no longer be able to share the fee among members by using split payroll deductions. Instead, the primary permit holder pays for the discounted permit and the group makes the cost-sharing arrangements. Alternatively, groups of three or more eligible RideShare participants can park free in FY13 in these middle and central campus areas.

Parking fees will be implemented, for the first time, for East Hill Plaza, the East Hill Office Building (EHOB) and the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER) building on Pine Tree Road, transitioning to the perimeter rate over three years ($115.62 for FY13). Employees working in these areas will receive information on other commuting options. Eligible employees can pay for the permit via pretax, semi-monthly payroll deduction or choose a commuting option—including RideShare, in which it only takes two people to reduce the fee back to zero.

A portion of the East Hill Plaza lot will be designated for permit parking only. The remainder of the lot will be available for customer parking and will have a four-hour limit. The permit controlled areas will also have four-hour visitor parking available.

Another upcoming parking change is that rates for department vehicle permits will increase to $107.06. Most permits, which are set to expire at the end of June, will renew automatically if their fees are not changing. 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. Login at http://myparking.cornell.edu to view your vehicle information and to submit changes. You can also use this site to view or pay any outstanding citations.

Complete information about commuting programs, rates, and parking fines can be found at http://www.commuting.cornell.edu.

Kronos Basic Tip: Check your accrual balances

If you’re just getting started with Kronos, or if you’re trying the simpler Kronos Basic (HTML) version, you may be wondering how to see how much vacation, sick, family health care or personal time you have.

1. Under My Information, click My Reports.
2. Click Accrual Balances and Projections, and then click the calendar icon.
3. In the calendar screen, choose today’s date or a future date a few months away.
4. Click View Report. Balances are shown as of the day you chose.

For supervisors who are using Kronos Basic (HTML), it’s easy to view all your employees’ accrual balances at a glance. In the “My Genies” section, click “Accrual - Biweekly Balance.” You’ll see their accrual balances as of the current pay period. To change the time period or which employees you’re viewing, see www.dfa.cornell.edu/dfa/payrollservices/services/kronos/howtoguides/supervisors/html/genies-html.cfm

Learn what else you can do in Kronos Basic (HTML):
- Nonexempt employees: www.dfa.cornell.edu/dfa/payrollservices/services/kronos/howtoguides/nonexempt/html/
- Supervisors: www.dfa.cornell.edu/dfa/payrollservices/services/kronos/howtoguides/supervisors/html/

Are you using Kronos Full (Java) instead? Your answers are just as easy to find. If you’re a nonexempt employee, see www.dfa.cornell.edu/dfa/payrollservices/services/kronos/howtoguides/nonexempt/java/. Supervisors, see http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/dfa/payrollservices/services/kronos/howtoguides/supervisors/java/

Need help? Call 607 255-8990 or email helpdesk@cornell.edu

Cornell community garden plots are available, first-come, first-served

Cornell garden plots are available for rent to anyone who wishes to grow their own vegetables.

The plots are located on Freese Road, off of Hanshaw Rd., and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each garden plot is 20 x 25 feet and rental for each plot is $20. You may rent as many plots as you wish as availability lasts.

Water and composted manure are on site, though deer fences and garden tools must be provided by the individual gardener.

Registration is on-line. Either google “Cornell Garden Plots” and click on the link or go to http://people.ccmr.cornell.edu/~sache/cu_gardens/DISTRIBUTION DAY

If you prefer to register in person, come to distribution day SATURDAY APRIL 23, 2011, starting at 9 a.m. in Room 102 Thurston Hall in the Cornell University Engineering Quad.

For more information, please contact Mary at maa8@cornell.edu or 607-844-4535.
Research Division recognizes staff from across 27 centers and offices

On April 18, the 27 centers and offices that make up the Research Division hosted their annual Service Award Recognition Luncheon in the Statler Ballroom for those staff members celebrating a certificate-awarding fifth-year interval service anniversary date. Recognizing each employee individually were the employees’ respective supervisors and directors and Senior Vice Provost for Research Robert Buhrman. Each awardee was called to the stage, congratulated and given a small token of appreciation, “Life’s Little Instruction Book,” and a wooden token worth a 20 percent discount on a purchase from the Cornell Store. Although some recipients could not make the lunch, listed below are all employees receiving awards this year.

The Center for Radiophysics and Space Research: Todd Ansty, 5 years; Mary Mulvanerton, 10 years; Justin Schoenwald, 25 years; Rick Kline, 30 years; George Gull, 40 years.

Center for Advanced Computing: Aaron Birkland, 10 years.

Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education: Brandee Berggren, Stephanie Martin, Todd Pavek, and Denny Totman, 5 years; Jackie Belliveau and Christine Peterson, 15 years; Dale Walters, 20 years; Bernie Bennett, 25 years; Lou Barkman, Marvin Moore, and Nancy Rice, 30 years.

Cornell Center for Technology, Enterprise and Commercialization: Patty Carli, Alan Paau, and Martin Teschl, 5 years; Barbara Card, 15 years.

Cornell NanoScale Science and Technology Facility: Edward Camacho, 5 years; Dave Botsch, Meredith Metzler, and John Treichler, 10 years; Melanie-Claire Mallison, 15 years; Garry Bordonaro, 25 years; Sam (Wade) Wright, 35 years.

Institute of Biotechnology and Life Sciences Technologies: Michelle Carr and Wenyuan Zhu, 10 years; Robert Sherwood 25 years.

Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics: Bob Tillotson, 5 years; Nathan Ellis, 15 years; Chris Cowulich, 20 years; Brenda Irvin-Bryant, 30 years; Connie Wright, 43 years; David Bowman, 46 years.

Office of Research Administration Information Services: Marian Hansen and Tom Loiacono, 10 years.

From the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, Susan Lewis, Amita Verma, Christine Bellezza and Matthew Aldridge.

KELLY STRICKLAND

Robert Buhrman, senior vice provost for research, and Professor Robin Davisson.

James Savino, engineer at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS).

Dale Walters, animal technician at the Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE).

Office of Research Integrity and Assurance: Matthew Aldridge and Amita Verma, 5 years; Susan Lewis, 10 years; Christine Bellezza, 20 years.

Office of Sponsored Programs: Christine Ashdown, 10 years; Robin Dollaway and Brenda Truesdail, 25 years.

Nanobiotechnology Center: Charla Hayes, 30 years.

Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology: Sarah Griffin and Melanie Wetzel, 5 years.

Weill Hall Facility Service: Jason Millspaugh, 5 years; Ralph Personius, 25 years.

The Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-based Sciences and Education, which encompasses two other centers, the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source and the Laboratory for Elementary-Particle Physics, recognized staff from each center. Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source: Darol Chamberlain and James Savino, 10 years; J. Lee Geiger and Alan Pauling, 15 years; Dana Richter, 25 years. Laboratory for Elementary-Particle Physics: Henry Crans, Mark Howser, Matthew Rendina, and Colby Shore, 5 years; Devin Bougie, Lora Hine and Vildan Omanovic, 10 years; Peter Quigley, 20 years; Richard Eshelman, 25 years; Timothy Anguish, Stephen Hubble and John Reilly, 30 years; Stuart Peck, 42 years; Selden Ball, 43 years; Ray Helmke, 45 years; Clayton Ball, 46 years.
Campus groups elect Baird, Mittman and Evensen to board of trustees

NANCY DOOLITTLE

Faculty, staff members and graduate students have elected Barbara Baird, M.S. ’75, Ph.D. ’79; Alan Mittman ’71; and Darrick Evensen, M.S. ’11, respectively, to the Cornell Board of Trustees, with terms beginning July 1.

Baird and Mittman have four-year terms, and Evensen has been re-elected to a two-year term.

The board helps determine major policy directions for the university and has an important role in safeguarding the integrity of the university. Cornell is the only Ivy League university – and one of the few universities across the country – whose board includes student, faculty and staff representatives as full voting members. There are two faculty and two student trustees and one employee trustee on the 64-member board.

Baird is the Horace White Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Joining the Cornell faculty in 1980, Baird has recently been director of the Nano-biotechnology Center, of graduate studies in chemistry and of Cornell’s National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant in molecular biophysics as well as co-director of the W.M. Keck Foundation Program on molecular and cellular biophysics of signal transduction, run jointly with faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College.

She has served on the Council of the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and on scientific advisory/review committees for Los Alamos National Laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mittman is director of Cornell’s Office of Workforce Policy and Labor Relations and Cornell’s chief union negotiator. He is also the university’s Title IX deputy coordinator, investigating claims of protected status discrimination and harassment, and administers disability and religious accommodations policies for faculty and staff.

He has served as president of Cornell’s Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) and chairperson of its finance commission, receiving the “Distinguished Student Volunteer Award” and the “Distinguished Leadership Award” from the Student Activities Office for his service to the GPSA. He has also served as the vice chair of the University Assembly Codes and Judicial Committee and as a member of the University Hearing and Review Boards and the Graduate School Academic Integrity Hearing Board.

Since the number of open seats on the Employee Assembly (EA) was not less than the number of candidates, all candidates will be seated. The voting influenced the particular seats to which candidates have been assigned.

EA exempt (tabulated after withdrawing candidates who are nonexempt employees):
- Bill Esty
- Curtis Ferguson
- Thomas P. Mitchell

Employee Assembly nonexempt (tabulated after withdrawing candidates who are exempt employees):
- Eric Lee
- Michelle Stefanski-Seymour
- Al Capogrossi

Employee Assembly at-large (tabulated after withdrawing candidates seated above):
- Bill Smith
- Joe Ambrosetti
- Robert (Bob) Blanco

All appointments are two-year terms running June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. EA information: http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA/Home.
Four faculty and 30 staff members from the ILR School were recognized May 14 by their colleagues for their achievements and years of service. Harry C. Katz, Kenneth F. Kahn Dean of ILR, presided over the gathering in 105 Ives Hall, while faculty and staff from the ILR extension office in New York City joined via videoconferencing.

Staff members celebrating their fifth year of service to Cornell included: Lorie Anderson, Lorraine Biechele, Rodney Bouchey, Ricci L. Curren, Brittanian K. Gamble, Kristie Lamb, Gloria M. Loehle and Jennifer Weidner. Staff celebrating 10 years were: Edwin Acevedo (NYC), Christine Cotton, Lorraine S. Fessenden, Jean Gustafson, Jill Kubit (NYC), Patricia Leary and Joseph Zappala. Brigid Beachler, Chris Crooker, Jasminy Joe (NYC), Joanne J. Kenyon, Anuradha Lyons, Donna M. Stone and Larisa Vygran were recognized for 15 years of service; Bonnie S. Hockenberry, Melissa Holland and Alice Torres (NYC) were recognized for 20 years; Marcia Clark and Pam Staub for 30 years; and Lynn King for 35 years of service.

Receiving peer recognition were Esta R. Bigler ’70 (NYC) and Joan Roberts. Bigler had been nominated for her longstanding compassion, understanding and caring. For many years she had been the metropolitan district director of the ILR School’s New York City Extension Program before establishing and directing its Labor and Employment Law Program. Joan Roberts, marketing communications manager, is known for her quiet, diplomatic and unassuming leadership, confident professionalism, work ethic, kind and honest mentoring and steadfast commitment.

The four faculty, who had been recognized for their teaching at the McPherson Honors and Awards Dinner on April 26, were Kate Bronfenbrenner, the director of labor education research and a senior ILR lecturer, who received the Kendall S. Carpenter Memorial Advising Award; Risa Lieberwitz, professor of labor and employment law, and Veronica Martinez-Matsuda, visiting professor with expertise in migratory labor, who both received the MacIntyre Award for Exemplary Teaching; and Daniel Cohen, entrepreneur-in-residence at ILR, who received the Robert N. Stern Mentoring Award.
Employee volunteer extravaganza

Interested in getting involved, but don’t know where or how to start? Come to the first-ever Employee Volunteer Extravaganza, May 18, noon-1 p.m., G10 Biotechnology Building, for door prizes and pizza and learn how to make connections across the university in the process.

In addition to short (2-5 min.) presentations by the CRC Committee and EA, representatives from such committees as those involved in Slope Day, employee appreciation events, Commencement and Dump and Run will be on hand – leaving time for pizza and in-depth discussions at committee tables around the room.

Learn how to join a committee or become a volunteer; expectations of volunteers; and the benefits of volunteering, whether in building skills, making connections or helping boost morale campus-wide.

Door prizes and pizza included. 🍕

NANCY DOOLITTLE

The rules may have changed, but the purpose of the annual blood collection competition between Cornell and Dartmouth College remains the same: to save lives through the donation of blood.

This year, the competition was based on which school saw the greatest percent-age of new do-nors during its challenge month of April. Cornell won with 50 percent new donors – defined as someone who has never donated blood or has not donated in the last two years.

In April, 360 units of blood – 179 from new donors – were collected at Cornell. According to Gary Colvin, regional life share manager for the New York-Penn Blood Services Region, “a 50 percent new donor rate is almost unheard of.”

Dartmouth collected 207 units of blood, 80 from new donors, for a new donor rate of 39 percent.

Since each unit of blood can ultimately be used to help save three hospital pa-tient lives, the Cornell April campaign resulted in 1,080 potential lives saved.

This was the third year that the competition has been held. 🎉

Agricultural Workshops

Managing weeds

A Cornell turfgrass webinar featuring Jenny Kao-Kniffen, Ph.D., “Weed Management – Plant Identification and Control Strategies,” will be held May 23, 1:30-3:15 p.m. The webinar will also provide an overview of the major types of weed species, their life history traits and identification for stages of development and review different herbicide control strategies, including alternative weed management strategies for situations where herbicides are restricted for use, specifically addressing alternatives for school grounds management. Cost: $45. Fulfills 1.5 NYS DEC credits; 0.15 GCSAA education points. Information on this and other turfgrass webinars: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/turf/events/webinars.html.

Fruit tree grafting

All tree fruit growers are invited to attend a grafting workshop to be held May 31, Route 25, at Wickham’s Fruit Farm in Cutchogue. Meet at the farmandstand at 10 a.m. Steve Hoving, Cornell fruit tree specialist at the Hudson Valley Lab, will demonstrate techniques to top-work established apple trees, enabling growers to change an established, undesirable cultivar by grafting a preferred cultivar to the branches. In addition, pollinator cultivars can be grown sooner by top-working established trees.

Contact Linda Holm at 727-7850, ext. 341 or email lml10@cornell.edu, if you plan on attending. Persons needing special accommodations should also contact Linda, at least one week prior to the workshop. 🌸
Bring a Child to Work Day provides hands-on learning

More than 350 children registered for Bring a Child to Work Day, May 7, participating in about 50 activities that ranged from exploring underwater robotics, learning Wushu (or contemporary Chinese martial arts) and visiting the Holey Cow, to learning about nutrition or sustainability, using Photoshop, training a dog, or journeying through the solar system.

Emily Gier, director of the Didactics Program, shows the class how to make a smoothie as her daughters Natalie and Alexandra look on.

Jared Reynolds mugs for his mom as he sticks his hand in the fistulated cow.

Max Messie, left, blows up a balloon in Upson Hall.

Kiely Howe, middle, packs a punch during a Wushu workshop in Barton Hall.

Caroline Breckner (LASSP) helps her sons, Julian and Jeremiah, add color to silly putty.

Maddie Starr holds up a wad of silly putty she made in Baker Lab.
FOR RENT
Farm share/house share, $500. Large bedroom, 2 full baths, all utilities, high speed internet, most pets OK, garden space, 16 acres of pasture, parking no problem. jcs93@cornell.edu or 254-8304.

House for rent, $2,100. 4 bedroom house fully furnished. Close to Cornell and local schools. $2,100/month. Interested? Contact kvs9@cornell.edu or 255-0534.

Whole house renting for CU graduation and Reunion in Newfields, $665. 7 mile to CU. 2,200 Sq. ft. 4 big bedrooms, sleeps 10. Formal dining, large kitchen, dishwasher, internet & TV, laundry, barbecue, porch & patio, fishpond, 3 nights min. lb46@cornell.edu or 279-5247.

FOR SALE
AKC Registered Black Lab puppies, $400. 2 females, 4 males ready to go in 2 weeks. dc276@cornell.edu or 835-6693.

Brand new tires, $150. 2 new Cooper Trendsetter BW P205/70R15 tires. They were on the car 1 week and car was traded. Purchased for $96 each + tax. $150 firm. trw23@cornell.edu or 351-5435.

Hot Springs HOT TUB, $1,800. In excellent working order, seats 4-5 people. Price includes thermal cover, step, large supply of chemicals. prh3@cornell.edu or 257-3168.

Used Verizon cell phone needed with charger, college room. jch6@cornell.edu or 255-8531.

Twin loft bed, $???. Want twin sized loft bed for college room. jch6@cornell.edu or 255-8531.

Used Verizon cellphone needed with charger, $free/cheap. cnd3@cornell.edu or 279-5247.

CHEESE TRAIL
The Finger Lakes Cheese Trail Open House begins May 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and runs through Oct. 6, featuring local cheese producers and samples of their products. Artisan cheeses range from English-style raw milk cheddars, cheese curd, gouda and swiss types from dairy cow milk, to blue cheeses, chevre and feta from goats and sheep milk. Addresses and directions are at cccetompkins.org/cheesetrail or visit Finger Lakes Cheese Trail on Facebook. More information: Monika Roth, 607-272-2292, or email mr55@cornell.edu.

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