Ray Coolbaugh recognized for dedicated service

NANCY DOOLITTLE

While on duty, first in the U.S. Army and later with the New York Army National Guard, Rayburn Coolbaugh piloted one of the nation’s largest helicopters, a CH47-D Chinook. In his service to Cornell, Coolbaugh has been responsible for millions of dollars of technical and complex laboratory equipment, including installing, calibrating and maintaining more than 25 analytical balances, various types of centrifuges and hundreds of digital and glass thermometers, incubators and ultra-low freezers.

Coolbaugh’s positive attitude and dedication to his work prompted his nomination for the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service, which he received May 30 at a recognition luncheon held at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC), where he works as an equipment technician.

Coolbaugh is “a solid performer, totally self-disciplined, has great initiative, and is highly skilled in a number of extremely technical systems,” wrote his supervisor and AHDC business director Kimberly Ramm in her nomination letter. “He can communicate with equipment users, lab managers, faculty members, external vendors and college administrators with ease,” she wrote.

“Ray’s primary strengths lie in his dedicated service, his dependability, and his versatility and in-depth knowledge of instrumentation installation and repairs,” wrote Linda Benson, laboratory manager of the virology section of the AHDC, citing his strong work ethic.

According to Denise Archer, AHDC’s quality assurance manager, his calibrations ensure quality test results, leading to better decisions in the treatment of animals.

And Rebecca Franklin, Bacteriology Laboratory manager, noted in her nomination letter Coolbaugh’s positive attitude, initiative and innovative spirit.

Ray Coolbaugh receives the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service, May 30.

At the recognition picnic, Bruce Akey, assistant dean of diagnostic operations in the College of Veterinary Medicine and executive director of the AHDC, recognized AHDC staff who were celebrating a fifth-anniversary year of service, then introduced Tanya Grove, chair of the Employee Assembly, who presented Coolbaugh with the George Peter award.

Grove said that the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service is given to “Cornell staff members who consistently demonstrate a high degree of excellence in the performance of their duties and who prove their willingness to extend themselves to help others and go above and beyond the normal expectations of their job responsibilities.”

Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources and safety services, also congratulated Coolbaugh, saying that she was “very, very proud that the EA chose to give you this award,” and presenting him with an autographed copy of historian Carol Kammen’s “Glorious to View.”

Michael Kotlikoff, the Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine, noted Coolbaugh has served the college “with tremendous energy, diligence and skill,” helping his colleagues and saving college funds.

Akey also highlighted Coolbaugh’s oversight of the move from the former AHDC location to the present one, including the re-installation of all equipment.

Coolbaugh, who started working at Cornell in 1985, said that he was “definitely taken by surprise” to receive the George Peter award. “This has been a great career, giving me great people to work with,” he said.

Coolbaugh will retire from Cornell at the end of July. He and his wife plan to stay in Trumansburg, with trips to local and national parks and recreational areas. Coolbaugh also hopes to have more time to build and fly model airplanes and helicopters and to be active as a member of the Ithaca Radio Control Society.
How cloud computing services benefit Cornell University

Fifth in a series of articles about cloud computing at Cornell.

Managed correctly, cloud services can bring many benefits to Cornell. The cloud can allow us to reduce our infrastructure investment, move quickly when an IT service is needed, buy only the features we want to use and change providers and vendors more easily when better pricing or fit comes along. Like any other resource, the cloud has to be used wisely in order to produce value. For example, if Cornell buys an IT service from a cloud vendor and a Cornell employee charges that same service to a Cornell credit card, Cornell could pay multiple times for a service. First check to see if the service you are interested in, or an equivalent one, is centrally offered or supplied by your college or IT service group.

Institutional benefits

• Cornell can reduce its investment in technology infrastructure because cloud services are on vendors’ servers, not Cornell’s.
• Cornell is able to quickly scale its services to match demand, because cloud vendors let Cornell get resources when needed and scale up and down as demand changes.
• Cornell can make services available to campus when people need them, because the cloud model allows to Cornell to buy only what it needs, when it is needed. The cloud relieves us of having to plan for and anticipate IT needs far ahead of time.
• Cornell can purchase a la carte, buying just the IT capabilities and features it wants or will use. This is in comparison to the old model in which we bought a system and paid for unwanted or unimplemented features just to get the desired features and functions.
• Cornell can change solutions and providers because it is not walking away from such huge investments as technology or trained personnel.
• Cornell can take advantage of economies of scale. Cloud service providers’ high volume of business allows such companies as Google to host millions of email accounts less expensively than Cornell can host thousands. By bulking up its systems, Google and similar players can serve the globe and run at full capacity 24X7, making their investment affordable to the company and the service affordable to customers.
• Cornell can reclaim resources to focus on core business. Cornell is not about IT. Cloud services let us focus more on things that differentiate Cornell – its education, research and outreach missions.

More information: http://www.it.cornell.edu/services/guides/cloud/

Endowed health plans improve for business travel abroad

Enhanced coverage for international travel on university business will begin July 1 under the endowed health plans administered by Aetna on the Ithaca campus and the health plans at the Weill Cornell Medical College campus at no extra cost.

International travelers currently covered on an Aetna plan will be able to access help for medical attention through Aetna International, a unit that specializes in delivering solutions for corporate travelers. Aetna International has the capability of communicating in more than 30 languages; has five regional offices worldwide; and offers 24/7 live phone access anywhere in the world. Travelers may access a network of some 71,000 health care providers in more than 165 countries. Medical services are paid in local currency, often leaving the traveler with no out-of-pocket expenses.

Once the traveler returns to the United States, claims filing for covered expenses will not be necessary in most cases, as the financial transactions will have been completed when the traveler sought service. There are some limitations and exclusions, but the plan covers family members currently covered who are traveling with the faculty or staff member. The policy also covers such travelers on vacation time as long as the vacation time is appended to an approved business trip.

Interested international travelers on university business will be able to print out an ID-type card with Aetna International contact information by visiting the Benefit Services website on July 1. For more information, contact the Benefits Resource Center at 607-255-3936 or send a message to benefits@cornell.edu.

Buying for BackPack Program begins

The annual BackPack Program drive for new, filled backpacks to help kick off the school year in September has begun.

The BackPack Program for needy children in the local and surrounding areas began in the fall of 2007, inspired by a first-grade child who went to school with all of her school needs in a plastic bag from a local grocery store. That year the program provided 284 new, filled backpacks to 12 area schools. Last year, with the help of many friends of the program, the program provided 718 new, filled backpacks to 23 area schools. This year again, the program is looking to help needy children in 23 schools.

Donating is simple. Sales on school items are regularly held beginning in July, making it easy to purchase a backpack for around $10.

The supplies that fill the backpack are standard: three folders; #2 pencils; washable markers; two spiral notebooks; pens; erasers; blunt-end scissors; glue sticks; crayons; ruler; small package of tissues; construction paper; one composition book.

Those who would prefer to make a donation rather than shop can make a check out to “the Elves” and send it to Maureen Brull at 130 Day Hall. In order to get the backpacks to the children prior to the first day of school, all backpacks should be delivered to Brull’s office no later than August 23. http://www.elves.cornell.edu/backpack.html
Arts and Sciences picnic celebrates staff, and dean

Sunny blue skies, the antics of Touchdown the Big Red Bear and the enthusiasm of staff members at the College of Arts and Sciences annual staff picnic June 4 lent a festive note to an event Dean Peter Lepage called “a little bittersweet.”

“Every year for the last 10 years, I’ve had the pleasure of coming to this party; I’ve had the privilege of commenting on the important role played by the staff in making this college function . . . and every year I’ve been able to tell you how proud I am of our staff,” Lepage said to approximately 300 staff lunching under an Arts Quad tent. “This year it is a little bittersweet because this is the last time I’m going to be doing it.”

In July, following two terms as dean of the college, Lepage will return to teaching and research in the Department of Physics. Gretchen Ritter ’83, professor of government and vice provost at the University of Texas at Austin, will become dean Aug. 1. “You will love the new dean,” Lepage said.

Lepage thanked the staff “for all the help you’ve given me collectively and individually over these last 10 years,” and said the college “depends hugely on the contributions of staff.” He called the names of A&S staff celebrating 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to Cornell. Six staff members were celebrating 40 or more years of service: Leora Lovejoy, Shirley Soule, and Deborah Van Gilder were recognized for 40 years of service, Henry Crans and Sharon deRoos for 44 years, and Ronald Wolverton for 47 years.

David Taylor, A&S associate dean of administration, thanked the committee that organized the picnic, co-chaired by Christianne Capalongo, administrative assistant for Near Eastern studies, and Tuyen Dang, administrative assistant for the dean’s office. Taylor also presented Lepage with a cake from Kendra’s Catering on behalf of the college, and said Lepage “has shown extraordinary leadership,” and that he “knows and appreciates everything all of you do.” Following the cake-cutting, emcee John Miner, director of administration in the physics department, invited staff to participate in games the committee had organized.

In later remarks, Lepage said being dean brought him into close working relationships with A&S staff, whose “strong commitment and dedication” has impressed him. “You can see it in the planning for this event,” he said, noting that staff volunteered their time to organize the picnic and gather prizes from local businesses. “They make it a fun place to work.”

“As dean, you understand the full extent to which faculty and students depend on staff. You also see how staff members build a sense of community and coherence that strengthens the college,” Lepage said.
Encore Cornell - Upcoming Programs

The Pathways to Your Encore series, a part of the Encore Cornell (Engaging Cornell Retirees) program, is designed for Cornell mid-career and pre-retirement employees who are beginning to explore, dream about, plan for, or ready to embark upon the many possibilities the encore stage of life affords. To learn more about the following programs or to register, visit the website https://www.hr.cornell.edu/retirees/encore_pathways.html or email encore@cornell.edu.

Finding Your Aha Moment: Learning to Create the Volunteer Fit Perfect for You - July 11, noon-1 p.m., 163 Day Hall

Re-Finding Your Life Compass: Exploring the Hidden Treasures That Lie Ahead! - August 8, noon-1 p.m., 163 Day Hall

Pathways to Your Encore Focus Group - August 22, noon-1 p.m., 163 Day Hall

Wellbeing Programs

For more information or to register, visit the website https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/worklife_workshops.html or email wellbeing@cornell.edu.

Caregiver Support and Education Network Meeting - June 20, 12:15-1:15 p.m., 221 Weill Hall

Wellness Programs

Community Event Sharing Page - New! From the Wellness Program. We're listening; we heard you, and we thank you for your feedback. According to the Wellness and Wellbeing Survey of 2013, 63.7 percent of Cornell employees are interested in hearing about wellbeing opportunities in the community. In response, the Cornell Wellness Program just launched a Community Event Sharing Facebook Page. This Facebook page allows for anyone within or outside the Cornell community to post information about such events in their communities as bike races, foot races and Ithaca Fest.

If something related to wellness and wellbeing is happening in your community, share it by posting on the page.

Lyme Disease: You and Your Dog in Ithaca - June 19, noon-1 p.m., 120 Physical Sciences Building (will also be recorded and posted on Wellness website). Drs. MacQueen and Barr will give an overview of the clinical syndrome of Lyme disease in people and dogs. Learn the signs, symptoms and treatments of Lyme disease, which ticks carry Lyme disease, the steps you can take to lessen the chances of you or your dog becoming infected and what to do if you find a tick on yourself or your pet. Free and open to the entire Cornell community. Register at http://wellness.cornell.edu/lectures_and_workshops.php. Walk-ins welcome. Doug MacQueen, MD, works in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Cayuga Medical Center and Dr. Steve Barr, BVSc, MVS, PhD, DACVIM is professor and chief, Department of Clinical Sciences at Cornell University.

Cornell Police reaccredited on 239 standards

NANCY DOOLITTLE

The Cornell University Police Department (CUPD) has received accreditation for the second time in a row by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) for “demonstrating a commitment to the highest professional practices in campus public safety management, administration, operations and support services.”

The reaccreditation signifies that Cornell has provided proof of meeting 239 standards issued by the IACLEA; the university first received this accreditation in 2010 and will be reevaluated against these standards again in May 2017.

“The assessors were impressed by the number and variety of crime prevention and outreach programs that we provide to the community annually,” says Chief of Police Kathy Zoner. “We provided more than 71 programs, from personal security to identity theft, alcohol awareness and winter driving techniques, reaching more than 14,000 students, faculty and staff.”

Zoner also attributed the reaccreditation to the responses CUPD received to a call-in survey this spring, held April 22. The number of respondents to the survey was so high that some reported that they were unable to get through on the phone lines during the time provided. Respondents from the university described the department as being professional, cooperative, proactive and compassionate, emphasizing that CUPD is viewed as being open, transparent and trustworthy. The callers from local law enforcement agencies reported an excellent working relationship with CUPD, highlighting the assistance CUPD gives with training in critical incident responses. Those who could not get through were provided an e-mail address for forwarding their comments.

Outreach to local media, especially in regard to cases of sexual assault and about the development of policies and procedures relating to public information, was also cited as a strength in Cornell Police operations.

Sergeant Dan Murphy serves as CUPD’s dedicated accreditation officer; his primary responsibility is to gather proof of compliance to IACLEA’s standards, update CUPD’s policy manual and keep current with changes in the department’s work and operations.

“Our work is constantly changing,” Zoner says. “We face different specific safety challenges each academic year, laws and protocols change, and the needs of the university change. Like the rest of our academic community, we are in a mode of continuous learning, and that learning must be reflected in our demonstrating, in new ways, how we meet and exceed the public campus safety standards of our profession.

Zoner will receive the certificate of reaccreditation on Cornell’s behalf at the IACLEA Annual conference, June 29, in Louisville, Ky.

IACLEA advances public safety for educational institutions by providing educational resources, advocacy and professional development services to its membership of more than 1,200 colleges and universities in 20 countries.
Procurement Gateway allows easy purchasing

NANCY DOOLITTLE

You need a new pen at work. The department’s copier paper supply is running low. You have to order food for a catered meeting on campus. What do you do?

Until now, it depended on where you work. In some Cornell departments, you posted a sticky note on your business manager’s computer, who then followed up with your needs. In others, you sent an email or filled out a form for the person in charge of purchasing for your department, who then bought what you needed with their procurement card, transferred the information to a department form or entered it in an automatic purchase order in the Kuali system or e-SHOP that the Financial Transaction Centers or Business Centers required.

Now, thanks to the work of a team from across campus, the process has been streamlined.

You can now go to the Procurement Gateway at gateway.procurement.cornell.edu, where you will be presented with your procurement options in an individual profile. Many users will merely select the “I Want” button, fill in a few relevant fields and send it on for processing.

For more complicated orders, use the page’s purchasing wizard for guidance.

“We wanted to improve the end-user purchasing experience, so we asked people outside our division to serve on the team,” said Tom Romantic, senior director of procurement, who co-sponsored with Joanne DeStefano, vice president for finance, the team that developed the Procurement Gateway. “The team met for two weeks in May 2012 to establish easy-to-use processes that would meet a wide variety of purchasing needs, and then designed the gateway to logically bring all procurement matters together.”

Romantic and DeStefano then enlisted functional and technical resources to build and test the gateway. It has been piloted in the Vet College, Human Ecology, Research and Engineering since March.

Romantic said he is grateful for the team members’ ongoing commitment to the project. Two team members are now project leads on an additional initiative focused solely on e-SHOP. He also said he is thankful to their supervisors for their flexibility, as both he and DeStefano had wanted the perspectives of end-users to drive the project.

The gateway is built to require as much data as the person making the request is authorized or able to give:

• All employees have access to the “I Want” document for submitting purchase requests and can fill in the information that they know and submit the form to their Financial Transaction or Business Service Center for processing.
• Those authorized to use pcards or e-SHOP can make purchases through these services or, if required, submit a standard purchase order.
• Alternatively, the Procurement Wizard can walk staffers through identifying a vendor and determining the appropriate procurement method.

Also at this site: links to the preferred and contract supplier list, approved caterers list, Find a Supplier tool (which also allows the campus to find diverse suppliers), Cornell Asset Transfer System, the Facilities Services Reuse Program and procurement news articles. Additionally, staffers will be able to view the status of their orders, which will save numerous phone calls to find out when products or services will be delivered.

This summer, “Fast Tracks” will be implemented, providing an easy way to access and purchase the most frequently purchased items at Cornell. The final list is being determined, but computer equipment and supplies, laboratory equipment and supplies, office equipment and supplies, paper and toner are all likely candidates.

Process streamlining teams garner kudos

The Process Streamlining teams, PS1 (dealing with procurement requests) and PS2 (dealing with the e-SHOP user experience), were recognized at an Employee Assembly Kudos event, May 30.

Kudos came from Kim Yeoh: “The Employee Assembly sponsors a Staff Kudos program that enables us to recognize the efforts of fellow staff members who have gone ‘above and beyond.’ I can’t think of another group of individuals who have gone ‘abover’ or ‘beyonder’ than you all, through your participation in our Process Streamlining initiative. You have truly shown yourselves to be assets to Cornell through your commitment of time, energy and brain power!” 🐾
Endowed health plans to cover transgender services, autism and certain other disorders

Effective July 1, endowed health plans will begin to cover new benefits for transgender, transsexual and gender nonconforming enrollees and those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

"On an ongoing basis, Benefit Services continues to evaluate additional coverage and new services that help advance our caring community," said Paul Bursic, senior director of Benefit Services. "This additional coverage supports our diverse faculty, staff and their families."

**Transgender Benefits**

New coverage includes therapy and certain medical procedures related to gender identity confirmation procedures. "These health plan changes bring Cornell into a group of vanguard institutions that show support for the unique needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community," said Bursic.

The endowed health plans have covered some aspects of transgender health, but not hormone therapy or gender confirmation surgery. Given the serious nature of these procedures, coverage will be limited to persons at least age 18 who have been medically evaluated and received preparatory treatment.

The Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletin guides the medically necessary treatment protocol; treatments that are considered cosmetic in nature are not covered.

The Empire Health Plan – a New York state-supported plan used by the contract college faculty and staff – does not offer gender confirmation surgery and several other therapeutic treatments. Benefit Services does not anticipate an early adoption of these therapies in the Empire Health Plan.


**Autism Spectrum Disorder**

The autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other pervasive developmental disorders will be covered and will include applied behavioral analysis (ABA) and behavioral therapy.

There will be no calendar year or lifetime maximum limits put on the amount the plan will cover for ABA therapy, but other limitations will apply. For example, services such as psychological testing, neuropsychological testing and ABA will need to be precertified and authorized. Refer to the Clinical Policy Bulletin at [http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/600_699/0648.html](http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/600_699/0648.html) for a more complete list of covered services and any applicable exclusions.

The Empire Health Plan began covering ASD in January under a state-sponsored mandate. It limits the annual cost of ABA to $45,000, which may be lifted in the future under national health insurance reform standards.

For questions or additional information, contact Benefit Services at 607-255-3936, visit hr.cornell.edu/benefits or contact Aetna directly, at 877-371-2007.

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Kudos lunch recognizes individual staff

At a Kudos luncheon May 29, the Employee Assembly (EA) recognized more than 30 individuals for whom their supervisors or peers had submitted a “Kudos” to the EA this past year. Attending the lunch were the Kudos recipients, their submitters, members of the EA, Office of the Assembly staff and other guests.

After the meal, EA chairperson Tanya Grove gave short remarks, recognizing the Kudos recipients. She presented Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources and safety services, with a plaque proclaiming the establishment of an employee award in her honor. The Opperman Award had been formally announced in April and will be given by the EA semiannually “to an employee who consistently demonstrates their commitment to encouraging and supporting staff excellence.”

Grove also thanked Jeanne Boodley-Buchanan and Melissa Kitchen for their EA terms. Thanking the staff of the Assembly Office – Amy O’Donnell, Amy Edwards and Ari Epstein – for their support of the EA, Grove noted that Epstein will be leaving the university to pursue graduate studies. She called Peggy Beach forward to announce that Beach will be retiring from Cornell, thanked her for her efforts on behalf of the university and presented her with a plaque.

In turn, Beach thanked Grove for her term of leadership of the EA, which ends June 30, and gave her a commemorative gavel.
Myrick and Stewart discuss town-gown collaborations

Campus-community collaborations are important not only in response to any given problem or crisis, but on an ongoing and regular basis, said City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick and Cornell University Director of Community Relations Gary Stewart at the International Town and Gown Association conference in Buffalo on June 4.

Cornell and Ithaca have several standing meetings on a variety of shared challenges and opportunities, they said, addressing higher-education staff and elected or appointed municipal officials from around the nation who attended the session and asked questions about town-gown life in Ithaca.

The joint City-CU presentation was prefaced by a specially produced video – “Where We Live” – created by University Communications staff and available at http://www.cornell.edu/video/where-we-live. Ithaca’s clerk and public information officer Julie Holcomb also spoke.

The International Town and Gown Association provides a network of resources to assist civic leaders, university officials, faculty, neighborhood residents and students to collaborate on common services, programs, academic research and citizen issues, creating an improved quality of life for all residents, students, visitors, faculty and staff.

Campus buses to NYC end Oxley stop

The Campus-to-Campus executive coach service is sporting a fresh new look and – to accommodate the service’s growing popularity – will stop at the southeast corner of the B parking lot instead of the Oxley Equestrian Center, as of July 15. The schedule remains the same otherwise. “Campus-to-Campus has simply outgrown the parking area at the Oxley Equestrian Center, causing congestion during athletic events in the area,” said Joe Lalley, senior director for facilities operations.

Passengers with a permit valid for the B parking lot can park with their permit displayed for the duration of their trip. Those without a valid permit will need to purchase temporary parking at http://www.parkmobile.com. Parking can be purchased by the day or for multiple days up to one week. In B lot, parking will cost $6 per day, Monday-Friday; free on Saturdays and Sundays. Most parking permits are valid in B lot. The only staff permits not valid in B lot are A, E, EH, ME, R and WE.

The art on the sides of the buses now “will feature iconic images of New York City and the Cornell campus,” said Clive Howard, design director for marketing in University Communications. “We attempt to illustrate the vibrant connection between the Ithaca and NYC campuses.”

Campus-to-Campus has extended the reservation schedule through Dec. 24. Visit https://c2cbus.fs.cornell.edu:8485/ to book a trip. For more information about the service, visit http://www.c2cbus.com or call 607-254-8747.

Park by phone with new app

Cornell parking is about to become simpler. The university has implemented service by Parkmobile USA that lets students, faculty, staff and visitors pay for parking throughout campus using Parkmobile applications for iPhone, Android, Windows and Blackberry smartphones.

Register and download a mobile app at www.parkmobile.com. After setting up your account, you can start using the system immediately with your registered mobile phone. You can also opt to receive text message alerts and reminders 15 minutes before your time runs out.

One of our focused efforts over the past year has been to improve short-term parking access. Parkmobile helps us to meet that need and provides flexibility for departments, visitors and the campus community, said Joe Lalley, senior director of facilities services.

This June 14 issue of Pawprint is the last biweekly issue for this academic year. The next issue of Pawprint will be the mid-summer July 26 issue. In the meantime, go to www.pawprint.cornell.edu to keep up with the latest, or Like us on Facebook.
FOR RENT
3-Bedroom house for rent, $1,500/mo. + utilities. In Dryden. 2-car garage; yard/gated pool; 10-min drive, or ride TCAT. bjt53@cornell.edu or 255-9573.

FOR SALE
Hermann Oktoberfest Bear, $40. NO. 8486 of a limited edition of 12,500 pieces. Excellent condition. 17” high overall. rdk1@cornell.edu or 279-9792.

Decorative room divider, $100. 4-panel room divider. Approx. 6 ft. high. Art on one side only. Purchased from Sam Peter Furniture. Excellent condition. rdk1@cornell.edu or 279-9792.

Child’s dresser (with bed), $300. Dresser (43” x 32” x 16”) goes with raised futon bed (with slide and ladder), good condition. nfw3@cornell.edu or 254-7416.

Speakers, $100 OBO. West Coast Customs WCC-PB800, 12” 800W dual subwoofer powerbox, good condition. Is94@cornell.edu or 227-4213.


55 Gal freshwater aquarium, complete, $175. 48 x 12 x 20, 55-gal tank with cabinet-style stand, two-light hood, filter, heater andmisc. accessories. Call 532-8509 between 6-8 pm.

Lane Sofa—Oyster color — microsuede, $450. Chaise on one end, recliner, excellent condition, fabric protectant. dewinch3@gmail.com.

55 Gal freshwater aquarium, complete, $175. 48 x 12 x 20, 55-gal tank with cabinet-style stand, two-light hood, filter, heater and misc. accessories. Call 532-8509 between 6-8pm.

Lone Sofa—Oyster color — microsuede, $450. Chaise on one end, recliner, excellent condition, fabric protectant. dewinch3@gmail.com for photo; call 607-708-4121 to view.

3 pc. solid oak table, $120. Small 3 piece drop leaf dining/kitchen table. Excellent condition. Remodeled kitchen. vw11@cornell.edu or 257-4653.

Garage sale. 416 Winthrop Drive. June 15, 9am-1pm Multi-family, household items—some vintage, jewelry, lamps, garden, baby, electronics, toys. je55@cornell.edu or 319-4229.

OFFER
Commuter Ride Available, $116/mo. Daily weekday commuter ride pool between Watkins Glen and Cornell Campus with stops and pick-ups in Burdett and downtown Ithaca. lam79@cornell.edu or 280-9563.

WANTED
Little Tykes Outdoor and/or Wooden Outdoor Playset. Will pick up. svr2@cornell.edu or 255-8552.

Gorge work and stewards make natural areas safer

NANCY DOOLITTLE

With funding and approvals in place, work on the most arduous section of the Cascadilla Gorge trail system will steadily proceed through the summer, says Todd Bittner, director of natural areas for Cornell Plantations.

Nearly one-half of this section of the trail, from under the Stewart Avenue Bridge to College Avenue, comprises staircases. The section is wetter and steeper than the lower section from Stewart Avenue to Lynn Street, which had been completed in fall 2010.

Then came Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in early fall 2011. The lower, repaired section of the trail sustained only nominal damage, but the upper portion was massively damaged, Bittner said. Cornell applied for and received a grant of $880,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to repair the trail, staircases, and railings and remove flood debris. The historic character of the trail will be re-established and modern materials and practices will make the trail more resilient to future flood events.

For instance, poured concrete is more durable than laid stone, allowing for the use of rebar, stainless steel anchors and drainage structures. By tinting the concrete to look like shale and using textured pouring forms, the concrete facades blend in with the stone-laid ones, making them look as if they had aged in place, Bittner said.

The weakest stonework is at the intersections of vertical stonewalls with horizontal bedrock at or below the waters surface, as these joints are prone to undercutting, Bittner said. A special, shale-tinted concrete, known as Shotcrete, will reinforce these joints and fill and stabilize other undercut walls or masonry work. Hand-laid stone can then be set in place, concealing the modern materials behind the natural surface, he said.

The FEMA grant supplements the $2.5 million the university had already designated to improve Cascadilla and Fall Creek gorges.

Work above College Avenue in the Cascadilla Gorge below Hoy Road is underway, including work on a retaining wall and stairs by Eddy Dam, a footbridge by the Faculty Tennis Club and a staircase by Rhodes Hall. Railings and overhead lighting from the Trolley Bridge to the footbridge will be installed this summer. More than 2,200 feet of trails have been improved, using gravel that routinely builds up near the university’s water intake system to save on the cost of materials and promote overall sustainability.

Work on the Fall Creek area, begun in May 2012, is near completion: All trail improvements were completed last November and four “destination points” along the creek or on the gorge rim have been approved for development.

Also part of the university’s gorge safety initiative: Two full- and one part-time gorge steward have been hired for the summer to educate visitors about safety, gorge regulations and gorge swimming alternatives. During July-September 2012, stewards logged in 770 hours, observing 11,200 people in the Fall Creek, Cascadilla Creek and Beebe Lake natural areas, interacted with 1,610 visitors and issued 1,049 oral warnings on gorge regulations and safety.

The stewards – all Cornell students who have trained with the Cornell Plantations staff in the natural and cultural history of the area – are leading guided hikes Thursdays and Saturdays during the summer. “They are the most direct way we have to interact with our users and promote safety,” said Sittner.

This year, the university will again promote safe alternatives to gorge swimming by running free buses out to Tremaran Park on the busy weekends of first-year orientation: Aug. 24-25 and Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Hiking maps for natural areas on Cornell’s campus are available at cornellplantations.org/trails.