Engineering launches ‘Think Big, Live Green’ campaign

BLAINE FRIEDLANDER

Cut out, pay back, smack down, tune in and turn off: It’s time for “Think Big, Live Green,” a major energy and waste reduction campaign launched Sept. 4 by the College of Engineering and the Energy and Sustainability department in Cornell’s Facilities Services.

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, students, faculty and staff will participate in the drive, striving to reduce the college’s environmental footprint. In subsequent years, the Think Big, Live Green campaign will be implemented in all Cornell colleges and units.

The College of Engineering uses significant campus energy resources, and its leadership supports the university’s movement toward climate neutrality. “The evidence for climate change is clear, and it is incumbent upon all of us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Lance Collins, the Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering. “The college understands the importance of being a good steward of the environment and how prudent it is for everyone to really ‘Think Big, Live Green.’ We are committed to building a better world, and to do that, we want to make Earth a greener place.”

For the 2014 fiscal year, the electricity budget for the college is $2.4 million, and two buildings – Rhodes Hall ($592,000) and Duffield Hall ($477,000) – account for 63 percent of the budget. Rhodes Hall is projected to use 9.8 million kilowatt hours in FY 2014, and Duffield Hall’s usage is projected to be 7.95 million kWh.

About 40 students, staff and faculty trained last spring and over the summer for the Green Ambassadors program, a leadership program that fosters peer-to-peer education, reinforces sustainable behavior and advises on good ecological practices.

To support Cornell’s campuswide Climate Action Plan goals and to increase awareness, Think Big, Live Green monthly themes in Engineering will highlight these initiatives:

• September: The college will focus on cutting paper waste and promote sharing documents electronically with the Big Paper Cut.
• October: The college community will shift its focus to energy conservation in labs and offices, and pinpoint individual energy saving opportunities in Green Your Workplace.
• November: The college will tune in to the Energy Smackdown: Round 1, where each building will compete for the highest energy reduction. The Cornell Building Dashboard will be used – for transparency – to view how much energy the buildings use and reduce in real time.
• December: During the holidays, faculty and staff will be encouraged to turn thermostats down in a program called “Setback = Payback.”

The Think Big Live Green campaign follows the footsteps of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ “CALS Green” program, a six-building energy conservation and sustainability initiative that saved more than 2 million pounds of carbon and $230,000 in energy costs from November 2010 to November 2011. Successful components of the CALS Green program included friendly competition, educational outreach, peer persuasion and applauding sustainable behavior patterns.

The organization team for this campaign includes: JoAnne Williams, associate dean for administration, Engineering; Dawn McWilliams, director of marketing and communications, Engineering; Erin Moore, energy outreach coordinator, Facilities Services; and Dan Roth, director, campus sustainability, Facilities Services.

Blaine Friedlander is an editor for the Cornell Chronicle, where this article first appeared Sept. 4.
Cornell enterprise online services and privacy

Sometimes, members of the Cornell community wonder why they should care about what cloud services they use, or why it’s important to use Cornell-contracted online services instead of other services. For example, there’s no shortage of places to store data, and with cloud offerings, the options are increasing. But not all options are equal—some pose significant risks. It’s important to understand why some places are better than others to store and share data.

To offer superior privacy and data protection to the Cornell community, the university negotiates for enhanced enterprise accounts with online services.

Why enterprise contracts matter for Cornell business

Enterprise versions of cloud services are very similar to consumer versions in terms of features and capabilities. However, for enterprise versions, Cornell:

- Negotiates institution-wide terms and prices
- Vets the service with its legal, policy, supply management, audit and security specialists
- Integrates the service with the Cornell environment (so that you can use your NetID and password to log in, for example).

“We all need to use the enterprise services we’ve negotiated,” says Tracy Mitranno, Director of IT Policy. Laws and policies exist to protect certain types of data, such as student records, health records and personally identifiable information. By using non-Cornell services, “both that person and, in turn, the university, are not complying with laws and policies that govern how we do business and that can lead to a situation with serious legal and financial consequences.”

Storing and sharing Cornell data

Because we need to make sure that data is only accessible by authorized people, and non-Cornell options make it easier to steal or change data, all Cornell business should ideally be performed using Cornell services that:

- Do not require sensitive data to be downloaded to your computer
- Require every person to access data using their NetID credentials
- Only allow people to see the information they are authorized to see
- Have appropriate technical safeguards and contractual protections in place through Cornell (for on-premise services) or through vendors (for cloud services) for sending, storing or sharing regulated or confidential data.

Examples: Cornell Box and Cornell Dropbox

Cornell Box (cornell.box.com) is the only cloud storage service that has been reviewed and recommended by Cornell’s IT Security Office. It’s convenient for collaborating both within Cornell, and with outside constituents.

In Box, it’s possible to accidently make documents available to people who shouldn’t see them, give too much permission, or lose control of who can see your files. As a result, Box is not approved for sharing certain types of data. For a list of permitted uses for Cornell Box, see: http://www.it.cornell.edu/services/box/policy.cfm.

Cornell Dropbox (dropbox.cornell.edu) is the only approved service for sharing confidential files, as it is owned by Cornell and designed with confidential sharing in mind.

To see a thorough list of services that are available at Cornell and the types of information they may be used for, see: http://www.it.cornell.edu/policies/infoprivacy/regdata/chart.cfm.

Save the Date! President’s address to staff Oct. 1

President David Skorton will deliver his annual address to staff Oct. 1 at noon in Bailey Hall.

His remarks will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like to pose any questions to the president in advance of his address, send them to the Employee Assembly at ea@assembly.cornell.edu.

The address is coordinated by the Employee Assembly.

Deadline for photo contest is today

The deadline for submitting digital photographs for the 31st annual Pawprint Photography Contest is Sept. 13.

Staff, faculty, students, alumni and retirees are invited to submit digital images in the following categories: Adults, Animals, Cornell (any location), Landscape, Humor, Nature, Special Effects (digital enhancement), Structures/Buildings and Unspecified.

Submit one photo per category in as many as four categories, in digital format. The file must be named by the photographer’s Cornell NetID and category, “dot”, name of photo (for instance: nj33Animals.AViewFromAbove). Send by email to Robin Zifchock, rz25@cornell.edu, with the subject line: Pawprint Photo Contest.

The first-place winners from each category will then be evaluated as a group by the judges, who will select one image as “Best in Show.”

Family members of Cornellians, Cornell’s professional photographers, their support staff, student photography majors and contest judges are not eligible. Photos entered in previous years’ contests are ineligible.

To view last year’s winners in each category, see http://pawprint.cornell.edu/?q-photo-gallery/2012-pawprint-photo-contest-winners.

Reminder: Tickets are on sale for Employee Celebration Oct. 12

Tickets for Cornell’s Fall Employee Celebration, Oct. 12, are on sale through Oct. 4. The $5 ticket, which includes dinner and several athletics events, can be purchased at the Athletic Ticket Office in Bartels Hall (M-F 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or call 255-4247.

The Cornell Big Red Football team will take on Harvard University at 12:30 p.m. The ticket price also includes Women’s Soccer vs. Harvard University, 1 p.m.; Men’s Soccer vs. Harvard University, 4 p.m.; Big Red Ice Hockey vs. Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.

The chicken barbecue and pasta with grilled vegetables dinner will be held 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Barton Hall.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks in Barton Hall in two-hour shifts. Volunteers will receive a free Employee Celebration T-shirt and a complimentary ticket for the football game and community dinner at Barton Hall. Contact empcelebration@cornell.edu to volunteer.
Cornell United Way draws early support

The 2013-14 Cornell United Way Campaign officially kicks off Sept. 20 at the large pavilion in Stewart Park with the annual Stephen E. Garner Day of Caring, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

But United Way ambassadors on campus have already raised awareness and $3,600:

- Part of the proceeds of the Dump & Run sale, Aug. 24-25 and 31, approximately $2,500, was contributed to the Cornell Student United Way.
- An ice cream truck, rented by the Division of Facilities Services, made the rounds across campus Aug. 28, netting $1,100.
- United Way ambassadors from facilities services held “Brownie Bites”—giving free brownies to anyone contributing non-perishable food items, personal care and household items, and school supplies to the collection box in the Humphreys lunch room.

More activities are planned for the weeks ahead:
- Advocates from other units and colleges have begun to plan their own fund- and awareness-raising events.
- All members of the Cornell community are invited to join the United Way of Tompkins County for the Day of Caring. Volunteers can help sort and package donations of non-perishable food items, personal care and household items, and school supplies, or donate these items; help gather donations Sept. 16-20; or help deliver donations to Stewart Park on Sept. 20. A formal program, officially kicking off the 2013-14 United Way campaign, will be held at noon.
- A week later, A Cappella United— a concert by Cornell vocal and instrumental groups — will be held Sept. 27 in Bailey Hall. All proceeds will go to the Cornell Student United Way campaign.


Cornell among best adoption-friendly workplaces

For the seventh year, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has placed Cornell on its list of the top 100 workplaces. This year, Cornell ranks second on the list of educational institutions, up from third last year.

Cornell has also moved up in its ranking among all industry categories, to 69 from 71, according to the same listing.

“We are pleased to be recognized for Cornell’s commitment to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse families, including our adoptive families,” said Mary Opperman, vice president for human resources and safety services, “and especially to move forward in the rankings as we broaden our programming and services to address our families’ emerging needs and concerns.”

Cornell provides up to $5,000 adoption assistance per child ($6,000 for adoption of a child whom the IRS has defined as having special needs). Cornell parents can also apply for grants to assist with child care expenses of up to $5,000 per year and receive up to 16 weeks of parental leave – some as paid leave – to aid with their transition to a larger family.

An on-site child care center, back-up care services and a dependent care consultant also help Cornell parents meet their career/life responsibilities.

“This year, we launched several new programs to meet the needs of diverse adoptive families, including sponsoring a support group for transracial adoptive and foster families that was begun by a Cornell parent; offering an LGBT adoption workshop; and providing workshops on mindfulness-based parenting of teens and tweens,” said Lynette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president for inclusion and diversity. “Cornell also helps internationally adopted children transition into their new environment by matching college students, as mentors, with adoptee children, “she said.

“Practical day-to-day help is offered through the university’s Family Helpers List web page, which is a directory of Cornell students and community members who provide baby, pet, tutoring, elder care, housekeeping, errand-running, lawn care and house-sitting services, and through a variety of email lists and a parents e-newsletter,” Chappell-Williams said.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a not-for-profit public organization that is dedicated to increasing adoptions throughout North America. The foundation was created by the late Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers. Thomas, who was adopted as a child, was a longtime advocate of adoption rights.
Maria Cimilluca: Facilities Management update

Over the past three weeks, Maria Cimilluca, senior director of facilities management, has held town hall meetings with Facilities Management (FM) staff members to review the progress on their reorganization. The reorganization divided Building Care and Trades work into three “zones”: contract colleges, endowed, and Student and Academic Services; while the Central Zone, Facilities Projects, Maintenance Planning and Grounds units continue to provide services across the entire campus.

A little more than a year ago, Maria Cimilluca joined Cornell, becoming senior director of FM midway through a reorganization that changed how her area of responsibility in the Division of Facilities Services delivers its services to campus, especially through the trades and building care units.

Different units in FM are at different places, Cimilluca says, in part depending on the level of change experienced. In Building Care, the zone structure most affected the reporting structure, while “the work stayed the same,” says Cimilluca.

The magnitude of change initially created challenges to team-building, but now work coordinated between Building Care and Trades has helped them begin to work as teams in delivering services to their respective zone customers.

One of the key directives for the zone leadership team is to “work horizontally across zones - sharing resources and knowledge, and supporting each other,” Cimilluca says.

Cimilluca has been encouraged by strong working relationships that she sees forming across FM, and especially by the camaraderie she sees every day among the staff in her office. “They can see the results of their work and have new energy and purpose,” she says. “We’ve made significant progress but still have much work ahead of us.”

Teambuilding and having a common purpose is how people meet each other’s expectations, Cimilluca says. Her expectation is for staff to do the right thing consistently… “it’s about “what we do” and “how we do it,”” meeting the highest levels of the standards of safety, functionality and cleanliness across campus.

With that standard as a goal, the Division of Facilities Services has created service-level agreements with partner units to define services and outcomes they will provide.

The hard work of forming zones to meet partners’ needs has been done, Cimilluca says. Ahead still lies further teambuilding and providing improved and continued training to staff. “We already do a good job of providing safety training,” she says. “Now we have to help staff develop their skills, staying up-to-date in their areas of expertise.”

“Facilities services is a great organization,” Cimilluca says. “There is always someone willing to help out. As I have watched the new structure being implemented, it has been rewarding to see how hard we have worked as a team to make it happen.”

Cornell breaks record again in backpack donations

For the second consecutive year, Cornell has beaten its own record in the collection of backpacks and donations for backpacks for children in local elementary schools. All total, 814 backpacks filled with school supplies have been distributed to children in need this fall—nearly 100 more than last year, when 718 backpacks were distributed, and more than triple that of 2009, when 257 backpacks were distributed.

Maureen Brull, coordinator of the Summer Backpack Program, attributes this year’s success to the 22 staff leaders on campus who represented the 25 area schools benefited by the program. “These leaders reached out to co-workers, family members and friends. The Cornell community, surrounding towns and local businesses and organizations also came forward with donations that helped us surpass last year’s total,” she said.

Those interested in knowing more about the Summer Backpack Program are referred to the Cornell Elves website, http://www.elves.cornell.edu/backpack.html.

‘Connecting Stories’

The Latino Civic Association’s ¡Cultura! Program, Cornell’s Teatrotealer theater group and La Poderosa Media Project are inviting to join in an international project this year (2013-14) and learn to write short film scripts.

Community members are welcome to create, collaborate and share their own stories with a group of young people from Santiago, Chile. A free screenwriting workshop for English, Spanish and Spanglish speakers will be held Saturdays from Sept. 21-Nov. 21.

Participants will learn to find a story to tell, develop characters and dialogues, and write a script. The scripts will be filmed in the spring in Chile and the United States, and the films will be distributed internationally. “Connecting Stories” is facilitated by Jorge Garcia Nunez, a filmmaker, Ithaca College assistant professor of Latin American studies and curriculum director of La Poderosa’s language and visual arts programs.

Information: info@lapoderosa.org, 512-527-4341.

Dan Alois is a humanities staff writer for the Cornell Chronicle.
Law School picnic honors 15 employees

Early this past summer, the Law School’s annual Staff Recognition Picnic brought together staff and faculty to celebrate the end of another successful school year and honor staff members who have reached employment milestones. Dinosaur Bar-B-Que catered the lunch, held in the One World Room of Anabel Taylor Hall.

Stewart J. Schwab, the Allan R. Tessler Dean and Professor of Law, recognized 15 members of the Law School’s staff who were presented with awards for five or more years of service.

“I always enjoy the yearly staff recognition picnic,” said Dean Schwab. “It is good to bring everyone together … to thank them for their hard work and accomplishments, and to single out for recognition those with milestone dates of service. I am always impressed by the dedication and camaraderie of our Law School staff.”

At the event, Janet Gillespie, Law Library, was honored for 35 years of service.

Recognized for 25 years of service were Rosemary Lacey, Dean of Students Office, and Laura Robert, Law Library, while Kathy Church, Facilities, and Ben Lem, Information Technologies, were recognized for 15 years of service.

Sarah Busse, Admissions and Financial Aid; Dawne Peacock, the Clarke Center for International and Graduate Legal Studies; and Heather Simkin, Alumni Affairs, were recognized for 10 years of service.

Recognized for five years of service were: Lyndsey Clarke, Registrar’s Office; Carol Clune, Law Library; Kristine Hoffmeister, Alumni Affairs; Valarie Kimber, Legal Information Institute; Teather Maricle, Administration; Connie Pendergast, Admissions and Financial Aid; and Christian Shaffmaster, Annual Fund.

Tricia Barry is a writer and communications strategist for the Law School, and editor of the Cornell Law Forum.
Alum and online social change expert speaks on managing a career

Jennifer Dulski ’93, MBA ’99, president and chief operating officer of Change.org, the world’s largest platform for social change, will speak about managing a career and making a difference, Sept. 19 at 5 p.m., in the Lewis Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall. The talk is free and open to the public.

Dulski’s talk will focus on work that makes an impact, maximizing the chances for successful leadership and the importance of embracing change.

Dulski was one of the first 500 employees at Yahoo!, rising in the ranks during her nine-year tenure to a leadership role as group vice president and general manager of one of the company’s six business units.

In 2007, she left Yahoo! to become co-founder and CEO of The Dealmap, a site that Google acquired in 2011. She stayed at Google for nearly two years as a senior executive before coming to Change.org.

A psychology major at Cornell, Dulski was a coxswain on the women’s rowing team and served as a Cayuga Heights volunteer firefighter. She was also a Park Fellow at the Johnson School. She is a current member of the Cornell Silicon Valley Advisory Council and the President’s Council of Cornell Women and a past member of the Johnson School’s Advisory Council.

Dulski is this year’s Munschauer Career Series speaker.

Reminder: CARE Fund in great need of donations for auction

The CARE Fund (Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees) seeks donations by Cornell community members for its annual CARE Fund Online Auction to be held Nov. 4-8. Historically, donations have included such services as a garden landscape consultation; such crafts and art work as handmade jewelry or aprons; gift baskets or gift certificates; sports tickets; and lessons. Give of your time, talent or other donation by contacting Ruth Merle-Doyle at rem64 or 255-5060. Donations are due by Oct. 15.

The CARE Fund is a way for Cornell community members to help fellow Cornell employees who are experiencing a sudden financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event. Hardships include such unexpected events as losing a home to fire or flood, incurring travel expenses for specialized hospital stays or paying funeral expenses after the sudden loss of a family member.

Cornell community members can also contribute to the CARE Fund with a cash donation or payroll deduction. To contribute or for more information, go to: https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html.
Applications now accepted for Cornell child care grants, through Sept. 30

Cornell University’s Child Care Grant Program helps faculty and staff pay for child care expenses by granting awards of up to $5,000 a year, tax-free. The application period for the 2014 Child Care Grant Program runs through Sept. 30.

The grant covers eligible child care, including infant and toddler day care, pre-school/pre-K programs, school holidays, school-age summer day camps/programs, and school-age before/after school care.

In order to receive grant funds on a tax-free basis, faculty and staff must be eligible to participate in the dependent care flexible spending account each year. Cornell Cooperative Extension County Association employees are not eligible to apply for the Cornell Grant Program.

For more information, read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at https://hr.cornell.edu/life/support/ccgsp_faq.pdf or contact the Resource Center at Benefit Services at (607) 255-3936 or by email: childcare@cornell.edu. Undergraduate and graduate/professional students can find child care grant information, guidelines and applications posted on the Cornell Students with Children website at http://studentparents.dos.cornell.edu/ or email: gradstudentlife@cornell.edu.
Cornell Cooperative Extension opportunities

Ithaca Forest Preschool

Primitive Pursuits’s Fall Ithaca Forest Preschool program still has a few spaces. Program runs Sept. 16–Dec. 16, 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., at 4H Acres, 418 Lower Creek Rd. Three-to-five year-olds are eligible.

Cost: Mon. or Wed. only: $300 - $400 sliding scale; Both Mon. and Wed.: $550 - $700. Contact (607) 272-2292 or primitivepursuits@cornell.edu for more information or scholarship opportunities.

Parents Apart®

Parents Apart® is a six-hour workshop, beginning Sept. 16 and 23, 6-9 p.m., for parents who want to learn how to help their child(ren) adjust during their separation or divorce. The workshop is taught by therapists and attorneys and focuses on how children react emotionally to their parents’ separation or divorce, and what parents can do to help them adjust. Registration and location are confidential and parents of the same child(ren) are placed in different workshops. Cost: $60 - $100 sliding scale; reduced rates available. More information: http://ccetompkins.org/calendar/10/12/06/parents-apart

Senior transportation

Learn how to navigate TCAT’s routes, apply for a half-face discount card, use Ithaca Carshare, travel with Gadabout, access medical appointments and more, at a workshop Sept. 19, 2:30-4 p.m., Cornell Cooperative Extension-Tompkins Education Center, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. Attendees will leave with a folder of information that will help them get to where they need to go, easily and affordably. To register, call Jonathan Maddison at (607) 272-2292.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT CORNELL PLANTATIONS

Now at the Nevin Welcome Center: An exhibit of photographs, “Birds and Blooms in Favorized Places; A Photographer’s Potpourri of the Finger Lakes,” by Paul Schmitt, encompasses native birds and wildflowers within the local landscape. Schmitt will also hold a workshop, “Basic Camera, Beautiful Photos,” Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-noon, beginning at the Herb Garden. This introductory workshop is for those using cameras: from basic point and shoot designs to entry-level DSLRs. Topics will include how to create the best composition, avoid over- and under-exposure, bring out your subject from the background and some tools for photo editing. Participants should bring their own digital camera. Class size is limited. Cost: $30 for members and Cornell students; $36 for non-members. For information and to register: http://www.cornellplantations.org.

TOWN-GOWN COMMUNICATIONS

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick, City Clerk Julie Holcomb and Cornell’s Director of Community Relations Gary Stewart will provide an inside look at town-gown communications, Sept. 19, noon-1 p.m., 102 Mann Library. Part of the monthly communicators@cornell meetings, the talk is open to all but space is limited to 70 people. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunches.

Earlier this year, Myrick and Stewart presented at the International Town-Gown Association’s (ITGA) annual conference on the importance of establishing standing town-gown meetings that aren't held in response to challenges or even crises. The presentation was preaced at by a specially produced video by Cornell University Communications, “Where We Live,” and both will be shown.