Barber places best in show, 2011 photo contest See Pages 4-6

Bruce Barber, a programmer/analyst specialist from Cornell Information Technologies, won “Best in Show” at the judging of the photographs submitted to the 2011 Pawprint Photo Contest. He will receive a certificate for lunch for two at Banfi’s Taverna, a one-year family museum membership and book from the Johnson Art Museum and the framing of a print of his winning photo, “I See You,” by Digital Print Services.

Barber also placed first in the Cornell University and humorous categories, receiving gifts from the Cornell Wellness Program and Gannett Health Services.

Kim McAlear, Department of Horticulture, took first place in three categories (adults, landscape/nature, unspecified), winning a Campus Store gift card, gift from Gannett Health Services and tickets for performances at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

Steve Gallow, computer operations manager for earth and atmospheric sciences, won gifts from Cornell Plantations and the Laboratory of Ornithology, for first place in structures/buildings and in animals.

Lisa Frank, assistant art director, Cornell Alumni Magazine, won day-permits and a gift from the Department of Transportation and Mail Services for her first-place submission to the children’s category, and Barbara Friedman, instructional technology consultant, Academic Technological Support and User Services, won dining tickets and a gift from Campus Life for her special effects photograph.

Runners up included: Carol Armstrong, administrative assistant for material sciences and engineering; Lori Asperschlager, assistant registrar, human ecology; Bruce Barber, Barber Friedman, Steve Gallow and Cindy Lamb, technical services assistant, Veterinary Education Center.

BEST IN SHOW Winner, “I See You” by Bruce BARBER

All runners-up received a Cornell calendar from University Photography.

Judging the photo contest were Laurie Ray, graphic designer in Marketing; Kevin Laubacker, multimedia designer in Marketing; Adam Palcich, webmaster in Marketing; Belinda Leonardo, administrator, Digital Print Services; and Tonya Reynolds, administrative assistant, ADM Advancement Services, Alumni Affairs and Development.

Staff asked to complete confidential survey on employee engagement

President David Skorton will ask Cornell staff members next week to participate in a confidential universitywide survey about various aspects of their work experience. The request supports a call from the Employee Assembly to conduct a formal study of employee engagement.

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) developed the survey by conducting several focus groups spanning the occupational categories of Cornell staff. The survey is meant to gather feedback, identify common themes, facilitate discussions about employee engagement, and inform any consideration of improvements or advancements that might be suggested.

According to IRP, the survey will take about 10 minutes to complete, and supervisors have been encouraged to allow staff to take the survey during paid work hours. Employees are encouraged to complete the survey on the Web, although paper surveys will be available on request. Staff members may skip any questions that they do not wish to answer and still submit their surveys. Only grouped results will be reported—individual responses will remain completely confidential and will not be shared with anyone.

More information about the survey can be found at http://www.cornell.edu/employeesurvey.
Why secure computing is your responsibility

It’s 8:30 a.m. You sit down at your computer, ready to plow through the day’s work. Today you have some can’t-miss deadlines and you know you’ll need most of the day to meet one of them. Your computer seems sluggish, so you restart it. Although it takes longer than usual, finally you’re in. No – not really. You can’t access your email or the web.

You’ve got a security problem. Your stomach sinks as you think back on everything you’ve done over the past few days. The university systems you’ve accessed. The database you just updated. Your email. How long has your computer been compromised? What information has the intruder accessed and what are they doing with it? Is more than just your information at stake?

Chances are one of your friends or colleagues, if not you, has had an experience like this one. It happens everywhere computers are connected to networks, at home, at corporations, at universities. It happens at Cornell.

The updated e-book, Computer Security at Cornell: Secure Your Computer On and Off Campus, explains why computer security is something everyone at Cornell needs to pay attention to, and what steps you can take to:

- Keep your NetID password from getting stolen
- Guard your computer against viruses, drive-by downloads, and other security threats
- Safeguard sensitive university data
- Outsmart cyber-scammers
- Avoid computer security risks at home and on the road
- Be a good network citizen, so your actions, or inaction, do not negatively affect others.


Tech Training Spotlight

Five days of extensive hands-on experience with Linux and Unix. Gain proficiency using the command line. Beginners develop a solid foundation in Unix, while advanced users discover patterns and fill in knowledge gaps. Register now for the Linux Fundamentals - Custom class, Nov. 14-18.

For a complete listing of technical training resources, see http://www.cit.cornell.edu/training. Email questions to workshop-info@cornell.edu.

Endowed health plan rates for 2012

NANCY DOOLITTLE

Endowed health plan rates and medical and pharmacy co-payments will increase moderately for 2012, Paul Bursic, senior director of Benefit Services in the Division of Human Resources, has announced.

Bursic recommends that during the upcoming annual open enrollment period endowed staff and faculty review all the health plans that Cornell offers to make sure that their current plan best meets their needs.

Faculty and staff members eligible for the endowed health or dental programs can enroll in, change or drop these plans Nov. 1-30, the open enrollment period for 2012. During this period, they can also enroll in Select Benefits accounts, a pretax benefit that can be applied to dependent care expenses and to medical expenses not covered by their health plan. All changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Co-payments, where applicable, will rise from $18 to $20 and apply to primary care and preferred specialty or tertiary care. Deductibles in all plans will not change.

The co-pay for generic pharmaceuticals, regardless of whether they are purchased at retail stores or by mail, will remain the same. The co-pay for formulary brand pharmaceuticals will increase to $30 from $25 retail and to $60 from $50 for a three-month supply by mail. The cost for non-formulary, highest tier drugs will rise to $50 from $45 at retail and to $90 from $75 for a three-month supply by mail.

The Cornell Program for Healthy Living (CPHL) provides participants with the opportunity to become more directly involved in the management of their health in partnership with their primary care physicians through covered yearly comprehensive physical exams, lifestyle and fitness activity evaluations and planning for healthy living goals tailored to their interests and capabilities. Referrals to smoking cessation and dietary consultations are also more generously provided in the CPHL.

Employees signing up for CPHL (but not their families) also have the right to join Cornell’s Wellness Program for free or to receive a $15 per month discount at Island Fitness and Health or at the Ithaca YMCA.

There is no deductible in the CPHL for in-network services, unlike the other endowed health plans. The CPHL program does not require its members to reside in Tompkins County, or have an established relationship with a primary care provider in Tompkins County. Like the Aetna PPO or the HealthNow PPO, the CPHL is good anywhere in the country in the Aetna network and even abroad.

CPHL participants who reside outside of Tompkins County can continue their relationship with their Aetna participating provider. However, the CPHL flexible design encourages participants to select a CPHL participating provider to access the enhanced wellness benefits in the plan. This gives CPHL participants the ability to optimize their use of the annual comprehensive physical exam, including an evaluation of their healthy living habits and the establishment of wellness goals.

The Health Savings Account (HSA) plan allows participants to pay for their health care costs through pretax savings, managing their health financing in exchange for a high deductible. Cornell seeds the account each year with $1,000 to help employees with that deductible. Any HSA savings roll over from one year to the next and can be transferred to a new place of employment or held for use in retirement. In 2012, participants may contribute up to $3,100 as individuals or $6,250 for family coverage into their health savings account to be used for health expenses not covered by the plan.

The open enrollment website, at https://www.hr.cornell.edu/benefits/open_enrollment.html, provides more detail on all five of the endowed health care plans, 2012 rates and coverages.
Unmarried couples can soon receive Cornell endowed benefits

Unmarried couples – whether opposite- or same-sex, in which one partner is an endowed faculty or staff member – will have the same access to the university’s health and dental insurance, as of Jan. 1.

The couples must register with the university as domestic partners. Same-sex unmarried couples who are already registered as same-sex partners with Benefit Services do not need to re-register as domestic partners.

The change to include unmarried opposite-sex couples was made after careful consideration of policy since the Marriage Equality Act in New York state became law in July, allowing same-sex couples to marry.

“Since 1994, Cornell has been a pioneer in extending the benefits and privileges of employment to same-sex partners where legally possible,” said Paul Bursic, senior director of Benefit Services. “As same-sex partners were not able to marry under New York state law, and therefore were unable to access Cornell benefits in the same way as could opposite-sex couples, we created a special benefits category for those who registered their same-sex partnership with Benefit Services.”

Now same-sex partners can marry, giving them the same benefits as married opposite-sex couples, Bursic said. But rather than take away the benefits that registered unmarried same-sex partners have enjoyed, the university decided to extend benefits to any unmarried couples, both opposite- and same-sex partnerships, who register with Benefit Services, Bursic said.

Bursic noted that couples should be aware that there are tax implications for domestic partners who access their Cornell partner’s benefits.

The Marriage Equality Act provides the opportunity for same-sex married couples to enjoy a pre-tax benefit only as relates to New York State tax, said Bursic. Its conditions do not apply to federal law or programs.

Endowed faculty and staff who are interested in establishing their domestic partnership on a formal basis can visit http://www.hr.cornell.edu for information on qualifications and the partnership form. Those who already have the formal recognition of the city of Ithaca or any other valid municipal certification may present that documentation to Benefit Services. 130 Day Hall, (607) 255-3936, or email benefits@cornell.edu for verification and enrollment information and assistance.
2011 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST GALLERY OF WINNERS

The winner for the category BEST IN SHOW is featured on page 1.

UNSPECIFIED

Winner, “Street Food” Kim McALEAR

Runner-up, “Reflections” Barbara FRIEDMAN

CHILDREN

Winner, “Festival Faerie” Lisa FRANK

Runner-up, “Crazy Hair” Lori ASPERSCHLAGER

STRUCTURES/BUILDINGS

Winner, “Post American Gothic” Steve GALLOW

Runner-up, “Barn in the Snow” Bruce BARBER
2011 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST GALLERY OF WINNERS

LANDSCAPE/NATURE

Winner, “Astrantia” Kim McALEAR

Runner-up, “Morning Fog Bank” Steve GALLOW

HUMOROUS

Winner, “OH NO!” Bruce BARBER

Runner-up, “That Tasted Awful!” Carol ARMSTRONG

ANIMALS

Winner, “A Long Day of Photography” Steve GALLOW

Runner-up, “Rainy Day Frog” Cindy LAMB

Continued on page 6
2011 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST GALLERY OF WINNERS

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Winner, “Goodbye Son, We’ll Miss You” Barbara FRIEDMAN

Runner-up, “Needs a Little Work” Steve GALLOW

ADULTS

Winner, “The Artist” Kim McALEAR

Runner-up, “Sunset Park” Barbara FRIEDMAN

CORNELL

Winner, “Reflections” Bruce BARBER

Runner-up, “Plant Sciences” Steve GALLOW

Thank you! Thank you!
The Pawprint staff thank the Cornell staff, faculty, students and retirees who submitted a total of more than 150 entries for the 2011 Pawprint Photo Contest. A big Pawprint “thank you” also goes out to all our supporters who generously donated prizes, and congratulations to those whose photos were chosen as winners or runners-up. 🐾
Local teachers learn how CU can help in their classrooms

NANCY DOOLITTLE

While students in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) enjoyed a day off Oct. 7, their teachers were learning how to use Cornell resources to enhance their teaching. They learned, for example, how to create simple experiments using electricity, magnetism and polymers and to take advantage of free hands-on activities, learning kits, lesson plans and staff visits from Cornell in their classrooms.

About 25 outreach programs from Cornell and more than 45 Cornell staff and students hosted informational booths on topics ranging from bioengineering to public service and on such university resources as Cornell Library and the Cornell Plantations. They demonstrated the interactive activities they can bring to a classroom and talked with the some 600 teachers attending the Resource and Networking Fair at the Ithaca High School cafeteria – the first time the event was held downtown.

Teachers rotated through the fair at half-hour intervals by subject matter and grade level.

“The fair creates opportunities to connect Cornell outreach staff with the district teachers, letting them communicate their needs and interests to us and allowing us to collaborate with them in our fields of expertise,” said Cal Walker, Cornell’s outreach liaison to the ICSD.

“We use basic materials such as cardboard, batteries, popsicle sticks and water bottles in our demonstrations to the classroom,” said Sam Posen, a Cornell graduate student in the field of physics working at the Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-based Sciences and Education (CLASSE) table. Teachers are surprised to learn that Cornell offers its learning kits and activities at no charge and will even provide free talks and demonstrations in the local classrooms, said Erik Herman, assistant outreach coordinator for the synchrotron.

Nevjinder Singhota, director of educational programs at the Cornell Center for Materials Research, said that she learns what local teachers need to help their students master such tests as the New York State Regents Examinations. Singhota then designs activities and materials to help address those needs and sends them out as requested, even nationally.

Kindergarten teachers are particularly interested in the outreach activities that Cornell Educational Resources for International Studies offers – storytelling, craftmaking, performances and lessons – that give children international exposure, said Momodou Sey, a graduate student representing the program.

Several technology education teachers – Scott Breigle, Ian Krywe and Bill Sauve from Ithaca High School, and David Buchner from Dewitt Middle School – said that they might take the simple CLASSE demonstrations a step further, using them as prototypes and then asking their students to improve them.

“Learning is all about engagement,” said Adam Bauchner, ICSD liaison who worked with Walker and Cornell educational outreach staff members Lora Hine, Mary Ann Huntley, Nicky Koschmann, Nathan Lockett and Kaleigh Muller to organize the fair. “A lot of the teachers did not know what to expect. It is good to see them talking and gathering ideas.” Walker added that evaluations were positive across the board, with many teachers expressing great appreciation for having had this opportunity and their hopes for beginning new collaborations from the connections they made at the event.

Cal Walker

Donna Levy, Cornell Plantations, points out resources available to local schools.

Cornell Cooperative Extension events in Ithaca For more information: http://ccetompkins.org/calendar

Breastfeeding for the health of it

This free six-class series for new or expectant moms who are eligible for WIC, Medicaid, food stamps or similar programs will be held Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-noon or 6-8 p.m., at the CCE-Tompkins Education Center, 615 Willow Ave. Call (607) 272-2292 or email tmf8@cornell.edu to sign up.

Chef’s night out

A five-course meal will be held Oct. 25, 5:30-9 p.m., La Tourelle Resort and Spa, 1150 Danby Rd./Rte 96B, to benefit Cooking Matters (formerly Operation Frontline), a program that teaches food preparation and nutrition to families with limited resources. Prices, menus, tickets: www.strength.org/ithaca.

Making ends meet

This free workshop, Oct. 26, 1-4 p.m., at Women’s Opportunity Center, 315 N. Tioga St., will cover how to set financial goals, track spending, get the most for your money and reduce energy bills. Call (607) 272-1520 to register.

African violets for everyone

Professor Tom Weiler will talk about African vio-
Register now for winter session courses

Registration begins November 2 for Winter Session courses, including on- and off-campus programs and online learning. No applications are required and up to four credits can be earned.

On-campus classes are held Jan. 3-21. Web-based courses, offered Dec. 26-Jan. 21, include courses in marketing, popular culture, public relations and advertising, wildlife conservation, economics, political philosophy and more.

Information: www.winter.cornell.edu or contact the School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, B20 Day Hall, (607) 255-4987 or cusce@cornell.edu.

TCAT Lauded in New Orleans as “Best of Best”

At a ceremony in New Orleans Oct. 4, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc. (TCAT) was named the 2011 Outstanding Public Transportation System in North America by the Washington, D.C.-based American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

TCAT won in its category (under 4 million annual trips). Collecting the award for TCAT were TCAT General Manager Joe Turcotte, TCAT Board Chairman Hank Dullea, and TCAT Assistant General Manager Alice Eccleston, who is also TCAT’s manager of human resources. In 2010, TCAT reported record ridership with 3.58 million trips — a 7.8 percent increase from the 3.31 million annual trips in 2008. Year-to-date data shows that TCAT’s ridership in 2011 is up by around 13 percent.

Assemblies updates in Cornell Chronicle

The Cornell Chronicle now includes brief reports from the Student Assembly (SA), Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA), Employee Assembly (EA) and University Assembly (UA). For the latest report, go to http://chronicle.cornell.edu, scroll down the right-hand column and click on News from the Assemblies.

For more information on the assemblies, visit http://assembly.cornell.edu.