Auctions, other events raise $13,000 for the CARE Fund, surpassing goal

BY NANCY DOOLITTLE

The Emergency Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees (CARE) Fund surpassed its $10,000 goal from recent fundraising events. The money will help replenish the fund and help staff members and faculty cope with emergency-related or sudden financial hardships.

Two auctions – one online and one live – raised more than $5,000 each. A 50/50 ticket sale and pizza lunch brought in another $260, while the Oct. 15 men’s and women’s hockey games raised $1,846.

The live auction was attended by more than 125 members of the Cornell community, with nearly 80 bidders. Winning bids ranged from $8 to $500.

Other direct donations to the fund, totaling about $6,000, continue to come in online and through payroll deduction.

So far, 47 employees who suffered losses as a result of the floods caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee have been helped by the fund. According to Beth McKinney, Emergency CARE Fund committee member and director of the Cornell Wellness Program, many other employees who experienced emergencies this past year have also received fund support. The CARE Fund offers financial assistance to faculty and staff members who experience a non-recurring sudden financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event or emergency.

“This was a team effort, and we could not have pulled it off without all the committee and Employee Assembly members, and student and staff volunteers,” said McKinney. She credited Ruth Merle-Doyle, health and wellness specialist for the Cornell Wellness Program, and Gemma Osborne, production coordinator for alumni and communication at the Geneva campus, for coordinating the auctions. She also thanked Sue Detzer, program assistant in athletics, for coming up with the hockey games fundraiser and pitching it to the Hockey Booster Club, which embraced the idea.

Flood relief donations

In the aftermath of recent flooding, many people still need help. The office of R5 (Respect, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Operations in Facilities Services, with help from the Division of Human Resources and Safety Services, is collecting such items as five-gallon buckets, cleaning supplies, linens and kitchenware to assist in these efforts through Nov. 4. Donation sites have been set up in many buildings, and the CARE Fund website lists the items needed. Information: http://hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html

Going, going ... gone. More than 125 members of the Cornell community bid on items at the live auction to benefit the Emergency CARE Fund.
Endowed benefits open enrollment period is under way

The benefits open enrollment period for endowed faculty and staff began Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 30. During this time, endowed employees can:

- enroll in, make changes to, or drop one of the five endowed health plans;
- enroll in a Select Benefits Medical Reimbursement Plan to help pay for medical expenses not covered by a health insurance plan, while realizing tax savings;
- enroll in a Select Benefits Dependent Care Plan to help pay for child care and other dependent care expenses, while realizing tax savings. All recipients of a Cornell Child Care Grant need to enroll in this plan; and
- review other benefit plans to make sure they meet current needs.

The annual Benefair will be held Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at G10 Biotechnology Building. Staff from Benefit Services and other departments will be on hand to answer questions. More information: http://hr.cornell.edu/benefits/open_enrollment.html.

Reminder to complete employee engagement survey

All full-time employees of the Ithaca campus or Agricultural Experimental Station in Geneva who are not tenured or tenure-track faculty are encouraged to participate in the employee engagement survey launched last week, as long as their employment began prior to July 1, 2011. Part-time employees who are benefits eligible are also invited to participate.

Supervisors have been encouraged to allow staff to take the survey during paid work hours. Only grouped results will be reported—individual responses will remain completely confidential and will not be shared with anyone. The deadline for submission is Nov. 18.

The survey can be found at http://www.cornell.edu/employeesurvey. Paper copies can be obtained by emailing irpsurvey@cornell.edu.

Tech Talk
Bill Steele

Computer donations aid technology education in Tioga County schools

Technology education at Tioga Central High School will get a boost from a donation of 40 computers from Cornell. The donation, managed by the Cornell Computer Reuse Association (CCRA), also included three laser printers.

“In these difficult times, we continue to look for opportunities to improve our educational program while being mindful of the available resources,” said Scott Taylor, Tioga Central School District superintendent, in a letter of thanks to Cornell President David Skorton. “CCRA has provided us with that opportunity.”

CCRA is a student organization that passes cast-off computers to schools and non-profits. Since it was launched in 2005, it has sent about 1,300 computers to Zambia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, South Africa, Mali, Togo, Kenya, Liberia, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Ithaca’s own Greater Ithaca Activities Center.

According to Alan Heiman, Cornell Information Technologies (CIT) student employment supervisor and adviser to CCRA, most of the computers come from the Cornell Library and CIT computer labs. Typically, he said, labs are updated with the newest models about every three years, and the old computers are recycled. Heiman launched CCRA when he realized that what Cornell considers obsolete might be of tremendous value elsewhere.

“These are three or four years old, but they are as new as my newest machines,” said Bill Canner, Tioga’s network specialist. “I can make them last another six or seven years, and they replace some we have that are really ancient.” He estimated the value of Cornell’s donation at about $20,000. Most of the donated computers will be used in a technology lab at the high school to teach computer-aided design. Having the new lab will free up existing labs for other student users, Canner added.

“I was very grateful to Al. He had just the right glove to fit my hand,” Canner said.

CCRA is happy to accept donated computers, as well as financial support for refurbishing and shipping costs. Go to http://cco.cornell.edu/ccra/ for more information.

Bill Steele is a senior staff writer for the Cornell Chronicle.

Tech Training Spotlight


For a complete listing of technical training resources, see www.cit.cornell.edu/training.

Email questions to workshop-info@cornell.edu.
Early this semester, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier received 739 cases of variety cereal, thanks to a health and outreach campaign – the Cornell-Kashi Challenge – led by Cornell Dining in partnership with the university’s Half in Ten student community service group and Kellogg’s Cereal Company.

The Food Bank used the donated cereal cups for its BackPack Program, which provides approximately 400 children with a backpack full of food every Friday so they have food for over the weekend.

The Cornell-Kashi Challenge stipulated that for every bowl of Kashi bulk cereal, Kashi oatmeal cups, or Kashi cold cereal cups purchased in a Cornell Dining establishment between March 31 and May 20, 2011, Kellogg’s would donate a bowl of cereal to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The event kicked off at Okenshield and Trillium Dining.

By the time the challenge ended, Cornell students had purchased a total of 32,000 ounces of Kashi products.

“Through the Cornell-Kashi Challenge, the Cornell University student community was able to not only improve their health and wellness but also reach out to the local community,” said Michele Wilbur, Cornell Dining nutritionist.

This article is based on an article by Chloe Hall ’12, nutritional sciences student and nutrition intern at Cornell Dining, that appeared in the Oct. 2011 newsletter, Cornell Dining R.o.c.k.s. the House.

Brown Bag Lunch Event
“Memories of World War II”
The Facilities Services Diversity and Inclusion Council is hosting a brown bag lunch, Nov. 8, noon-1 p.m., G10 Biotechnology Building, with guest speaker Alfred DiGiacomo, AIA, Facilities Services retiree and author.

DiGiacomo served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. His unit provided vital communications for the Ninth Tactical Air Command, including fighter bomber support to the U.S. First Army during and after the invasion of Normandy through France, Belgium and then into Germany, to the Elbe River.

Veterans and their supporters gather each year at this event to observe Veterans Day. No RSVP required. Contact Darrell Reynolds with questions, dar3@cornell.edu.

Veterans Day Open House
The Cornell Veterans Colleague Networking Group (VCNG) is holding an open house, Nov. 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 401 Physical Sciences Building. All veterans and allies welcome.

Enjoy some coffee, cider, donuts, and snacks while sharing your thoughts on the resources you would recommend be provided to veterans at Cornell. Pick up some information on programs and local services. Meet fellow veterans and allies who work at Cornell and sign up for the Veterans and Military Personnel E-List to stay in touch. No RSVP required. Contact Kerry Howell with questions, kk253@cornell.edu.

Want to help support troops deployed from Fort Drum in upstate New York? Bring a donation to be added to a “care package” for a platoon, as part of the AdoptaPlatoon Program. Needed items include cards and letters from “home,” DVDs, newly released magazines and books, personal care items, baked goods and snacks. Sharon Harrilchak, Cornell employee and volunteer with the AdoptaPlatoon Program, will package the items and ship them to the two platoons she is caring for in Afghanistan.

Veterans Day Ceremony
The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held Nov. 11, 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Sage Chapel, featuring Donald Shearer, WWII veteran and prisoner of war, and the Cornell Chorale. Contact LT. Matthew D. Collinsworth, mdc274@cornell.edu, with questions. All veterans and allies are welcome to attend. No RSVP needed.

These events are sponsored by Facilities Services, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), Department of Inclusion and Workforce Diversity, and the Veterans Colleague Networking Group, with food donations provided by local businesses.
The School of Hotel Administration kicked off its United Way Pledge Drive during its fourth annual Great Statler Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Oct. 26 at 8:30-10 a.m., the Park Atrium, Statler Hall. The event featured 17 pumpkin entries from departments within the school and Statler Hotel. The school’s faculty and staff gathered to enjoy cider and donuts and vote on their favorite pumpkins. United Way pledge cards were distributed, with prize drawings for cards returned on the day of the event.

A wide range of creative and comical pumpkins were entered into the contest. The winner would receive possession of a bragging rights trophy: a handcrafted McGraw Clock Tower with a pumpkin on top.

This year’s winner was the Statler Information Technologies Department, who entered a pumpkin carved and displayed as a movie theater, with a portable DVD screen inside playing, “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein.”

Second place went to the school’s maintenance department, who submitted a six-foot-high replica of the clock tower, with pumpkin atop and playing a chimes recording of Cornell’s Alma Mater. The Statler Hotel’s housekeeping department entered a room attendant pumpkin, while the school’s business service center (and three-time pumpkin champion) offered up a simple pumpkin with a white flag, surrendering their trophy in a good-natured gesture to their colleagues.

Diane Craig, the school’s United Way ambassador for the past two years, said she was “highly impressed” with the number of early pledge card returns. “Over 50 cards were returned in just hours and we are still collecting strong,” she said. Craig explained that the school decided last year to use the pumpkin contest as the United Way kickoff; the result was a doubling of the school’s participation rate.

“I believe our increase is largely due to educating the community on the changes of the United Way over the years,” Craig said. “People now know that 100 percent of their contributions go directly to the non-profit organizations they wish to support. Now, we just have to remind them that they can specify groups they wish to direct their gifts to or indicate which groups they do not wish to support.”

Rick Kuhar is the director of human resources at the Hotel School.

Food, fiber and energy fair to be held Nov. 17 at Mann Library

The third annual Local Food, Fiber and Energy Fair will be held Nov. 17 at Mann Library, including a festive open market in the Mann Lobby, 2-5 p.m. This harvest-time celebration will showcase programs, farmers and vendors of local food, fiber and energy. Finger Lakes products will be featured, as well as several innovative efforts to support individual, family and community health and resilience.

New this year is an “energy” theme, highlighting efforts to strengthen community and regional capacities for sustainably meeting energy needs through conservation and local renewable sources.

A screening of the film “Greenhorns” will be held at 6:30 p.m. in 160 Mann Library and will include a discussion of the challenges and opportunities for new farmers. Both fair and film screening are free and open to the public.
Frightfully creative costuming characterizes Halloween Happenings

From court jester to Find a Cure fairies, tower witches to Santa and friends, 39 members of the Cornell community decked out in Halloween costumes to compete in Halloween Happenings, Oct. 31, at the Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall.

More than 100 Cornell community members turned out to view the noontime event, emcee’d by Judy Hart, senior consultant from Career Planning and Development.

Six participants or groups won prizes: Most original: Lindsay Martin as Rosie the Riveter; Funniest: Dolores Higareda as the wacky Cardinals fan; Scariest: Lisa Frank, Kris Park and Melissa Snyder as three tower witches; Best group/department: Asian Studies – Kelly Brower, Sarah Geiger, Sheila Haddad, Erin Knuutila, Lorraine Paterson, and Kim Scott as Santa and friends; Best group/department: Roberts Hall – Bridget Cristelli, Anne Marie Sheridan and Anja Timm as Flower Power; Cornell Caring Community: ILR Find a Cure fairies.

Keep informed; become a friend of pawprint

Check out and join the Pawprint Facebook page for up-to-date information, events, photos and more. You can keep up on the events that occur between editions simply by clicking the LIKE button and becoming a friend. Go to www.facebook.com, and do a search for Pawprint Staff Paper; it’s as easy as that. A Facebook account is required.
Happenings at The Museum of the Earth and the Cayuga Nature Center

The Museum of the Earth and the Cayuga Nature Center offered two Halloween-related events: Museum in the Dark, Oct. 27, at which the Cornell Department of Astronomy hosted a variety trick-or-treat stations, and Halloween Capers, Oct. 29, with pumpkin carving and visits to haunted treetops.

Conference to address recruiting and retaining diverse staff and faculty

Registration for the 13th annual Cornell University Diversity Update Conference ends Nov. 8. The conference, to be held Nov. 14 at the Statler Hotel and Conference Center, will address such topics of national interest as:

- the “new majority”
- stressors faced by diverse faculty and staff in the workplace
- women in science and engineering
- recruitment of faculty and staff of color
- work/life and disability access issues
- women leaders and leaders of color
- best practices for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) diversity in the workplace.

Speakers will come from a number of organizations, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, National Science Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, Ithaca College, WFD Consulting, and the Academic Network, Inc. Cornell speakers include Wendy Tarlow, associate university counsel, in conjunction with the Cornell Interactive Theatre Ensemble; Matt Carcella, associate dean and director of the LGBT Resource Center, and LaWanda Cook, extension associate from the Employment and Disability Institute.

Provost Kent Fuchs will close the day’s program, sharing next steps in addressing diversity. Registration is required; contact cpj25@cornell.edu.

TIAA-CREF to provide two investment seminars to discuss financial security

**Building financial security**

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., president and chief executive officer of TIAA-CREF, discusses several important topics related to “Building Financial Security in the 21st Century,” Nov. 7 at 4:30 p.m., Alice Statler Auditorium, Statler Hall.

TIAA-CREF is a leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields and a Fortune 100 financial services organization.

Ferguson served as vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System and chaired Federal Reserve Board committees on banking supervision and regulation, payment system policy and reserve bank oversight. He is a member of President Obama’s Council on Jobs and Competitiveness.

Ferguson holds a B.A., J.D. and Ph.D. in economics, all from Harvard University.

**Investment principles for new investors**

An investment seminar for newer investors or new employees, “Start Today and Save for Tomorrow,” will be held Nov. 16, noon-1 p.m., G10 Biotechnology Building.

The seminar will be presented by TIAA-CREF and will cover the importance of planning early for retirement, including understanding basic investment principles, the importance of asset allocation and maximization of contributions, and the advantages of working with TIAA-CREF.

Bring your own lunch.

No registration is needed for either event.
Human resources dialogue focuses on Workday software

The following is an abridged version of an article by Susan Kelley that first appeared in the Cornell Chronicle, at http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Oct11/ASPPr.html.

Campus will have a new and easy-to-use human resource management/payroll system targeted to launch in July 2012 — but only if the system is absolutely ready, project managers said at an Oct. 14 forum in the Biotechnology Building.

Before the software is installed, the Workday team will make sure that the software includes the tools that staff needs, said Lyman Flahive, director of human resource information services. “When we go live, Workday has to be an improvement, or we will not deploy it,” he said.

The discussion was the fourth of seven brown bag lunches organized by the Administrative Streamlining Program to update the Cornell community on its cost-cutting initiatives.

The presenters offered updates on the human resources (HR) streamlining initiative’s seven projects: service assessment and feedback, Workday, Onboarding Center, recruitment redesign, administrative HR consolidation, creation of service level agreements and spans-and-layers analysis.

Most of the audience’s questions revolved around Workday.

The Workday software will collect the data of record for all faculty and staff as well as for student employment information. Clicking on one desktop icon, administrators will have easy access to data on any employee they serve. And employees will be able to, for example, make changes to their contact information, look at their benefits, record such life events as the birth or adoption of a child and review sick and vacation accruals.

The project team leaders were also asked how Workday, the Kuali Financial System (KFS) and PeopleSoft will work together. PeopleSoft will remain the primary record of information on students and alumni, Flahive said, and the plan is for PeopleSoft to synchronize with Workday. KFS will also integrate with Workday. “The connections with [the Division of Financial Affairs] will all be there. We hope we’re finding ways to improve them,” he said.

Better tools will both streamline workflow and allow HR staff to work more efficiently.

Other questions focused on the Onboarding Center, spans and layers, and compensation.

Upcoming session this semester: Student and Academic Services: Nov. 16, noon-1 p.m., Willard Straight Hall, Memorial Room.

At center, Lyman Flahive, director of human resources information systems, speaks about Workday, while Kim Babuka, Allan Bishop and Kathy Burkgren, leaders in the Division of Human Resources, look on.

Semi-formal charity auction

The Fourth Annual Charity Auction, hosted by students in the Catering and Special Events Management class, will be held Nov. 5., silent auction check-in at 6 p.m. and live auction at 8 p.m., Statler Hall Beck Center. This semi-formal event will feature Cajun cuisine and jazz music in celebration of New Orleans culture.

All proceeds from the evening will be equally distributed to four charities: City of Angels, a charity that focuses its work on helping children in Tijuana, Mexico; Charity Water, which provides a clean water source to developing nations; Ithaca Free Clinic, an initiative of the Ithaca Health Alliance that focuses its work on helping children in Tijuana, Mexico; Charity Water, which provides a clean water source to developing nations; and Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds and repairs houses for those who lack adequate shelter.

Tickets for the charity auction are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in person from a student in HADM 4340 or online through CornellTickets.com. For more information: http://cornellsha.maestroweb.com.

Laboratory of Ornithology

View recorded flight of Imperial Woodpecker

Extinct for half a century, the 2-foot-tall, flamboyantly crested Imperial Woodpecker — the world’s largest known woodpecker — can be seen once more through a 16-mm film recording by the late William L. Rhein, “Flying Imperial Woodpecker.” The film was shot in 1956 in the Sierra Madre Occidental in Durango state, capturing the last confirmed sighting of an Imperial Woodpecker in the wild. It is available for viewing at www.birds.cornell.edu/imperialfilm. More information: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=2314.

Bird photography contest

The deadline for a birding photo contest, “Close Encounters of the Bird Kind,” is Nov. 15.

Entries can be in the form of a story, a photo, artwork, video, poetry, sculpture or any other creative art. Prizes include binoculars, bird feeders, sound CDs, books and more.

Information: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/challenge/close-encounters.

Adélie penguins

Photographer and author Chris Linder will use images from his recent book “Science on Ice,” to explore how Adélie penguins—and the researchers that study them—survive and thrive at Cape Royds and Crozier, the southernmost penguin colonies in the world, in a free talk, Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m., at the Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd. Linder will also be on hand to sign copies of his book. Information: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478.

Birds on iPad

A collection of four interactive bird games for use on the Apple iPad, “My Bird World,” is now for sale and available on iTunes. The games teach children about 24 species of North American birds, including their songs, food choices and habitats, and test memory, reading, sound and visual pattern recognition, and bird identification. They were co-produced by Five Ravens, the digital division of Birdcage Press, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Bird songs and calls come from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Macaulay Library. A portion of the proceeds supports Cornell Lab research and education programs about birds.

Information: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/roundrobin.
FOR RENT
House share/room for rent $500/mo., utilities inc. Large room in renovated farm house. Pets, livestock negotiable. Room for a horse. No smokers. 254-8304 or jc593.

Table and chairs, 600. Cherry table with 2 18" leaves, 8 folding chairs with upholstered seats (Queen Ann style), made by Stakmore furniture. 253-4349 or dlw02.


Oven for sale. 254-4671 or eaa1.

Countertop Roaster $20. OBO. 18 qt. capacity and sway bar bushings. 254-1136 or jlm8.

1989 Lincoln Mark VII LSC $2,000. OBO. Brand new, stereo, AM/FM, CD, alum wheels, mechanically sound. Body in great shape. 90K miles. 592-2755 or mm6t.

Child's solid wood bedroom set $450. For a young person aged 5-13. Inc. 2 twin beds, book shelves, dresser drawers, desk. 255-3100 or jes41.

Help needed: volunteers to teach international visitors with English

The Cornell Campus Club ESL program is seeking volunteers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation groups for international scholars and the spouses of international students at Cornell. This activity helps international visitors improve their language skills and learn more about the U.S. and the Ithaca area.

The teaching commitment is two hours per week during the regular Cornell semester. Classes are small and informal. The coordinator, Anita Watkins, is available to help volunteers get started and support their efforts. For more information, contact her at aw236@cornell.edu.

FREE TO MEMBERS OF THE CORNELL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS CORNELL RETIREES.

Classified Deadlines:
- Oct. 12 for the Oct. 21 issue
- Nov. 9 for the Nov. 19 issue

FOR SALE
2-story private house near Cornell, IC. Yard, microwave, dishwasher, 2 full baths, 3-3 1/2 bedrooms, fireplace, washer, dryer, extras. $1,275/mo., plus utilities and sec. dep. of $1,275. Avail NOW-7/31/12 call 272-2045/227-1619 or awk2.

Table and chairs, 600. Cherry table with 2 18" leaves, 8 folding chairs with upholstered seats (Queen Ann style), made by Stakmore furniture. 253-4349 or dlw02.


Salomon downhill skis $100. Have Salomon bindings. 180cm. Traditional (non-shaped) style. Great shape. 253-3100 or jes41.

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Hunting bow $100. PSE XL Infinity 900 comes with stabilizer, string silencers, sights, arrow quiver, peep sight. 564-7496 or dja11.

2006 Chevy Trailblazer LS (4x4) $9,500. 6 mo. plus utilities and sec. dep. of $1,275. Avail NOV 1ST. Call 252-2734 or mml29.

Marazzi floor tiles $50. Beige. 15 tiles/box. 3 boxes. Approx area covered per box: 15 sq. ft. Also 2-50 lb. bags of multipurpose thin set mortar. 273-5544 or jes41.

MBA scholarship $10,000. For the 2010-2011 academic year. 253-3100 or jes41.

FOR RENT
Two bedroom apartment. Rent $1,275/mo., utilities, plus a deposit of $1,275. Avail 7/1/12. For more information call 252-2271 or 227-1693 or akw21. Extension (CO) alarms, too.

Local home and yard for sale. 252-2881 or akw2.

100 DVD Movies $225. OBO. Assorted movies for pictures. 255-1083.

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