On Sept. 7, three Cornell staff members who serve as first-responders in Candor, N.Y., left work to help evacuate residents in Owego, N.Y., where Susquehanna River levels had already reached dangerous heights from Tropical Storm Lee rains.

Christa Albrecht, wellness and fitness specialist for the Cornell Wellness Program, Candor firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) with the Candor Emergency Squad, left work early that afternoon to check on her house before heading to the firehouse. For the next 24 hours, she responded to calls, including clearing fallen trees from roadways and fighting a 2 a.m. Thursday morning fire at a house in Candor. By the next evening, she said, the nearby Catatonk Creek had crested, her basement was flooded and “everyone’s house on our street south of mine was completely destroyed.” On Friday, she cooked at the emergency squad in between answering ambulance calls.

Darren Jackson, program manager for inclusion in Cornell’s Workforce Diversity and Inclusion office, and water rescue co-captain with the Candor Fire Department, also left work early Wednesday, going to Owego to help evacuate residents. Close to midnight, he returned to Candor and then joined Albrecht and others in responding to the Candor house fire. Shortly after 2 a.m., he and his team were called back to Owego.

“By then, the water in Catatonk (a village between Candor and Owego) crossing Route 96 was 6 feet deep and flowing very quickly, so we could not get to Owego,” Jackson said. He and various firemen stopped there to help evacuate residents, even floating one woman out on her coffee table. They found a small rowboat, which they used to rescue a man whose car was trapped in the floodwaters; in the process they lost control of the boat and then self-rescued themselves.

At this point, Kim Cotton, assistant to the directors of the Center for Nanoscale Systems and a member of the Candor Emergency Squad, arrived, followed by the Lansing Fire Department, who brought a water-rescue boat. Jackson and others used this boat to rescue the stranded man, now perched on the roof of his car.

“When I left work on Wednesday, I knew that the water in the Susquehanna was getting high, and I thought that we might have to evacuate the nursing home in Owego, where my mother stays,” Cotton said. “Instead, at 3 a.m. Thursday morning I went to the Candor Emergency Squad building to take care of those who had been evacuated from their Candor homes. But when the emergency squad building started taking on water, we moved our operations to the town hall.” At the height of the evacuation, Cotton said, about 40 people were in the town hall evacuation center.

“When we got word that Darren’s team needed help, we went to the scene,” Cotton said. Jackson said that Cotton was one of the first to come to his rescue. Darren and his team then went to the “flats” near Talcott Street to evacuate residents there, while Cotton took other calls.

Sometime later, Cotton learned that the nursing home residents, including her mother, were transported to safety on military high-transport vehicles to buses and ambulances waiting at the Boys and Girls Club on Erie Street in Owego. Throughout their rescue efforts, Cotton, Albrecht and Jackson all said they were “amazed” at the people whose own homes were in jeopardy who still helped others first. “Even people who needed to be evacuated were helping others evacuate,” Jackson said.

They’re also glad for the Cornell response, both in terms of their supervisors’ support and in the university’s fund raising and calls for supplies, school backpacks, personal care items and other donations. The Emergency CARE Fund website, www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html, Albrecht said, has instructions for accessing care, donating to help flood victims and links to guidelines on what to do in a flooding emergency.
Cornell offers funding, extra days off for employee flood victims

Cornell has stepped up efforts to support faculty and staff who have been affected by recent flooding. President David Skorton and Vice President for Human Resources and Safety Services Mary Opperman announced in an email Sept. 12.

The university will provide up to two additional paid days off to those who must take time away from work to address the issues they face in the wake of these floods, in addition to the paid time off already available to staff through their own accrued time. For those colleges and units that cannot fund the additional time off, the university will reimburse them for the cost.

Funding through the university’s Emergency Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees (CARE) Fund, which supports employees when unexpected situations create undue financial burden, is also available for those who have suffered losses. For information on accessing the CARE fund or to donate to the CARE fund, see www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html.

Managers and supervisors are encouraged to be supportive and flexible to allow those who have been affected deal with the consequences of the floods. Staff, faculty, graduate students and retirees are encouraged to access the support and referral services of the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, which can be reached at 607.255.2673.

Emergency CARE Fund Auction, Oct. 20

The Emergency CARE Fund will hold its annual auction, Oct. 20 at noon, G10 Biotech. The committee is currently looking for items to auction off at the event. Donations can come in the form of talent, time or unique items. Previous items include garden consulting, dance lessons, pottery and holiday cookie platters. Donations are due Oct. 7.

Don’t have a specific item to donate? Support the CARE Fund by becoming an auction sponsor. Sponsorship is easy: pledge a monetary gift and the fund will purchase an auction item on your behalf, or you can designate that 100 percent of your cash donation go directly to the CARE Fund. For a donation application, visit the CARE Fund website, www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html.

A list of items to be auctioned off will be available at that website closer to the date of the auction.

The CARE Fund offers confidential financial assistance to faculty and staff who have experienced a non-recurring sudden or emergency-related financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event and is funded through the generous donations of faculty, staff and friends.

Have questions or want to help? Contact Ruth Merle-Doyle, rem64@cornell.edu, 607.255.5060, or Gemma Osborne, gro2@cornell.edu, 607.227.9137.

NYS household appliance grant program for storm recovery

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has launched an $8 million appliance grant program for those who sustained property damage as a result of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The program will be administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Residents must affirm that they have been impacted by Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee and that these products are not covered by insurance or FEMA assistance. For residents affected by Hurricane Irene, grants on purchases of approved appliances and equipment will be retroactive to Aug. 29, 2011, and for residents affected by Tropical Storm Lee, grants will be retroactive to Sept. 9, 2011.

Grants will be for ENERGY STAR(®) qualified appliances and equipment, with rebates at the following levels: Refrigerators: $350; clothes washers: $250; dehumidifiers: $100; furnace: $2,000; boiler: $2,500; hot water heater tanks (gas): $400. In product categories for which there are no ENERGY STAR criteria, the higher efficiency units will be eligible for a rebate: Clothes dryers w/moisture sensor: $250; hot water heater tanks (electric): $400.

With the exception of dehumidifiers, purchases of appliances and equipment must be for replacement purposes only and purchases covered by insurance or FEMA are not eligible. Audits to verify insurance claims and/or FEMA assistance may be conducted. All grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for completed applications, which will be available beginning Sept. 19 at www.NYSApplianceRebates.com or by calling 1.877.NYSMART (877.697.6278). The grant program will continue until funding runs out.

Call answered for backpacks for Owego school children

On Sept. 16, the Cornell Elves program put out the call for 100 children’s backpacks and 100 whiteboards for the Owego school district, which was hard hit by flooding. On Sept. 20, Bill Alberta MS ’77 said that need has been filled, thanks to the generosity of those who responded.

WWW <Websites Worth Watching>

www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html
Tech Talk
Beth Goelzer Lyons

Cornell email and calendar being upgraded to Exchange

Cornell’s Exchange email and calendar system for faculty and staff is being upgraded to Exchange Server 2010. The biggest difference you’ll notice is the improved and renamed Outlook Web App (http://exchange.cornell.edu). It gives you the same extensive set of features, whether you use Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Internet Explorer.

New features in Outlook Web App include:
- Conversation view, which groups together related messages
- The ability to print your calendar with the day, week or month view
- The ability to attach an email message to a message you’re composing
- Support for smaller screens, such as netbooks, tablets and smart phones
- Filters to help you find messages faster when you use Search.

Cornell Information Technologies began the upgrade in August with a small number of accounts. Since the beginning of September, CIT has been upgrading several hundred accounts early each weekday morning. You will receive an email the day before your account is scheduled for the upgrade and another email letting you know the upgrade has happened.

The upgrade was designed so it wouldn’t interrupt people’s access to their email and calendar, so for most people the upgrade has been barely noticeable.

In some cases, there may be minor glitches. CIT has a troubleshooting page that explains the most common ones and what to do.

To find out more, visit www.cit.cornell.edu/exchange2010.

Tech Training Spotlight

Do you want to acquire the skills needed to install and support one or more distributions of the Linux operating system? In this 5-day course, students will learn information and skills that will be helpful as they prepare for CompTIA® Linux+™, Powered by LPI exams (LX0-101 and LX0-102). Register now for the CompTIA Linux+ Certification class, Oct. 24-28.

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

CURW to coordinate time for reflection: Open Hearts Brown Bag Lunch

Beginning Sept. 29, Cornell United Religious Work will hold weekly brown bag lunches on Thursdays at noon in the Willard Straight Hall Art Gallery (in the Music Room, Oct. 27), through Nov. 17.

Looking for space in your busy week for reflection? Want to find ways to open your heart to the spirit and inspiration of others? Explore how forgiveness, love, hope and other themes fit into your life by sharing your experiences and listening to others.

This brown bag lunch is open to all members of the Cornell community. Come to one or all of the sessions. For more information, contact Leslie Meyerhoff, mlis73; 5.6003.

Pedestrians, cyclists, ‘boarders to be traffic campaign focus

Cornell University Police will conduct its annual special traffic enforcement program during September, focusing on roadway violations committed by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders and longboarders.

In the coming weeks, Cornell police officers will stand near busy campus intersections answering questions, issuing warnings and handing out educational flyers to commuters who fail to follow the rules of the road. Their main focus will be on pedestrians who cross the street improperly, step out in front of vehicles unsafely and fail to obey the crossing signals. Bicyclists and skateboarders will be educated as well.

Following the educational-warning period, Cornell police will conduct a two-day enforcement campaign to cite those who disobey the rules of the road. This campaign will be held Sept. 27-28.

The enforcement campaign will be funded with part of a $9,600 STEP Grant from the New York Governor’s Traffic Safety committee. Such grants allow police agencies to use funding from the state to assist in their traffic enforcement and educational efforts. Part of the Cornell police traffic safety grant is specifically designated for pedestrian safety and enforcement.

For information, see: Cornell University Police www.cupolice.cornell.edu, the Governor’s Traffic Safety Council www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us/overview.htm or New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us/vt-ndx.htm.

Flu clinics begin Sept. 22

Campus flu clinics have been scheduled for the fall semester. Flu vaccine (shots and mist) will be available at campus flu clinics beginning this week.

Flu vaccine is free to all registered students, staff and faculty members with Cornell ID.

September flu clinics:
- Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall
- Sept. 27, 1-4:30 p.m., Bartels Hall hallway
- Sept. 28, 1-4:30 p.m., Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall.

The full schedule is posted on the Gannett website at www.gannett.cornell.edu/topics/flu/vaccine/where-when.cfm. Check before going to a clinic.

Appointments for flu vaccination are available at Gannett for those who cannot attend a flu clinic. Call 255.5155 to schedule an appointment.

Getting vaccinated is the single best protection from the flu. For maximum protection, the Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone over the age of six months get vaccinated each year, because protective antibody levels may decline and lead to inadequate protection over time.
Streamlining in procurement racks up to $9 million in savings

The university is on track to save $30 million to $40 million by June 2014 by changing the way it buys everything from key chains to copiers, according to managers of a procurement initiative.

Since 2009, the initiative has saved $9 million, $8.4 million in fiscal year 2011, said Thomas Romantic, senior director of supply channel management and business services, at a Sept. 12 brown-bag lunch. It was the first of seven informal gatherings hosted by the Administrative Streamlining Program (ASP) on the status of several cost-cutting initiatives.

But, Romantic said, there's more work to do. “This is not a sprint. This is more of a marathon,” he said.

Savings are coming from three areas: e-business, partnerships with suppliers, and new tools and software, Romantic said. The initiative will help prevent layoffs, he noted.

First, Cornell continues to buy more of its goods and services with e-SHOP, an online shopping tool that more than 2,000 staff and faculty use regularly. In fiscal 2011, more than 100,000 transactions and $40 million in purchases went through e-SHOP. Additional training sessions aimed at helping staff transition to the Kuali Financial System will begin this week, and staff also can get help online and by phone, said Mike Winters, procurement manager in the Office for Supply Management Services.

Second, procurement staff members have asked key suppliers how they do more business with suppliers, and key chains and has standardized the quality of the materials, yielding lower prices and saving $125,000, Jefferson said.

Third, the university is using new tools such as Spend Viz, software that aggregates and analyzes purchasing data. That analysis gives procurement staff a better sense of when and how the university spends money – and the ability to narrow down the number of suppliers and negotiate lower prices. Another promising tool is the reverse auction, in which suppliers compete online to win Cornell’s business. So far, nine auctions have saved $373,000, Jefferson said.

The procurement team aims to save $4.5 million to $5.3 million in fiscal year 2012. Meeting that goal and later savings targets through 2014 is likely to require more help from the campus community, Jefferson said. “Please be ambassadors for us. We need help. We can’t do this by ourselves,” she said. She asked the audience to participate in focus groups and share their creative ideas.

Audience members asked several technical questions about procurement procedures and software. The questions ranged from the types of suppliers listed in e-SHOP to Cornell’s policies on the use of personal cell phones for work and how e-SHOP calculates discounts.

Several participants said that e-SHOP is hard to use and doesn’t necessarily result in lower prices when not buying in bulk. “It’s hard for smaller units to see this as savings,” one said. Jefferson asked her to contact the office if that problem resurfaces. “We’ll find that better price,” Jefferson said.

While the procurement initiative has resulted in smaller budgets for some colleges, it has also produced an enormous benefit for the entire university community, Jefferson said: “Every dollar we save saves somebody’s job.”

The Administrative Streamlining Program is hosting the following brown-bag lunch sessions this semester, with updates on its initiatives. Information: http://asp.dpbcornell.edu/.

- Facilities: Sept. 28, noon-1 p.m., Friends Hall, Hall of Fame Room.
- Information technology: Oct. 6, noon-1 p.m., 401 Physical Sciences Building.
- Human resources and spans and layers: Oct. 14, noon-1 p.m., Physical Sciences Building, Baker Portico.
- University communications: Oct. 26, noon-1 p.m., Mann Library, conference room 102.
- Finance: Nov. 4, noon-1 p.m., Physical Sciences Building, Baker Portico.
- Student and Academic Services: Nov. 16, noon-1 p.m., Willard Straight Hall, Memorial Room.

Cornell Council for the Arts grants

Applications from faculty, students, student organizations, departments and staff are now being accepted for Cornell Council for the Arts (CCA) grants, 2011-12. Deadline for application: October 21.

The CCA will award merit-based grants for art projects in amounts up to $1,000 to students and staff and student organizations registered with SAFC, and up to $2,500 to Cornell faculty, departments and programs from all disciplines.

The CCA awards grants annually to support creative art projects that are original in nature, and are wholly constituted by the individual or group working on independent research. These projects may engage any singular art form or any mixture of art forms, and may be exhibited, presented, or performed in on-campus as well as off-campus venues. Work that expands the boundaries of a particular discipline and that crosses multiple disciplines and departments are given highest preference for funding.

Applicants are encouraged to use the grant as an opportunity to experiment, and to cultivate new forms of artistic production that may be difficult to engage within the traditional classroom setting. The grant recipient has twelve months to complete and present the work.

Organic farm coordinator provides support, from the ground up

BY MARY WOODSEN

Betsy Leonard ‘81 is at the wheel of a 45 horsepower John Deere tractor – “a nice size for a small grower,” she says – and pulling a flail mower. As the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station’s new organic farm coordinator, she’s making her first pass over an organic cover crop at an ag station research plot. Behind her, chopped and shredded plants fly every which way over the stubble. The plot looks like a bad day at the barbershop, but Leonard isn’t done. Coming back the other way, she makes a second pass, reducing the stubble to the cover crop equivalent of a bad shave.

Leonard is readying the site for Cornell research scientist Anu Rangarajan, who wants to see how well this cover crop can prevent erosion, keep weeds at bay, provide fertile ground for the transplants that will go into strips tilled through the stubble next week – and save money. Growers tell Leonard and Rangarajan that they save up to 60 percent of their costs with some of these new tillage techniques.

A typical day could have Leonard mowing cover crops one minute or fine-tuning an experimental bio-remediation plot the next. Her job: to support the Cornell scientists seeking sustainable solutions to the common or emerging problems organic growers face – solutions that often benefit conventional growers as well.

Leonard also provides oversight for the student-run Dilmun Hill Farm, which provides proving grounds for a range of undergraduate research projects as well as hands-on experience in managing a real-world organic farm. Members of Dilmun participate in seminars and host Cornell classes and laboratory sessions in horticulture, sociology and soil science.

Farming is in Leonard’s blood. She grew up on a third-generation, 200-acre vegetable and you-pick berry farm just east of Cayuga Lake that her three sisters still run. In high school, Leonard routinely scouted the farm to monitor such pests as tarnished plant bugs – a pest of many fruits and vegetables – and strawberry “clippers” or bud weevils. Her records helped her family convert to “integrated pest management” strategies for more targeted spraying and pest control developed at Cornell to break away from the routine and systematic “calendar sprays” then common in conventional agriculture.

After earning her associate degree in agriculture at SUNY Cobleskill and her bachelor’s at Cornell, Leonard worked on the family farm through her first years of motherhood with baby in tow. But she wanted to do more. She was interested in practical research farmers could use in the field to make their operations more sustainable on every front, economically as well as environmentally.

By the mid-1990s Leonard was working full time as a research technician at Cornell, which served as good preparation for her new position, especially given her responsibilities for Dilmun Hill.

“Over the years so many students on Betsy’s field crews have told me that it was the best job they ever had,” says Rangarajan. “She’s amazing.”

“Betsy’s so calm and relaxed but so responsive,” says Elizabeth Goodwin ‘12, who heads up a soil-remediation project at Dilmun Hill. “She puts the power and the tools in our hands for the research we do. She wants us to succeed.”

Mary Woodsen is a science writer with the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station.

Cornell named one of top companies by Working Mother magazine

Cornell was ranked 19 of the top 100 best companies to work for, Working Mother magazine announced Sept. 15. The magazine noted that it chooses companies with an “unwavering commitment to parents nationwide.” All of this year’s winning companies offer flextime hours, telecommuting, paid maternity leave and employee assistance programs.

“Being 19th on the list of top 100 Working Mother companies affirms that we are succeeding in our ongoing commitment to make Cornell a good place to work for people of all walks of life and family structures,” said Mary Opperman, Cornell’s vice president for human resources and safety services. Cornell was ranked 39th in 2009, the last year it was ranked for the publication. It also placed in the top 100 companies in 2008, 2007 and 2006.

“Our paternity and adoption leave programs and the access that faculty and staff members have to Cornell’s benefits programs were rated among the highest,” said Lynette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president for workforce diversity and inclusion. Also considered strengths were Cornell’s health and wellness programs, maternity leave and the hiring and retention of working parents.

Carol Evans, president of Working Mother Media, said that 97 percent of the winning companies offer prenatal education, weight-loss, wellness and stress-reduction programs to employees at every level.

“With more than 169,000 women hired last year, this year’s 100 best companies make up an impressive group of winners that offer family-driven programs and benefits that far outpace their competitors,” she said.

The winners will be celebrated at this year’s Working Mother 100 Best Companies WorkLife Congress, Oct. 18-20 in New York City.

The 100 Best Companies, as well as national comparisons, will be profiled in the October issue of Working Mother and at http://workingmother.com/bestcompanies.
Wellbeing Programs @ Cornell

Kerry Howell

The programs offered below assist with personal growth and discovery, as well as with healthy minds and bodies. They were designed with Cornell faculty, staff and retirees in mind.

Wellness programs

View detailed descriptions of the following wellness programs and register for them at http://wellness.cornell.edu.

- Destination walks: Begin with a 30-minute stroll on Cornell’s campus and end with a guided tour. Five Destination Walks are scheduled for this semester. Upcoming: “Tour of Dr. Rayor’s Spider Lab,” Oct. 4, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration required.
- “Shoulders, Knees, and Lower Back Pain”: This presentation and concurrent webinar by Dr. Andrew Getzin, clinical director of sports medicine, Cayuga Medical Center, will be held Oct. 6, noon-1 p.m., 423 ILR Conference Center
- Vegetarian Cooking class: Sessions are held Fridays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, and November 4, in 360 Martha Van Renssaeur, noon-1:15 p.m. Registration required. Class limited to 20 participants.

Work/Life Programs

Register for Work/Life workshops at: www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/worklife_workshops.html.

Adoption Workshops

- “Volunteering as a Family”: Meg Cole, from the Tompkins County United Way, will speak on opportunities for families to volunteer and provide tools to facilitate the discussion within families about volunteerism, Sept. 28 at noon-1 p.m., 224 Weill Hall. For more information: call 255.2350.
- “The Adoption Process, Domestic and International”: Anita Stevens, founder and executive director, Family Connections, will talk, Oct. 13, noon-1 p.m., 121 Weill Hall. For more information: call 255.2350.
- “Fostering Positive Cultural and Ethnic Identity in Children Adopted Transracially and Transculturally”: Renee Hetlich, L.M.S.W., adoption social worker. This seminar, Oct. 27 at noon-1 p.m., 121 Weill Hall, will explore four major factors that influence a child’s development of a healthy, positive, and integrated racial and cultural identity. For more information: call 255.2350.

Breastfeeding Series (attend any or all noontime programs)

For more information call 255.2350

- “Part 2: Pumping Power” Sept. 22, noon-1 p.m. at 340 Duffield Hall. What pump should I buy (or rent)? When should I start pumping? When should I introduce a bottle? Learn how to make the most of those early weeks at home with your baby.
- “Part 3: The Working Mama” Sept. 29, noon-1 p.m. at 340 Duffield Hall. Discuss strategies for planning your return to work, for pumping while on the job, and what to expect from the baby when you get home at the end of the day.

Caregiver Support and Education Network

- “The Holidays.” Oct. 20, noon-1 p.m., 254 Duffield Hall. Cindy Glanville, Cornell Faculty and Staff Assistance Program counselor and community consultant, will speak about coping with the holidays.

Medicare Basics

- Oct. 12, noon-1 p.m., 221 Weill Hall. Diane Dawson, executive director and Medicare counselor from Lifelong, will talk about Medicare. RSVP to emw76@cornell.edu.

Fiduciary Responsibilities of Family/Caregivers

- Nov. 9, noon-1 p.m., 221 Weill Hall. Joy Blumkin, local elder law attorney, will speak about the responsibilities that go with being someone’s power of attorney or executor. RSVP to emw76@cornell.edu

Sharing Our World Symposium

This symposium will be held Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., ILR Conference Center. Highlights:

- President Skorton will deliver a message on Cornell’s commitment to workforce diversity.
- The Cornell University Colleague Network Groups will be officially introduced.
- A roundtable on the state of workforce diversity at Cornell will be held, featuring Lynnette Chappell-Williams, associate vice president of workforce diversity and inclusion; Michelle Artibee, consultant in the Office of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion; Allan Bishop, director of the Recruitment and Employment Center; and Professor Zeilin Warhaft, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Provost Diversity Fellow 2010-11.
- Networking lunch provided.
- Space is limited. Contact Cassie at cpj25@cornell.edu.

Disability Awareness Seminar

October is National Employment Disability Awareness Month. Larry Roberts, Finger Lakes Independence Center, will speak about public policy as it relates to disability and talk about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at the Disability Awareness Seminar, Oct. 12, noon-1 p.m., 321 Weill Hall. Closing the workshop will be Andrea Haenlin-Mott, ADA coordinator for Facilities Services and key contributor to the University Disability Strategic Plan. Andrea will highlight the plan and explain why it was critical that Cornell address disability in a comprehensive way. Information: http://events.cornell.edu/event/disability_awareness or call 255.2350.

2012 Calendars now on sale

The 2012 Cornell Photo Calendar is now available for purchase! A preview of the Calendar can be seen at http://univcomm.cornell.edu/photography/calendar.html. Student and public purchases may be made at the Cornell Store. Cornell department purchases may be made by contacting University Photography at photo@cornell.edu or 255.7675.

If you are ordering for your department, please have your address, phone number, email and university account numbers ready when you call or email.
Skorton outlines his vision for Cornell through 2015

As David J. Skorton begins his sixth year at the helm of Cornell University, he is sharing with the campus his vision for 2015 as Cornell prepares to celebrate its sesquicentennial. His principal priorities, he notes, are student access, faculty renewal, globalization and public engagement.

Over the past 146 years, Skorton emphasized, Cornell has remained true to the founding principles captured in Ezra Cornell’s “any person … any study.” “We will keep the momentum going as we approach the sesquicentennial, with immediacy and intensity and the promise of a tomorrow that we have yet to imagine,” Skorton says.

The Cornell Board of Trustees has endorsed Skorton’s leadership through a formal request that he continue in office, said Board of Trustees Chairman Peter C. Meinig ’61.

In outlining his vision, Skorton says that, first, the university will ensure access to a Cornell education, noting that during his tenure, Cornell has doubled its investment in financial aid to undergraduates, to a projected $218 million in the 2011-12 academic year from $105 million in the 2006-07 academic year. Looking forward, he says, “The university will continue to honor its heritage by ensuring that all students – undergraduate, graduate, professional and international – can complete their degrees without a crushing burden of debt.”

Second, Cornell will set the standard for globalization of higher education. Noting the need for a strategic vision of the university’s role in such areas as climate change, global health and sustainable development, Skorton is working with the provosts, deans and faculty to ensure that Cornell remains “a university with global impact and whose graduates, in the fullest sense, are citizens of the world,” he says.

Third, Cornell will build on its long and productive history of public engagement. Skorton cites the David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, which pursues multidisciplinary research focused on energy, the environment and sustainable economic development, as an example of the type of collaborative outreach that is a Cornell signature. Similarly, Cornell is preparing to answer New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s call to create a world-class applied science and engineering campus in the city.

Fourth, and most importantly as the underpinning for excellence, Skorton emphasizes that as hundreds of professors retire, Cornell will renew its faculty with a $100 million initiative aimed to hire accomplished and innovative researchers, teachers and thought leaders. “Faculty renewal is key to everything we hope for in the future of Cornell,” Skorton says.

Susan Kelley is a senior staff writer for the Cornell Chronicle. For the full version of this article, see www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Sept11/Skorton-BOT.html.

Discounted Cornell Club memberships

Cornell faculty and staff members are eligible to join The Cornell Club-New York at discounted rates through Oct. 31. In addition to a waived initiation fee (or reinstatement fee if applicable), a $100 house credit will apply. Information: www.cornellclubnyc.com/membership/cornell-faculty-and-staff.

Last day for child care grant applications: Sept. 30

The application period for Cornell’s 2012 child care grants for faculty and staff members ends Sept. 30.

Applicants must complete the application online, print it and submit the paper copy to Benefit Services, 130 Day Hall, along with the signature page and supporting documentation, either hand-delivered or U.S. postmarked by Sept. 30.

The university’s Child Care Grant Program helps faculty and staff pay for child care expenses with grants of up to $5,000 a year, tax free. The grant covers legally recognized infant and toddler day care, preschool and pre-kindergarten programs, child care for school holidays, school-age summer day camps or programs, and before- and after-school care.

To receive grant funds on a tax-free basis, applicants must be eligible to participate in the Select Benefits Dependent Care Reimbursement Account. Certain other eligibility requirements must be met and are outlined in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the child care grant Web pages noted below. Cornell Cooperative Extension county association employees are not eligible for the program.

For detailed information on the program and application process, see http://hr.cornell.edu/life/support/child_care_grant.html or contact the Benefit Services Resource Center at 255.3936 or by email, childcare@cornell.edu.
PAWPRINT PICKS
Visit events.cornell.edu/ for a complete list of events.

THE ARTS OF TIBET
Enjoy an afternoon celebrating the arts and culture of Tibet, including performances, art activities, tours of "Demonic Divine," and a sampling of Tibetan tastes, Sept. 24, 1-4 p.m. at the Johnson Museum of Art. Free and open to the public.

LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY
MONDAY NIGHT SEMINAR
Professor Stanley Temple will speak about how Aldo Leopold’s meticulous field notes from the 1930s and 40s have been used to reveal how plants and animals are responding to climate change and why we should care, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Laboratory of Ornithology. On Sept. 27, at 7:15 p.m. in Willard Straight Hall, Temple will introduce the new documentary film (“Green Fire”) about Aldo Leopold’s life and how his ideas about the ethics of our relationship with the natural world remain relevant in our times. Both events are free. For more information: www.birds.cornell.edu/events.

FINDING IMAGES
An introduction to finding and using images from Cornell’s digital image collections and other visual resources will be held Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-noon, Uris Library, B05 Electronic Classroom McGraw Tower. The introduction will survey Flickr, image search engines (e.g., Google Images, Snap), and other free image resources, as well as the image collections and databases available on campus. For more information, email Olm-urisworkshops@cornell.edu.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS SEMINAR
The Dyson School’s BOLD Program offers its first Leadership Skill Seminar for this semester, Sept. 29 at noon in Mann 102, by Al Gonzalez. While leading teams at Cornell, Al Gonzalez has developed a framework of organizational tools that assist leaders in accomplishing their business objectives while continuously leveraging the natural talent of all team members. Open to all Cornell students, staff and the greater community. Information: http://bold.dyson.cornell.edu.

STATE OF CURRENT INVESTMENT MARKETS
Ren Cheng, chief investment officer for Fidelity Investments, will present a financial planning session on the state of current investment markets, Oct. 5, noon-1 p.m., G10 Biotechnology. Spon- sored by Benefit Services.

STAFF CAREERS
The Cornell Staff Career Curriculum will be held Oct. 6, 13 and 27, 20 Thornwood Drive. These in-person two-hour sessions are designed to provide staff with the elements and tools to support career and work engagement, growth, and movement. Attendees will learn how to understand their own skills and styles, obtain tools to develop dynamic career objectives, and work on resumes and individual development plans. The free course is limited to 24 staff, on a first-come, first-serve basis: register at http://cornell.veplan.net/Education/catalog.aspx?c=702. Information: Judy Hart (jhb2@cornell.edu) or Maria Wolff (mw284@cornell.edu).

GREATERTHICA ART TRAIL OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS
On two weekends, Oct. 8-9 and 15-16, 50 artists’ studios around Tompkins County will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. No admission fee. Get a brochure/map and learn more at www.ArtTrail.com or call the Community Arts Partnership at 607.273.5072, ext. 20 or email programs@artspartner. org.

To submit events for Pawprint, visit www.pawprint.cornell.edu. Please submit listing two weeks prior to event.